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sports

Loss drops Frogs into tie for cellar

By MARK PATTERSON
The TCU Horned Frogs played up to their potential last night as the Texas Aggies rolled past the stumbling Frogs 88-72.
It was the Frog's 12th loss of the year, and it drops them into a tie for last place in the conference with the Rice Owls, the team the Aggies face Tuesday night.
"The game could have been ugly for us," said TCU head coach Tim Somerville following his team's dubbing at the hands of the Aggies. It looked like we were going to lose by 60."

But the thing that did us in tonight was our inability to break their press. Our early turnovers allowed them to explode early and they just kept putting it to us. And there was no way for us to catch up."
Though TCU carries a losing record this year they have something to point at and remember about this season; they've been a team of first this year. Not only can TCU lay claim to the only jump ball seen in conference play this year, but last night TCU played the first South-west Conference game in history with three referees.

three to work together more a unit.
"I think they were worried about a fight breaking out at the beginning of the game. I think they over-cautiousness though. But as the game progressed the refs let the boys play more physical."
The coaches thoughts echoed by his players as well.
"In the first half, the refs wanted us to do anything under the boards," said Frevert about the close calls by the officials. In the second half they (refs) loosened and didn't call it as close.
"There was a lot of pushing into the basket that wasn't called," said TCU forward Tim Smith. "But they let you play ball like that down here."
The three officials never let the ball game get out of hand. The bad TCU can't make the claim.

With 12 minutes left in the game, TCU trailed 73-39. But the Frogs closed the margin in the final minutes to make the score presentable.
"That was a great comeback for our guys," said Somerville. "It was a shame that A&M had to explode like that. It was the first time they had all year. And all our turnovers (36) didn't hurt them."
"I've always said that A&M has as much talent, man-for-man, as anyone else in the league. I guess they showed it tonight."

TCU was hampered in the game by the loss of their starting point-guard Ardie Evans to the flu. Their offensive punch felt his absence.
"Missing Artie out there is like cutting off your right arm," said Somerville. "He's our floor leader and the one who sets up the offense for us. Man, it hurt us with him out."

The man who picked up the slack for the Frogs was freshman center Larry Frevert. Having his high-point game of the year, Frevert hit six of seven shots and ended up with 17 points on the night.
"I've had the flu the last two days and it really bothered me in the first half," said Frevert. "But I started feeling better in the second half and started moving more. The only way I can be effective is if I can move around."

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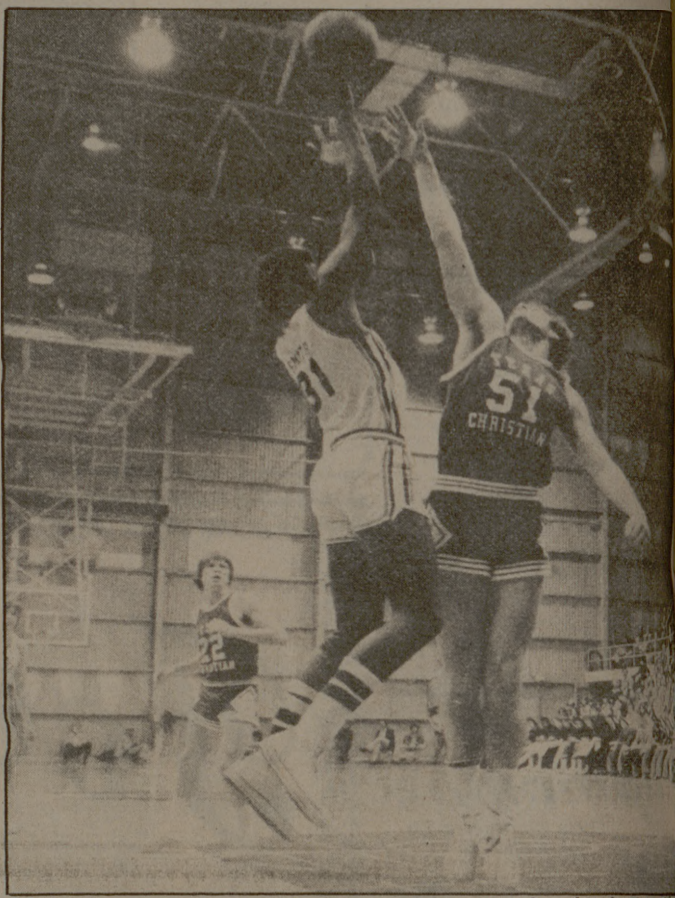
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Battalion photo by Dean C...
A&M forward Vernon Smith (No. 31) takes a jump shot over the outstretched hand of Larry Frevert (No. 51). Smith had 17 points as the Aggies defeated the Horned Frogs 88-72.

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