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Ags halt losing streak 88-72

By PAUL ARNETT
Battalion Sports Editor
The drought has ended. Texas A&M 88—TCU 72.

"We needed this one," a happy coach Shelby Metcalf said after the game. "I think our guys got rid of a lot of frustrations out there on the court. And they wanted to prove to TCU that they could play basketball. It wasn't one of your more picturesque basketball games, but a win is a win."

Actually the final score wasn't a good indicator of how thoroughly the Aggies defeated TCU. Midway in the second half A&M led the Horned Frogs 71-38. A tough full-court press by the Aggies, that caused 36 Horned Frog turnovers, was the main reason for the big lead.

"The main reason the press worked so well was because we were so depressed," Metcalf said. "We've lost some games this year that we shouldn't have."

"Tonight our press worked really

well. We played the zone as well as we have all season. All our starters did a great job on defense and on offense."

Senior Willie Foreman finished his last game in G. Rollie White as the high-point man. The Houston Wheatly graduate scored 21 points and collected six rebounds. The Dallas duo, Vernon Smith and Rynn Wright, had 17 and 16 points respectively.

"You just can't say enough about those two freshman," Metcalf said. "They've done everything that we have asked of them this year. Rynn has really come on for us late in the season, and Vernon has played well all year."

Wright and Smith finished first and second in rebounding. Wright grabbed 10 rebounds, while Smith collected eight. The two freshman are leading the club this year in rebounding.

"Rebounding is something you can't really teach a guy," Metcalf

said. "You just have to have a knack for it. There's no doubt in my mind those kids have that knack."

The Southwest Conference has a knack of its own. Last night three officials were assigned to the game by mistake. The conference transformed this mistake into an experiment and Metcalf liked what he saw.

"I think it is something we as a

conference need to look into," Metcalf said. "They've been doing it in the Big 10 all year and it has worked out real well. Tonight I think the refs did a good job. It's my contingent that three are better than two."

The Aggies have a long rest before their final game of the regular season against Rice. It's a rest Metcalf feels is long overdue.

"Our guys are tired," Metcalf

said. "We play Rice in Houston Tuesday night and then play Tech or Houston in the play-offs. I think tonight's game will definitely help the team's attitude for the play-offs."

Right now the guys are happy about last night's victory and the first rest. It has been a long dry spell since the last win.

Ladies win last home game

By JANA THIEME
The Aggie Ladies were victorious in their last home game of the season, defeating Wharton Jr. College 78-51.

The women had a good, if uneventful game, shooting 39 percent of their field goals and 71 percent of their free throws.

Three women scored in the double figures. Sheree Christian, the high-point scorer in the game, connected with 26. Von Bunn, a sophomore from Victoria, bucketed

20 and Julia Crawford, a freshman from College Station, contributed 15.

The Ladies had two reasons for wanting to win.

"We had to win tonight for our seniors," Crawford said, "and we had to win our last home game."

Bunn agreed with Crawford. "The team was up for this game because of Denise Bettis and Karen Muskiet, our seniors."

The Ladies picked up momentum with eight minutes left in the half

and went into the locker room with a 44-31 lead.

Aggie Lady coach Wanda Bender said her talk at half time stressed that the women could not be playing sloppily since they were ahead, but must continue their nose defense.

"It's hard to keep the momentum going when you have a big lead," she said, "and I didn't want our defense to get lazy."

Taking a big lead can go two ways, Crawford said. "Sometimes you take that momentum and slam it on the opposing team into the ground. Other times, there is a lot of mistakes that come in and the girls get cold."

But the Aggies did not get cold or lazy. In the second half, they were consistently ahead by 15 to 20 points.

Ags also had an impressive night on the boards, grabbing 39 rebounds.

Bender said she had been working on a new free-lance offense last week.

"In this kind of offense, there's no set pattern to run," she said. "The players just read the defense and then take the advantages as they come."

The two graduating seniors, Muskiet and Bettis, agreed that there was no place in the world like the Rollie White Coliseum in white play.

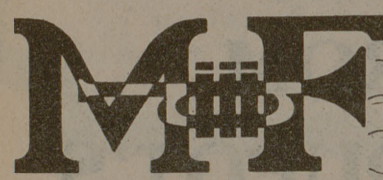
"The crowd is a tremendous asset," said Bettis, "even if they're coming mainly to see the game."

Both seniors also agreed that A&M will be well-known for women's basketball team in the future.

"We've had our ups and downs this season," said Muskiet, "but we have so much young talent, that way we can go is up."

Bender added that she also cannot see the future teams going down, only up and up. On February 23-25, the Ladies will be playing in their zone tournament in Huntsville. The following weekend, March 2-4, they will be playing at the state tournament in San Angelo.

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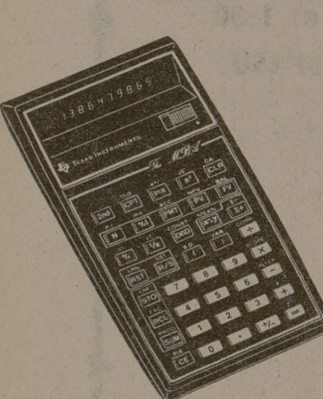
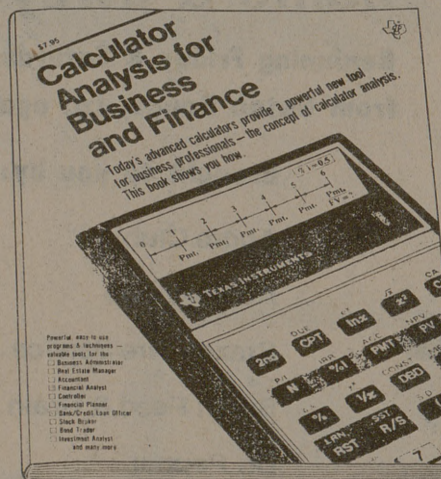


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