

TCU stall was logical, Somerville says

By SEAN PETTY
Battalion Staff

The Texas Christian University Aggies came to G. Rollie Coliseum with two things in mind: one was to beat the Texas Aggies and the other was to slow the Aggies' running game down to a slow crawl.

It made sense and actually worked. If the Aggies couldn't get all they couldn't score, right? For the first 20 minutes of the game the Frogs put on a passing exhibition, held the Aggies to only 18 points, scored 18 themselves, and the crowd and a television audience to sleep.

"We knew we were coming down on one of the best teams in the country," said TCU head coach Tim Somerville. "We also knew that we have the talent to run with the Aggies so the only logical thing to do was to stall."

"We didn't play to keep the score down, we played to win the game. We were very successful in the first half and thought we could win. Heck, it was 18-18 at half and all we had to do was keep it up in the

second half. Plus it was the first time we played a stall game all year."

But the Frogs could only bottle up the Aggies' running and scoring so long. They continued to slow the game down in the second half but soon the Aggie zone-press and the Frogs' youth caught up with them.

"I think around the 15-minute mark of the second half is where we lost it," Somerville said. "Our freshmen made some key turnovers and the Aggies just took off from there."

Somerville was right. It was at 15:52 in the second half when the Aggies began increasing a lead they would never relinquish. In fact, the Frogs scored only two points from 15:52 until 7:55 in the second half.

"I just wish we could have got Rudy (Woods) out of there sooner," he said. Woods fouled out with 5:24 left in the game. "Rudy's slam dunks and rebounding beat us tonight. His performance won the game for the Aggies. He's just a great player."

The Aggies seemed perplexed as they allowed the Frogs to stall the entire first half. But in the second half Aggie coach Shelby Metcalf in-

stalled the zone-press which was the straw that broke the Frogs' back.

"I thought they would come out and press us from the beginning of the game," Somerville said. "I don't think we did too bad against the press. You know, we only had a few turnovers in the second half against it." The Frogs had more than "a few turnovers" in the second half as they turned the ball over 11 times as opposed to eight in the first half.

Although the Frogs' stall tactics worked well in the first half, Steve Scales, the only senior on the young TCU team had a different opinion on how the Frogs should have played the Aggies.

"I don't like to stall," said Scales. "I thought we could play them head up and run with them. But, regardless of what I think, you have to go with the game plan."

"It hurts, man," he said. "It just tears the hell out of my heart to play slow because I feel ready to play every game. Sometimes I think that everything I shoot would go in. I just think we could have stayed with A&M. We had a good game against Rice and it really helped our confi-

dence.

"You got to go with the system though," said a frustrated Scales. "I expect we'll slow it down against Baylor also. We have to neutralize Vinnie (Johnson). But it's rough on me, man."

It's been something less than a good year for the Frogs as the loss to the Aggies was their sixth straight Southwest Conference loss with no wins.

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Longhorns edge Bears in Waco

WACO — Phillip Stroud and Jim Stroud hit six free throws in the final seconds Wednesday night to fight a Baylor comeback and give the 15th-ranked Texas Longhorns a 76-70 victory over the Bears.

The winning Texas atop the Southwest Conference Standings with a 6-1 record and the decision was the sixth straight for the streaking Longhorns.

Baylor, playing before its largest crowd in history, slipped to 4-3 in the SWC play.

pair of free throws with six seconds remaining, giving Texas Tech a 70-68 victory over the Houston Cougars in Lubbock.

Just before Huston's free throws George Walker had tied the game with two free throws or Houston, now 3-5 in conference and 9-9 overall. The Red Raiders, now 4-3 in Southwest Conference play and 12-5 for the season.

In Dallas, Arkansas's Sydney Moncrief poured in 29 points to lead

the Razorbacks to an easy victory over the Southern Methodist Mustangs.

Moncrief hit 8 of 15 from the field and 13 of 15 from the line, including four technical foul shots in row, in a game in which Arkansas never trailed.

The win gave Arkansas an overall 12-4 record and put them at 4-3 in the conference. The Mustangs fell to 7-9 on the season and 2-4 in the conference.

Throne Branan scored 26 points before fouling out with 1:03 left and Krivacs added 23 to the attack.

Branan and Krivacs combined for 44 points in the first half as Texas led to a 44-35 lead with less than 10 minutes to play in the opening half.

But Baylor scored the last seven points of the first half, including a tip shot by Wendell Mays with 1:30 left to play that cut the Bears' lead to 44-42.

Baylor, however, could not score in the first 5½ minutes of the second half and Texas jumped to a 10-point lead.

Baylor slowly whittled the deficit to 44-42 at the 25-point performance of SWC leading scorer Vinnie Johnson and an additional 21 points by Mays.

Baylor tied the game at 59-59, but Texas scored the next six points and never tied again.

With 56 seconds to play, Baylor led by one point and for the first time in the contest the Longhorns were faced with making free shots to stay ahead.

Johnson made two free shots with 35 seconds to go, and made two more with 15 seconds remaining.

Johnson made both ends of a one-and-one situation with eight seconds left to give Texas a three-point advantage and clinch the contest.

A crowd of 9,200 filled the Heart of Texas Coliseum, the largest crowd ever in the 27-year-old building.

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