

SMU minus Allen adds up to defeat

By SEAN PETTY
Battalion Staff

The SMU Mustangs' 92-56 loss to the Texas Aggies was a case of a father missing his son.

The sad father in this case was Sonny Allen, head coach at SMU. The son was freshman Billy Allen, SMU's floor leader, second leading scorer for the Mustangs and the man who keeps the Mustangs running.

Billy watched from the bench, a seat unfamiliar to him since he started playing basketball, as the Aggies ran the hapless Ponies right out of C. Rollie White Coliseum.

The Mustangs were as cold shooting from the floor as the touch of pneumonia that kept Billy Allen out of the game.

The Mustangs shot a chilling 30.9 percent for the game and didn't even score a point from the field until the 12:23 mark in the first half. They managed only three points on free throws before that.

But the Mustangs' cold night at C. Rollie was not all due to their inability to put the roundball through the hoop.

"The Aggies played a great defensive game, just a great defensive

game tonight," said coach Allen. "I thought the game was going well for the first 15 to 16 minutes but then they shut us down for a while with their defense and we never could get back in it."

The Mustangs did finally start scoring and closed the gap to 23-19 with 4:31 left in the first half. But as Allen said, after the first 15 minutes of the first half, it was all Texas A&M.

"They (the Aggies) came out more aggressive than they did when we played them in Dallas," Billy Allen said of the 78-76 Mustang victory over the Aggies in Dallas. "They pressed us tonight and it really hurt us because it forced us out of our offense."

"And once they get going when they are playing at home, they are hard to stop."

"We're 1-1 with the Aggies now," said coach Allen. "The time we beat them we were healthy."

"I'm not saying it would have made any difference tonight but it hurts when you have your number one and two scorers not at full strength. We haven't been healthy for the past two weeks."

"Before we got sick and injured, we beat two of the top 16 teams in the country."

Billy Allen's absence, along with some other nagging injuries affecting other Mustang players including their leading scorer, Brad Branson, added to the Aggies' run away victory. Branson, a freshman from Florida, is averaging 15.6 points a game and is the leading rebounder in the Southwest Conference with 10.4 a game.

Allen is averaging 15 points a game but more importantly, he averages 8.1 assists a game. His ball-handling talent was sorely missed as his presence and leadership on the court usually draws a crowd, taking the pressure off the other guard, Phil Hale.

"We really missed Billy tonight," Hale said. "I was off my game tonight because they were double-teaming me so much. When Billy is in there, he takes the pressure off me. We really play well together. Billy gives us another good ballhand-

ler and is an outside scoring threat."

Even Billy's dear old dad had to realistically boast about his son's importance to the Mustang game.

"They were able to put a lot of pressure on us defensively because Billy wasn't in there to penetrate the lane," Allen said. "They could afford to double team us."

The Aggies ran the fast break on offense and shut down the Ponies on defense at will. Everything seemed to be going right for the Aggies as they built up a head of steam through the first half and coasted through most of the second half.

"We made a lot of forced mistakes," Coach Allen said. "We were doing what we wanted to do at the beginning of the game but the missed shots killed us. They (the Aggies) just kept coming at us all night."

"I was really impressed with their depth," he said. "They have people coming off the bench who started for them last year, so that shows what kind of depth they have."

"We were in it until we started making all those turnovers and missing our shots," said center Reggie Franklin. "Then, the second half they were just too much for us."

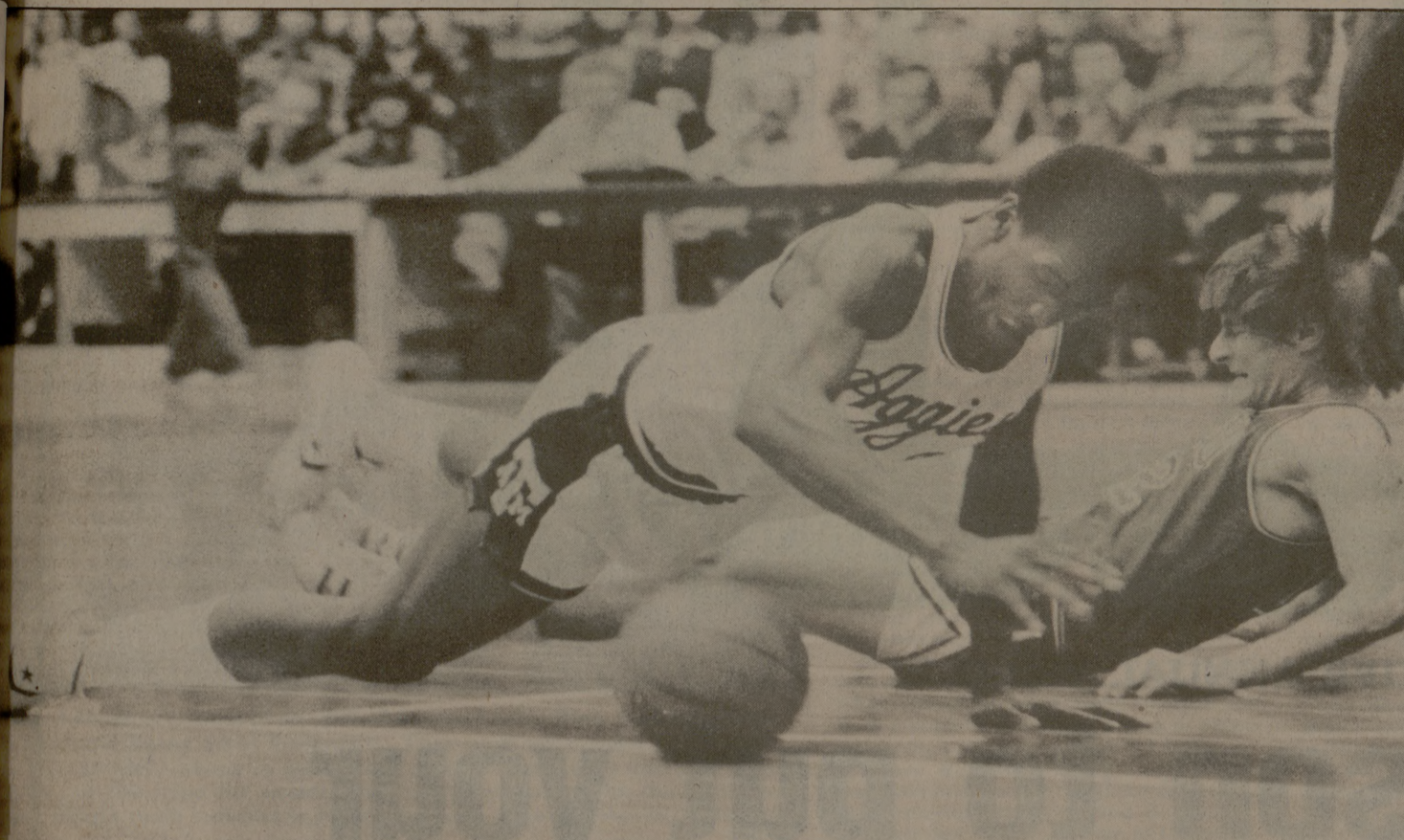
The Aggies worked the full-court press to perfection, keeping the Mustang scoring opportunities to a minimum.

"Their press hurt us this game and it didn't last time we played," Hale said. "It's hard to keep playing when you get so far behind but you just have to forget it and keep going."

"But we couldn't have stopped the Aggies the way they were playing tonight. Heck, everything they put up went in," he said. "They were making off-balance shots, tips from eight feet and all sorts of shots."

The Mustangs are now 3-6 in conference play and can only hope to win enough games to have the home court advantage in the first round of the SWC tournament.

But before they do that, a father is going to have to get his son healthy and on the court again.



Texas A&M's David Britton scrambles for the ball with SMU's Joey Ceravolo.

Battalion photo by Lee Roy Leschper Jr.

Aggie Ladies out-hustle Houston 68-61

By DAVID BOGGAN
Battalion Sports Editor

The Texas A&M women's basketball team may have been in a slump of late recently. But there's nothing wrong with the Aggie Ladies that a hustle won't cure.

The hustle came in the person of Charli Hughes Wednesday night as the Aggies defeated the Houston Cougars 68-61.

Pressure is on Texas

Only 2,019 people showed up at Daniel Meyer Coliseum to see the surprising TCU win and what they saw was not a fluke. The Horned Frogs, who started four freshmen and a sophomore, shot 56 percent and fought off a late Houston comeback.

"We didn't expect it to be easy," said Houston Coach Guy Lewis, whose Cougars dropped to 3-7 in conference play. "I've been in Fort Worth before with good teams and it's never been easy. TCU played hard and did what had to be done."

Other than the Texas-Arkansas battle in Austin tonight, the Texas Tech Red Raiders (5-4) will visit Rice (3-6).

Although the Horned Frogs along way from the top of the chase, they have finally won a conference game, an achievement that was beginning to look very doubtful as the season began to wind down.

TCU shocked the Houston Cougars in Fort Worth Wednesday night, 77-71, to end an eight-game losing streak. At the same time the Aggie Ladies won their 12th straight game with the Razorbacks 92-56.

SMU's win boosted the Aggies' conference record to 8-2 while Houston will take an 8-1 mark into tonight's game with the Razorbacks.

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"Lisa Hughes proved what she was made of tonight," Texas A&M coach Wanda Bender said after the game. "She played excellent man-to-man defense. She gave Kip Anderson no slack. She did a super job at her offensive position and she played the whole game. She must be tired."

"I'm not tired," Hughes replied. "I was tired for a moment, but I used to play the entire game in junior college."

"Houston is a good ball team. They are very snappy and they hustle all the time. We just had it together tonight. We wanted it bad."

The Aggies, who led by as much as 12 points, had a 33-28 halftime advantage. In the second half, the teams traded the lead back and forth several times until, with 6:10 left in the game, Peggy Pope hit a turnaround-jumper that gave Texas A&M the lead for good.

"As a total team effort, this is probably the best game they've played," Bender said of the Aggies. "They were up for the game and they were determined they were going to win it. They even held their own pep rally in G. Rollie after practice yesterday."

"We were playing on our home court. The fans were going our way

and they don't realize it, but that helps our team effort."

Pope led the Aggies with 18 points while Margaret Byrne added 10. Cindy Gough and Kelley Sullivan each pulled down nine rebounds for Texas A&M.

"We were hurt real bad the first time we played Houston," Bender said. "Our four post girls each had injuries of some sort. We had a 10-point lead and they came back with the 1-3-1 press, just like they used tonight, and we got beat by one point. Tonight we gave no quarters."

The Aggies will play in the Mean Green Classic in Denton this weekend. It is doubted that either Bunn or Baker will play in the tournament.

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