

the sports

Ags meet Tech

By MARK PATTERSON
Battalion Staff

We haven't lost two games in a row since we were coming off of the machine."

Texas A&M basketball coach Shelby Metcalf

is suffering their fifth loss of the season Tuesday night, the Texas Aggies hit the road bound for Lubbock and a contest with the Red Raiders Saturday night. It will be the Aggies' second straight road game against a conference title contender and the second of three straight big ball games.

There's nothing wrong with our team," Coach Shelby Metcalf explained. "All we're going to do is our usual, hard ball game. And that's all you can ask of this team."

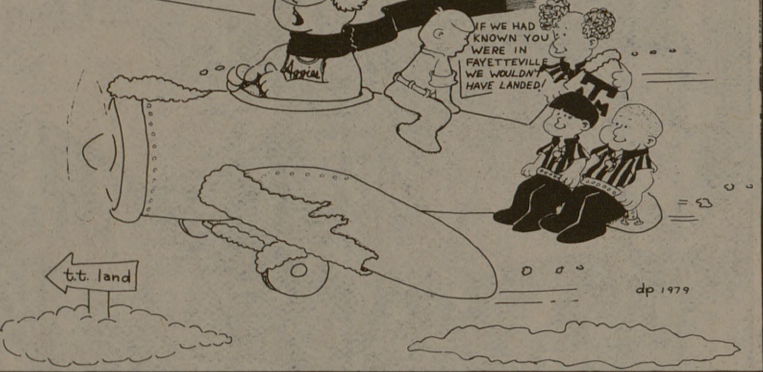
After five losses, all that means is that Tech and Arkansas on Tuesday night, both Tech and Arkansas playing as well as anyone in the conference.

The Red Raiders, 8-4 in conference play, are a game (in the loss column) behind the Aggies and two games behind the league-leading Longhorns. The Raiders are at either a four-game winning streak or will be starting some new faces in their line-up against the Aggies.

They have improved considerably since we played them (Jan. 1978), Metcalf said. "Jeff Taylor, a freshman out of Hobbs, N.M., is starting for them now along with Ben Hill. They've gone back to their control offense. They're careful in their shot selection is very sound. They're a sound team."

Taylor was considered the top school guard in the state of

I HOPE THOSE GUYS GET OFF MY TAIL BEFORE WE GET TO LUBBOCK!



New Mexico last season, choosing Tech over a multitude of schools wishing his services. Hill is a junior college transfer who came off of the bench to earn all-tournament honors in the Sun Bowl Tournament earlier this season.

"They only start one senior (guard Geoff Houston) along with two freshmen, a sophomore and a junior. So they're going to be strong for a long time."

But the present is what worries Metcalf about the Red Raiders.

"Yea, I'm nervous about this game," the coach admitted. "I'm nervous about every game we play. But now we're in a position where we can mathematically finish anywhere from first to fifth in the conference. That's how tight a race we're in this season. And this is just another big game."

The Aggies' last big game, the four point loss to Arkansas, made the trip to Lubbock much more important. Before the Arkansas game, Metcalf said Texas A&M had to win two out of the next three games, with one of those victories over Texas Monday night.

"The loss to Arkansas was a great

disappointment to these guys," Metcalf said, "but it hasn't really affected them that much. They've all had disappointments in their lives before. But the way to get over something like that is to go out and make sure it doesn't happen two times in a row."

The Aggie attack for Saturday night's game will include a heavy full-court press against the Red Raiders. Also, to try to do a better job rebounding than they did up in Fayetteville Tuesday night.

"We'll put a lot of pressure defensively on Tech, with a lot of full-court pressing," Metcalf said. "Tech isn't as vulnerable to the press this year as it has been in the past. It can handle the press better than Arkansas can."

"And we need to improve our board play. Arkansas did an excellent job rebounding against us in that game. They were blocking out well and moving their feet."

"Rudy's fallen off a bit rebounding. He only had four against Arkansas and four against Houston the game before. So we need to get him back into the picture."

Dickerson says he'll go with A&M

From staff and wire reports
Eric Dickerson, one of the country's most highly recruited high school running backs, says he will stand firm in a Southwest Conference bid for winter-of-intent Feb. 14 with Texas A&M.

Dickerson, a 6-3, 210-pound tailback who rushed for 5,862 yards and 47 touchdowns at Sealy, said he had decided on Oklahoma University Wednesday but later changed his mind in favor of Texas A&M.

"Sometimes I wish I never played football. This thing has gotten too hectic. I just came to a decision and want to get it out in the open," Dickerson said.

"My mind's still open, I guess, but I'd say this commitment is pretty solid."

Dickerson was unavailable for further comment Thursday. Texas A&M athletic officials would make comment on Dickerson's verbal commitment.

The national signing date is a week later on Feb. 21 so Oklahoma, possibly Southern Cal, could change his mind. The Feb. 14 SWC bid binds only other conference schools.

"I just like A&M's coaches and offense," said Dickerson. "I concentrated USC (Southern California) but I don't think I could adjust to Los Angeles."

Last year, Blooming Grove running back Milton Collins signed an WC letter of intent with Texas A&M and then signed with North Texas State University before the national signing deadline and now plays for the Mean Green.

Kubiak said A&M recruiters told him increased use of the I-formation would mean that whoever they recruited at quarterback would have a good shot at making the traveling squad. That's all I needed to know."

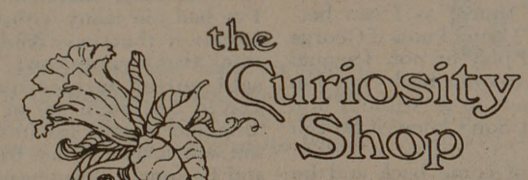
Dickerson is the defending state class AA champion in the 100-yard dash and the 200-meter run.

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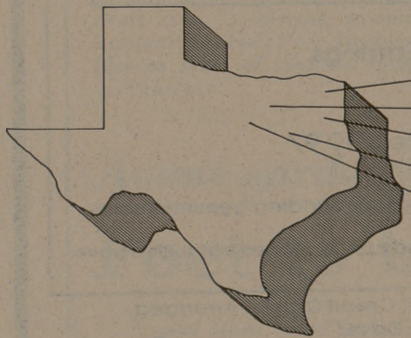
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