

sports

Ags lose another close one; host Texas Tech tomorrow

By PAUL ARNETT
Battalion Sports Editor

Almost. It describes how close the Aggies came to defeating the No. 3 team in the basketball nation. The final score was 80-79 in favor of Arkansas.

"We got too far behind in the first half and couldn't catch up," coach Shelby Metcalf said. "I think it speaks highly of our group that we came so close."

The score was 21-21 with 10 minutes remaining in the first half. Arkansas took control of the game at that point, and led at intermission 49-36. One man was responsible for the Razorback turnaround.

Ron Brewer. "We just can't stop Brewer," Metcalf said. "He's the one who

beats us every time we play. If Brewer played us every game he would be consensus all-America. He is the best all-around player in the conference."

Brewer finished the game as the Hogs' high-point man with 25. Sidney Moncrief had 22 and Marvin Delph wound up with 17.

"The trio is the best threesome in the country," Metcalf said. "It's hard to stop a team who hits 70 percent of its shots in the first half. But we almost did."

Almost, but not quite. "The way to beat them is to press for 40 minutes," Metcalf said. "But we just can't do that. We pressed them for 20 minutes and made up 12 points. They still have the same weakness as last year."

At the beginning of the second half, A&M began the press. Arkansas appeared confused and lost the aggressiveness that gave them the big halftime lead. Hog coach Eddie Sutton called timeout two times, but everything they employed, failed.

"It's always been tough for us to win here," Sutton said. "The Aggies

have an impressive press and it got them back into the game. We had a 13-point lead here last year. But it's never enough."

Willie Foreman and Joey Robinson had an excellent second half. Foreman finished the game with 26 points; Robinson had 12. Both men were valuable in the stretch drive.

"We moved Willie around to get him open," Metcalf said. "We feel he's our best offensive threat."

Sutton agreed with Metcalf's assessment. "Foreman had a super shooting night," Sutton said. "And Robinson hit that last one from Shelby's lap. A&M made a great run at us."

Foreman had his own thoughts

about the game. "We just played great in the second half," Foreman said. "If we're close at the half then we have a chance to win. I know that we're going to win here pretty soon. It may be tomorrow night."

The Aggies next game is tomorrow night against Texas Tech. Last night's contest should give Metcalf's men the lift they need.

"With the effort we're giving, we're gonna win one," Metcalf said. "I had aspirations that it would be tonight, but maybe Tech will be the game."

Maybe and almost. If the Aggs defeat Tech, it will be time for them to search for a new home.



A&M forward Willie Foreman (No. 35) grabs a rebound away from Razorback guard Ulysses Reed (No. 24). Foreman led the Ags in scoring with 26. But it wasn't enough as the Razorbacks defeated the Ags 80-79. Battalion photo by Ken Herrera

Hogs can't explain contest

By DAVID BOGGAN
Battalion Sports Staff

"We're the Southwest Conference champs!" The chant echoed in the Razorback locker room after their narrow 80-79 victory over Texas A&M last night.

Did the Hogs' performance live up to their title? Well, they led at halftime 49-36, but the Aggies outscored them in the second half by 12 points.

"I can't figure out what it is," said Arkansas' Marvin Delph, "but every time I've come down here we've had a close game. When I was a freshman and a sophomore we lost close ones down here. Last year we were able to win a real close one down here."

The Aggies are just a tough, physical team. We used a zone on them just to keep them outside. Unfortunately that let Foreman get his

outside shots. He's a good basketball player."

Delph's teammate, Sidney Moncrief, agreed that Foreman was a main force in the Aggies' comeback efforts.

"We thought that eventually Foreman would get cooled off, but he didn't," Moncrief said. "They were able to come back on us because we weren't aggressive. Once they get going they're hard to stop."

Earlier in the season, Moncrief was involved in a brawl with Jarvis Williams when the two teams met in Fayetteville. Moncrief said he was pleased that the College Station fans were not the vindictive type.

"I thought there would be a bad reaction here because the press here still hasn't let the incident die," Moncrief said. "But they have

a class basketball team down here and a class crowd that acted like a class crowd should."

The Razorbacks said that the crowd played a big part in the close ball game.

"They have great crowd support down here," said Ron Brewer, Arkansas' leading scorer with 25 points. "Any team that comes down here should be a five or six point underdog just because of the crowd. Of course, I suppose they say the same thing about Barnhill."

Brewer had 19 points in the first half, but was not as effective in the second half. He explained that he was partly at fault for the closeness of the contest.

"I slacked off and it was a bad move on my part," Brewer said of his second half performance. "I

should have taken control like I did in the first half. Then it wouldn't have been so close."

Arkansas coach Eddie Sutton echoed the feelings of his players concerning their close call in College Station.

"We've always felt that this was a difficult place to play," Sutton said. "The fans were a factor but you have to give their ball club some credit. A&M played a very hard, good second half."

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