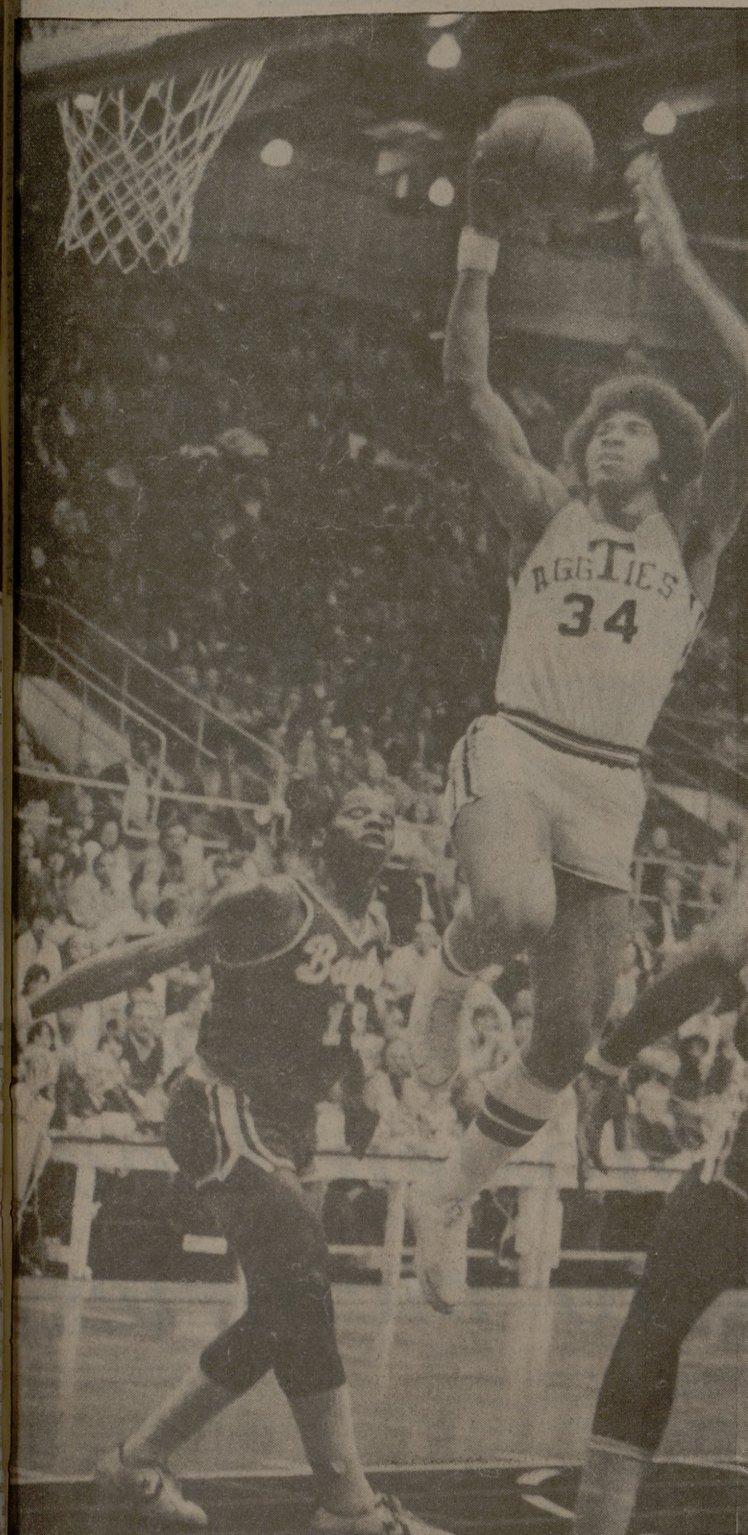


It's wait until next year for the Aggies



Battalion photo by Ken Herrera

By PAUL ARNETT
Battalion Sports Editor
The worst season since Shelby Metcalf became head coach at Texas A&M is over. Texas Tech defeated Texas A&M for the third time this year 85-78.
"It has been a long season," Met-

Make that six in a row

By MARK PATTERSON
Battalion Sports Staff
If Texas Tech had a choice, they'd choose to play Texas A&M every game of the season.
Or so it would seem. For the third straight time this year the Red Raiders defeated the Aggies, this time by the score of 85-78. This victory was even sweeter for Tech because it earned them a berth in the post-season tournament at The Summit this week.

It was Tech's sixth straight victory over the Aggies in a streak that extends over the past year and a half. And Saturday's victory broke a personal three-game losing streak for Tech.

But the latest victory didn't come as easy for Tech as the previous ones over A&M this year. Trailing much of the ball game, Tech rallied in the final four minutes of the game to earn themselves a trip to Houston.

Shooting a poor 39 percent from the field in the first half, Tech went into the locker room trailing 36-32. And it didn't look good for the Raiders.

"I was really scared at the half," said Tech's coach Gerald Meyers. "It looked like every bounce and everything else was going against us."

"But the second half really made me proud of this team. We were trying too hard in the first half and the team could have folded when things weren't going our way. But we didn't and for the first time all year we played with poise."

Tech's all-conference forward, Mike Russell, was held in check by the Aggies in the first half. And Russell echoed his coach's views about Tech's misfortunes in the opening period.

"They were getting all the breaks in the first half," said Russell. "All the rebounds and balls were bouncing right to them. But we knew during halftime that their bubble was going to burst."
"A&M depended too much on

calf said, "but I'm real proud of these guys. It was a good basketball game and we have nothing to be ashamed of. Tech is the better ball club, they beat us all three times we played them."

Actually the Aggies played a real good game until the final six min-

utes. At that point the score was tied at 63. But Tech guard Geoff Houston hit an 18-foot jump shot, forward Kent Williams followed with a 25-foot shot and all-SWC Mike Russell made a lay-up.

The crowd roared; the game was over.

their two freshmen this game," said Russell about the play of Rynn Wright and Vernon Smith. "We knew that something had to break and it finally did when they went into their man-to-man defense."

A&M employed a zone defense against Tech throughout most of the game. The Aggies abandoned the zone when they fell behind late in the contest, and Tech took advantage of the new defensive alignment.

"We play the best against a man-for-man defense," said coach Meyers. "(Geoff) Houston neutralized their zone for us with his outside shooting. Those perimeter shots gave us a lead and forced A&M to go to their man defense."

Houston's outside shot also kept Tech close in the first half. Hitting seven of 13 shots in the first stanza, Houston ended the day with 21 points against the Aggies.

"I started shooting from the outside to try to take the slack off Russell in the middle," said Houston. "I kept hitting in the seams of their zone and I was open. It finally forced them out of the zone and we went after them."

"Our rebounding really hurt us in the first half. We were inconsistent under the boards and A&M was getting two and three shots on offense. It seemed like all the rebounds were coming out long and they were there to get them."

The game also marked the first confrontation between Willie Foreman and Kent Williams, since Foreman delivered the blow that broke Williams' jaw. But the Tech guard wasn't intimidated by the Aggies senior captain.

Foreman was three for nine from the field in the game and ended the game with six points. The Tech crowd hadn't forgotten the Williams' incident greeting Foreman with a chorus of boos everytime his name was mentioned or the Aggie touched the ball.

"It had to be intimidating him," said Williams about Foreman's greeting in Lubbock. "The crowd was really against him and I think it helped us in the game. But I was especially glad that the only thing he got was boos. It could have been worse."



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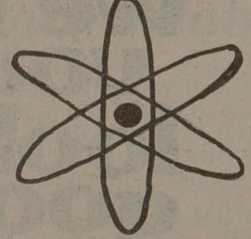
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