

Battalion photo by Lee Roy Leschper Jr.

Longhorns are on the climb

By SEAN PETTY
Battalion Staff

The Texas Longhorns came to the sacred confines of G. Rollie White Coliseum where no team had dared defeat the dauntless Texas Aggies this season. But the gladiators from Austin rose up and slew the mighty Aggie team, thus handing Texas A&M its third Southwest Conference loss in a row.

The Horns from the west brought 13 of their best to topple the quickly fading Ags for the second time this season. But they only used five the entire 40 minutes to keep them alive, atop the conference race.

The Longhorn heroes of the game in the coliseum were not the same ones who led Texas over the Aggies in the Superdrum. The Horns proved again that they are a championship caliber team by shifting the

scoring around. The Horns were led by guard Jim Krivacs and forward Tyrone Branan in Austin while guard John Moore and forward Ron Baxter carried the Texas banner in Aggieland.

"This is the hardest place to play in the conference," said Texas coach Abe Lemons of A&M's G. Rollie White. "You can't talk to your team here and if you haven't coached them well before you come here, you're in big trouble. It's hard playing on the road, especially against a good team like A&M."

"I'm really proud of our team because they did most of this on their own. It was an aggressive, hard game and made a lot tougher by the fact that our five starters played the entire 40 minutes."

The Longhorns jumped on the Aggies the first half leading by 15 at half time and shooting a sizzling 68.2 percent from the field. Moore had 11 at half while Baxter had 10.

But in the second half the Aggies came out pressing and playing a lot more aggressively to cut the Horns lead to five with 3:07 left in the game. The Horns used a spread-offense, which is basically a four corner offense, the second half but found themselves making turnovers and mistakes they hadn't made in the first half.

"Everytime I looked up, there were three guys on whoever had the ball for us," said Lemons. "We started to make mistakes. Then we weren't holding the ball as long as we could and they (the Ags) just came back on us."

"We used the spread-offense to draw Rudy (Woods) out of the center to the front on Phillip (Stroud)," said Baxter of the Horns' strategy. "We were in the right places on the court to run it, we just didn't execute properly and made some bad mistakes in the second half."

But the Longhorns made no mistake putting the ball in the basket as they ended the game shooting 59 percent from the field and 72.2 percent from the free throw line. Moore finished the game making 10 of 12 from the field and three out of five from the free throw line for a 23 point total. Baxter was second leading scorer with 13.

"John Moore played a great game, just lovely. He was really charming out there," Lemons said jokingly referring to his recent conflict with Arkansas coach Eddie Sutton where the Texas coach used obscene language. "Ya' see, I'm trying to clean up my image. I'm getting tired of being in the society column. I use words like gee-whiz, golly and fiddle-foo."

"Fiddle-foo means anything you want it to mean. I say it when I hit my thumb with a hammer. But like I said, Moore was really lovely to-night. See how my language has changed," he said, laughing with reporters.

"But seriously, I thought Stroud played just super for us," Lemons said of the 6-7 center from Houston who pulled down 13 rebounds for the Longhorns. "I just can't say enough about how he's helped us lately."

The most amazing part of the game would have to be the starting Longhorn five playing the entire game. They stayed on the court for the entire game and out-rebounded 33-29 by the Ags.

"I've got the initiative to minutes so it's okay with Stroud said. "We try to do things like this (play the entire game) because we need some great guys on the bench to need the chance to play also. We are all ready to play when we need to."

But it was Moore who summed up the meaning of playing the entire 40 minutes of a game.

"Tiredness is a mental state said. "You can get yourself into you don't have the right attitude. Everyone is concerned with tentioning at Texas and you're yourself in the game. They do those sprints at practice. I'm not tired."

"We played pretty well. But it's good to know we can better."

The Longhorns are playing well now, and continuing the of play can only lead them to conference championship and post-season tournament. Moore put it: "The Texas Longhorns are on the climb. We should be the tournament."

Or as Abe Lemons said now, gee-whiz, it's kind of the Longhorns peaking at the mit.

Horns beat Ag ladies

If you don't believe the University of Texas women's basketball team is the second best squad in the nation, just ask the Aggie Ladies. Texas defeated Texas A&M 73-48 Monday night in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

"Our girls did play hard," Texas A&M coach Wanda Bender said. "They fought the good fight. Texas just has excellent shooters. I hope and pray they win nationals and I think they have a good chance to do so. That will make the whole state of Texas look good. And I won't feel near as bad losing to the national champion."

Texas took a 44-21 halftime lead, but the Aggies were only outscored by two points in the second half.

"We decided to go for broke with our man-for-man defense," Bender said. "We played a lot better on defense in the second half. They had to work for the points they got."

Evwella Munn led the Longhorns with 17 points while Peggy Hope was the leading scorer for the Aggies with nine points.

The Aggies host Panola Junior College at 7 p.m. Wednesday.

gies, currently in fourth place in the SWC, face TCU and Rice before the post-season tournament. Texas A&M must finish third if the Aggies hope to obtain a bye in the tournament.

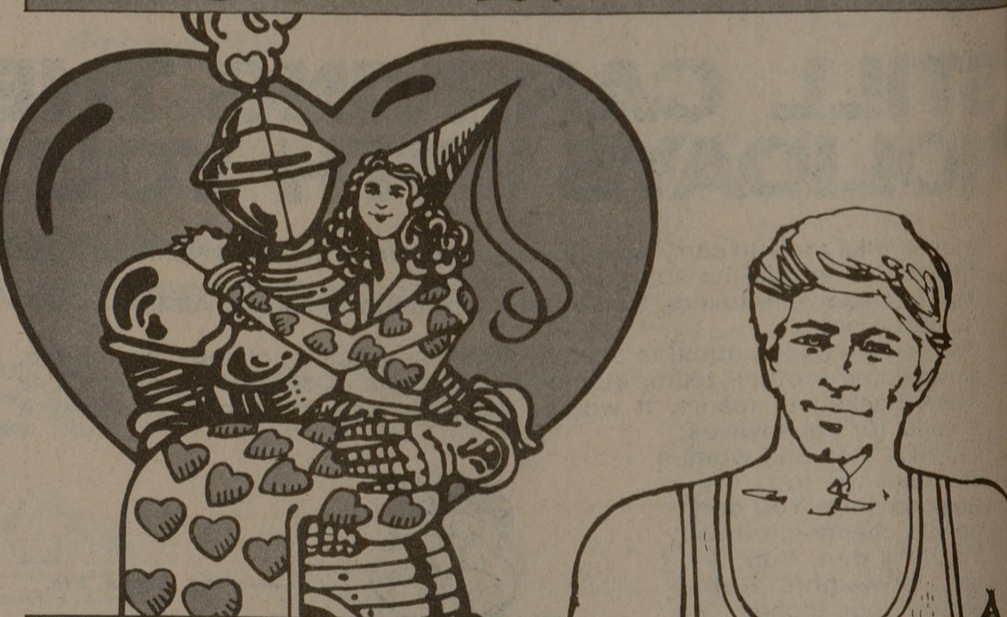
Texas A&M's Joey Robinson battles for the ball with Texas' Ron Baxter in Monday night's game in G. Rollie White Coliseum. League-leading Texas won the contest 65-57. The Ag-

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