

the sports

viewpoint

By DAVID BOGGAN  
Battalion Sports Editor

There's no room for poor sports

Fans of Texas A&M basketball, I salute you. For four years I have watched you watch basketball. I've seen you when your team is winning and I've seen you when your team is losing. I've heard you cuss officials for making calls that you did not like. I've seen you jump up and down when they didn't make calls you thought should have been made. I've heard you demand that an opponent coach take his seat — behind the steering wheel of a Greyhound. And, yes, I've even heard a few of you boo during opponent introductions. Let's face it, you are by no means a coliseum full of angels. But even at your worst, you know where to draw the line when it comes to letting your opinions be known during the course of the game. A hearty round of horse laughs is the extent of your expression. You should be proud of that. Monday night in Waco at the Baylor-Texas A&M game, I saw one of the worst displays of sportsmanship I have ever seen from a group of fans in the Southwest Conference. Almost from the beginning of the contest, any time an official made a call that did not please the Baylor fans, a variety of cups, toy basketballs and ice would find their way out of the stands and onto the court. Many times during the game, debris thrown by fans had to be removed from the floor by players, officials or attendants. The larger the Aggie lead became, the harder the rain of trash fell. Toward the end of the game, the public address announcer had to continuously appeal to the crowd to stay off the court and to quit throwing trash. This is how Texas A&M's David Britton, who fouled out with 7:03 left in the game, viewed the actions of the crowd: "I got hit right here with a penny," Britton said, pointing to the side of his face. "If I would have been turned around, I would have been hit in the eye. It was dumb. It was ugly. That doesn't do anything for the Southwest Conference. It doesn't do anything for anybody. They called me a hotdog, but I wasn't out there to hurt anybody. I'm sure their players didn't want them throwing things. Their players were real good to us. They (members of the crowd) were calling us names and we've been called names before but this is the first time it was obscene. Usually it is just in fun. That kind of thing has got to go." He's right. There is no place for that type of conduct in the Southwest Conference or in sports, period. I'm glad such actions don't occur in C. Rollie White.

Pugh announces retirement

DALLAS — The professional football career of Dallas defensive tackle Jethro Pugh ended Monday as the 14-year veteran found himself in an unaccustomed role — the host of the show. Pugh had long grown accustomed to being the forgotten man in the line, two of the boys front four and he seemed surprised when his retirement party was turned into a media event. Pugh finally reached the point during the season that I realized I had had enough football," Pugh said. "I know all year this was going to be my last year." When, when asked what he felt he contributed to the Cowboys' "original 'Doomsday Defense,'" a unit that included tackle Bob Lilly, middle linebacker Lee Roy Jordan, outside linebacker Chuck Howley, cornerback Mel Renfro and safety Cornell Green.

Aggies defeat Bears 71-58

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WACO — There is quite a difference between the instinctive, free-flowing style of basketball played in the streets of New York City and the regimented, cut-and-dried game seen in the nation's college programs.

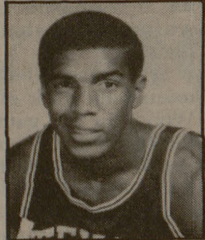
Harlem native David Britton and Brooklyn native Vinnie Johnson can attest to that. The two, who learned to play basketball in the streets of the Big Apple and who played against each other in New York all-star games, met again Monday night when Britton and the Texas Aggies defeated Johnson and the Baylor Bears 71-58. According to Britton, the 9,200 fans that filled the Heart O' Texas Coliseum were denied a unique experience.

"Street style is so much freer," the Aggie junior said. "I thought we would get to show that when me and Vinnie went man-on-man against each other. But the refs didn't want

it to happen, so we didn't get to show it. It would have been something, I know that."

What the fans did see was a good basketball game, Southwest Conference style, in which Texas A&M managed to stay one game behind league-leading Texas. The Aggies now have a conference record of 7-2 and the Longhorns, who defeated Houston Monday night, are 8-1 in the SWC.

David Britton



"This was an important one. It keeps us in the running," said Aggie forward Vernon Smith.

"They will all be important from now until we meet Texas," Tyrone Ladson added. "It looks like they ain't planning to lose no more. We don't plan to lose no more. So they're all important."

Texas A&M coach Shelby Metcalf couldn't agree more.

"This was a big win for us," the Aggie coach said. "We've got a good basketball team no matter what happens."

"They were mentally ready to play tonight. They've got the enthusiasm back that they had in December. And David Britton is back again where he use to be and

we need him." Britton, who had fallen into a slump, and as a result, lost his starting position three games ago, said that he is playing well because the whole team is playing well.

"Everybody contributed tonight," he said. "We held our heads up. We were a little shaky in the second half but we came back like a good team should. We had class."

Freshman center Rudy Woods contributed 20 points to the Aggies' efforts, hitting 9-of-12 from the field. The rest of the front line, Rynn Wright and Smith, scored 15 and 14 points, respectively.

"Don't forget those guards," Metcalf stressed. "It's the guards that get the ball in to Rudy. It involves teamwork. This was a team victory."

The Aggies took the lead on a Ladson jump shot with 13:49 left in the first half. From that point on Metcalf's men never relinquished their command, except for a 57-57 tie with 3:13 left in the game. The Aggies then scored 14 points to Baylor's one and the game was over.

"The coaches had the right plan for the game and we executed well," Ladson said. "We looked good as a unit and we played great defense."

Texas A&M's defense faced the problem of stopping Vinnie Johnson, who had scored a total of 80 points in his three previous games. The Aggies allowed Johnson only 12 points, all of those coming in the first half.

"We tried to double Vinnie with a wing and a guard," Smith said. "And we wouldn't try to block his shots

because you can't block Vinnie's shots. We would just stand straight up and usually when he shoots he will lean into you and get called for charging."

"We proved tonight that we can play defense," Britton added. "We shut down Kenny Williams in Houston. We did it to Moncrief. We did it to everybody against Tech. Tonight we did it to Vinnie."

The Aggies, ranked 14th in the country, are 18-4 for the season, and

Baylor dropped to 5-4 in the SWC and 11-8 for the year.

BOX SCORE

TEXAS A&M (71)  
Wright 7 1-2 15, Smith 6 2-2 14, Woods 9 2-5 20, Goff 3 1-2 7, Ladson 1 4-6 4, Britton 4 1-1 9, Robinson 0 0-0 0. Totals 30 11-18 71.  
BAYLOR (58)  
Teagle 9 3-6 21, Mays 5 4-4 14, Gallardo 1 0-0 2, Nunley 2 0-0 4, Johnson 4 4-5 12, Zeller 0 0-0 0, Vaszauskas 2 1-2 5, Stanley 0 0-0 0. Totals 23 12-17 58.  
Halftime — Texas A&M 33, Baylor 24. Fouled out — Britton, Johnson. Total fouls — Texas A&M 21, Baylor 19. A — 9,200.

Southwest Conference Standings

Texas	8-1	.889
Texas A&M	7-2	.778
Arkansas	5-3	.625
Texas Tech	5-4	.556
Baylor	5-4	.556
SMU	3-5	.375
Houston	3-6	.333
Rice	3-6	.333
TCU	0-8	.000

MONDAY'S RESULTS

Texas A&M 71, Baylor 58; Texas 79, Houston 53; SMU 80, Rice 67; Texas 91, TCU 71.
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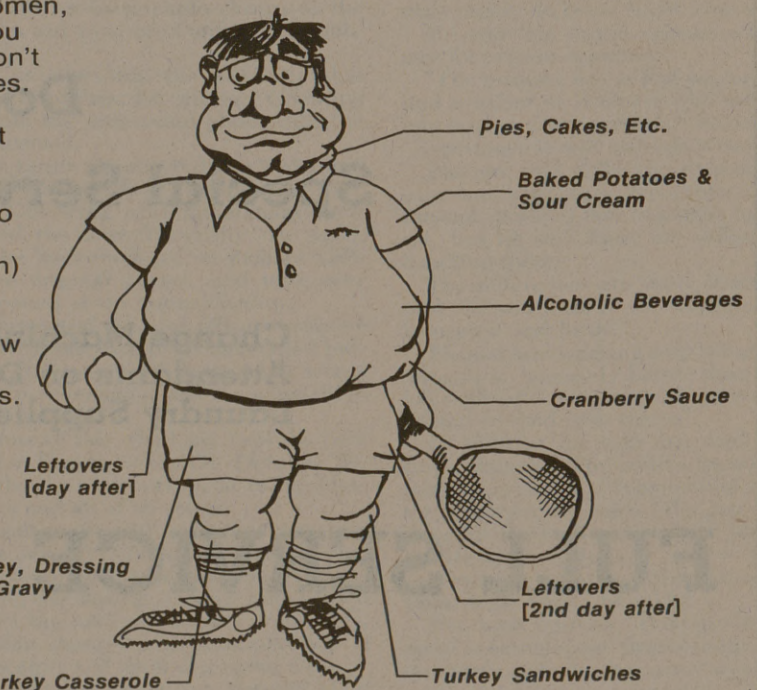
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