

the sports

Aggies jump on slow Frogs 57-43

By MARK PATTERSON
Battalion Staff

The Texas Aggies played twenty minutes of good, solid basketball Wednesday night as they handed TCU its sixth straight conference loss, 57-43.

But twenty minutes was all the Aggies could play as the Horned Frogs came out in a slow-down game in hopes of stalling the Aggies out of a victory.

"They beat us up in Fort Worth that way last year," Coach Shelby Metcalf said about TCU's delay game. "It's hard to find fault with them running that kind of offense."

"I thought that they might not play

that way because of the TV audience. But I agree with (TCU Coach) Somerville's thinking. He can't let TV dictate his game plan. I thought it was a pretty good plan."

But what the live and television audiences saw was a slow, dull basketball game that had a total of 36 points scored in the first half, 18 by each squad. At the intermission both teams had identical shooting percentages, hitting nine out of 19 shots for 47.4 percent.

"All that was said at halftime was that we needed to keep playing our kind of basketball," Rudy Woods said after the game. "Our shooting was the thing that hurt us in the first half."

"We came out in the second half and slowly started pulling away from them. We couldn't stay cold for long." "But this game was a laugher for us. Like in football, you can play some games that don't mean as much. That's what tonight's game was like."

"They (TCU) knew they were going to get beaten before the game started. You could tell by the way they played the first half. It was like they didn't have any nerve out there. They took the fun out of the game."

"I was talking to number 34 (Steve Scales) and even he was mad at the way Somerville had them playing. He (Scales) is used to running. They shouldn't come out that conservative."

The rest of the Aggie basketball players were as perturbed as Woods at the game plan used by the Horned Frogs.

"All they wanted to play was chase the ball around," Vernon Smith said. "They couldn't play any basketball. If they can't play, get them out of the conference."

"I went up to Somerville at the end of the first half and asked him why he wouldn't let his team play basketball. They came all the way down here to play, they ought to be able to play basketball."

TCU came out in the second half and was forced to play the Aggies' style of basketball, a running, shooting game. The Aggies took 32 shots in the second half while the Horned Frogs could manage only 18.

"We went to the press and forced them into making some turnovers that we converted into points," Metcalf explained. "Our press has been very effective for us this year and it worked again tonight. They got be-

hind and were forced to come out of their delay game."

"After the game a guy came up to me and asked if TCU's game plan was an argument for the 30-second clock in college basketball. I told him no, that it was an argument against the 30-second clock. Their stall was the equalizer against us. It gave them a chance tonight."

The Aggies looked sluggish for the first part of the game, partly due to the Horned Frogs' stall and partly due to their own emotions. The Aggies looked slow during last night's game.

"We came out unemotional," Metcalf said, "but we wanted them that way. These guys have just played three emotional games (Arkansas, Texas Tech and Texas) and they ought to be a little down."

"You can't get high for 16 games in a season. Tonight was one of our down games."

"We've been in a little slump, but I liked what I saw in the second half."

Woods agreed with his coach on the emotional level of the team. "We came out flat tonight, like we did Monday against Texas," Woods said. "We've been sort of in a slump, and in the first half we didn't have the chance to work our way out of it. We got the ball 19 times and took 19 shots. But we looked good in the second half."

Rynn Wright felt the Aggies were prepared for Wednesday's game.

"We came out ready, but we had to stand around and see what kind of a game they were going to play against us," Wright said. "They knew that if they tried to run with us we would beat them by a lot. And we knew that if we could play our game we would win."

"We had to be ready for this game. We couldn't let a team like TCU come in here and beat us. We can't afford another loss."

The Aggies got their win, but for the 6,103 fans and the television audience it was a dull way to spend a Wednesday night.



Texas A&M's Tyrone Ladson takes a shot during Wednesday night's TCU-Texas A&M basketball game. The Aggies won the contest 57-43.

Battalion photo by Lee Roy Lewis

Tupinamba

Eddie Dominguez '66
Joe Arciniega '74

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TCU (43)
Scales 4-4-12, Nickens 6-4-5-16, Thompson 1-2-3, Blackwell 3-0-0, Vincent 1-2-3-4, Hund 0-0-1-0, Haynes 0-0-0-0, Winger 1-0-0-2, Mansbury 0-0-0-0. Totals 16-11-15-43.

TEXAS A&M (57)
Smith 7-0-0-14, Wright 7-0-0-14, Woods 6-1-2-13, Ladson 0-0-0-0, Goff 1-0-0-2, Britton 0-0-0-0, Robinson 2-0-0-4, Culton 0-1-2-1, Sylestine 0-1-1-1, Jones 2-0-0-4, Pederson 1-0-0-2, Schlicher 1-0-0-2, Baird 0-0-1-0. Totals 27-3-6-57.

Halftime — Texas A&M 18, TCU 18. Fouled Out — Woods, Total Fouls — TCU 9, A&M 21. A — 6,103.

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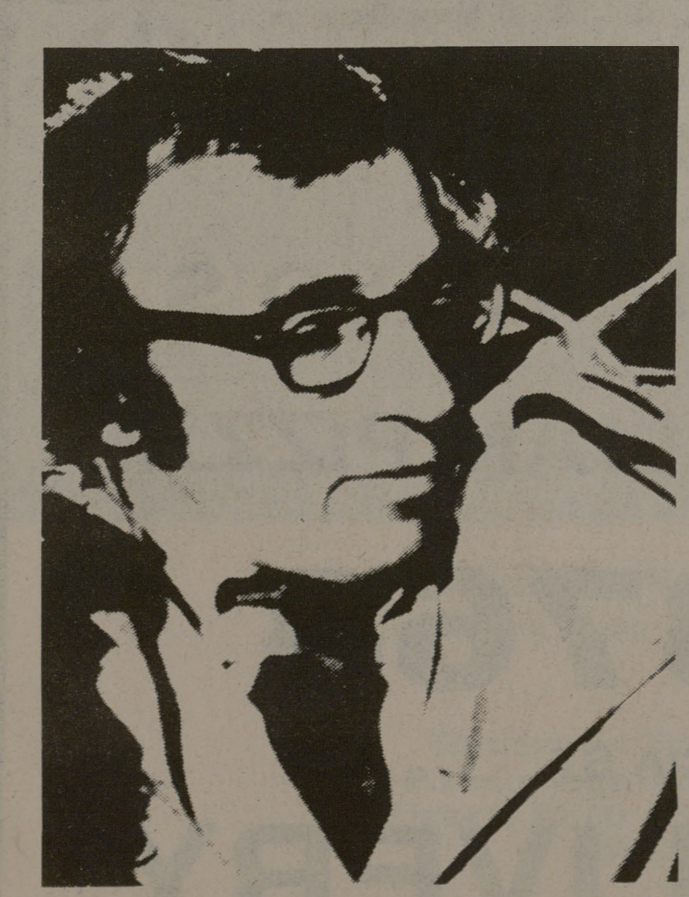
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