

the sports

# Ags crush Catamounts, 98-66

By SEAN PETTY  
Battalion Sports Editor

The Texas Aggies were a little forward Saturday in defeating the Vermont Catamounts, 98-66 in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

In fact, they were a lot forward as Dallasites Rynn Wright and Vernon Smith, the starting forwards for the A&M team, combined for 40 points (20 points each) as the Aggies coasted by the smaller Catamounts.

Wright led the Aggies to a 42-31 halftime lead with his 14 first-half points and seven rebounds. Smith took over in the second half as he scored 16 points and pulled down five rebounds. Wright led the team in rebounds with nine; Smith had seven and center Rudy Woods had six.

The Aggies dominated Vermont from the opening tipoff with their

aggressive defense and monstrous front line of 6-8 Smith, 6-6 Wright and 6-11 Woods. The Catamounts rarely worked the ball inside and could manage only five points in the first seven minutes of the game.

"We've improved a lot but still need a lot of work," said A&M Coach Shelby Metcalf. "We had a chance to do a little polishing and I think we've gotten better each game."

"I thought our shot selection was a lot better than it has been in the past."

"Everybody played well but the guys that impressed me the most were the guys on our scout team. Those guys play hard in practice, they really enjoy playing and they represent the school well when they're on the court."

The Aggies' full-court press gave Vermont fits throughout the first half.

"We watched films over and over to see what we had been doing wrong," Metcalf said of the A&M press which had not been very effective before the Vermont game. "When you can watch yourself and see your mistakes over and over, you have a tendency to correct the mistake."

The Aggies didn't make too many mistakes on either end of the court. And they improved their shooting percentage as they shot 54.1 percent from the field and 66.7 percent from the free-throw line.

Vermont shot 43.8 percent from the field and 72.7 percent from the free-throw line.

Freshman Claude Riley continues to show improvement as he scored 14 points, pulled down eight rebounds and blocked two shots.

One of the things that didn't show

much improvement was the attendance. There were only 4,647 fans at the game and 35 of those fans were young boys from the Bryan Boys Club who were brought to the game by members of McInnis Hall.

The Aggies started looking like the team that is picked to win the Southwest Conference. The Aggie bench is much stronger this year with the addition of Riley, Rob Wright, Bruce Sooter and Jay McHugh. Senior co-captain David Britton and Wright can supply the spark to fire the Aggies up if starting guards Dave Goff and Steve Sylestine can't get the team moving.

The Aggies play the Sam Houston State Bearkats tonight at 7:30 in G. Rollie White. "Just tell everyone they can come out and watch us play and they can still catch the second half of the Houston-Pittsburgh game," Metcalf said hoping that more fans would show up to support

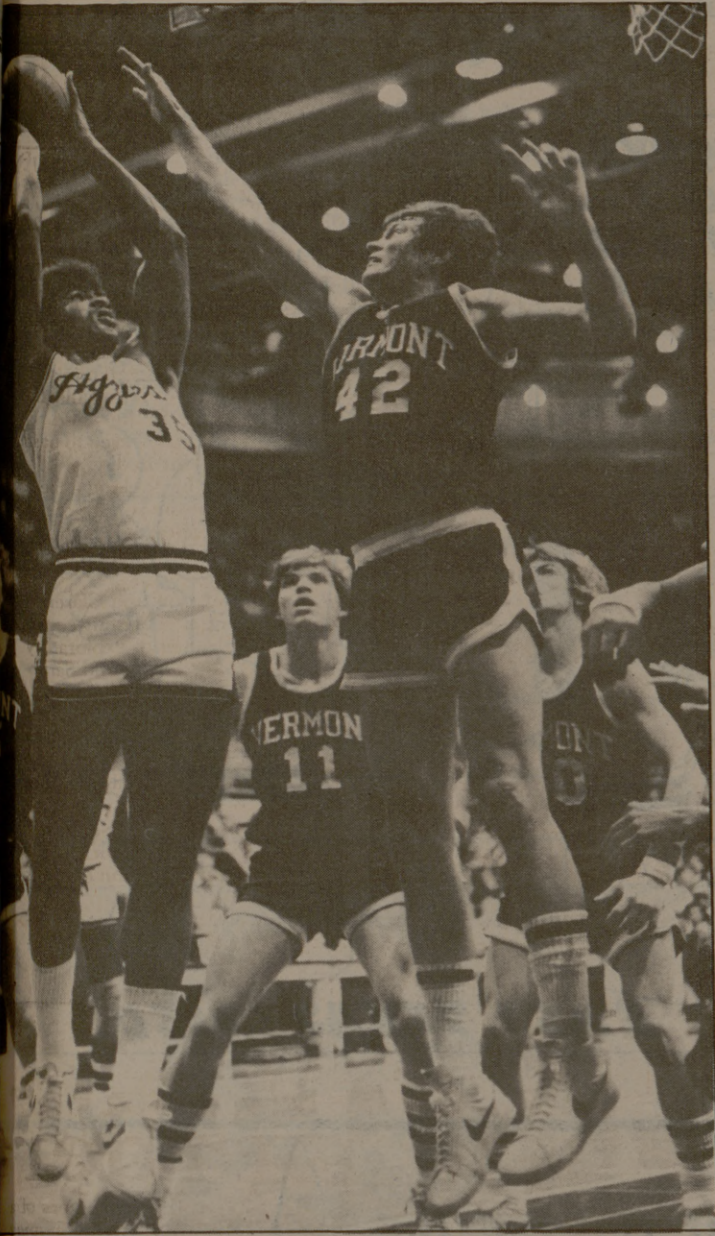
the Ags although the Oilers and Steelers are on television tonight.

VERMONT (66)

Nocera 1 2-3 4, Evelt 4 4-5 12, Beynon 1 1-2 3, Brown 6 3-4 15, Wielgus 1 1-2 3, Thode 4 1-2 9, Correll 1 2-2 4, McKenzie 2 3-4 7, Baker 0 0-0 0. Totals: 21 24-33 66. TEXAS A&M (98)

Smith 9 2-5 20, Rynn Wright 10 0-1 20, Woods 3 2-2 8, Goff 3 0-0 6, Sylestine 4 12 9, Ladson 0 2-2 2, Riley 3 8-11 14, Rob Wright 2 0-0 4, McHugh 1 0-0 2, Britton 3 0-0 6, Sooter 0 0-0 0, Buford 0 1-2 1, Vorlop 1 0-0 2, Surman 1 2-2 4, Kleb 0 0-0 0. Totals— 40 18-27 98.

Halftime — Texas A&M 42, Vermont 31. Fouled out — Beynon, Texas A&M 28. Technical foul — Thode, Vermont. A — 4,647.



Battalion photo by Lee Roy Leschper

## Wright in flight

Texas A&M forward Rynn Wright goes high in the air as he takes a shot against the Vermont Catamounts.

## Oilers looking for Earl to break Steel Curtain

HOUSTON — Not even Earl Campbell has run up 100 yards against the Pittsburgh Steelers defense, but the fortunes of the Houston Oilers tonight are riding on that number being broken.

That chore is not easy. Witness the number of 100-yard rushing games against the Steel Curtain this season. None.

But there are other factors in the AFC Central battle in the Astrozone which indicate Campbell, the NFL's leading rusher through 14 games with 1,454 yards, can do it. One is the good health of Oilers quarterback Dan Pastorini, who had a painful right shoulder when he completed four of 16 passes earlier in the season at Pittsburgh.

The Steelers won that game 38-7 and held Campbell to 38 yards.

"We knew Pastorini had some arm problems," Joe Greene said. "We knew he'd missed some games. We're like he couldn't get the ball to his receivers so we just stacked up on him. We took away their one weapon."

Since then, however, Houston has marched to six wins in seven games as Pastorini has thrown sharply and blocked off defenses.

Campbell, in his second year, got his first start against the Steelers. At Pittsburgh early last season, he rushed for 89 yards in a 24-17 Houston victory.

"You've got to make sure to cut off the running lanes and not just at the point of attack," defensive lineman John Banaszak said. "People on the back side have got to do their jobs."

There were other factors in Campbell's favor. His rushing totals in his only Monday night games have been 89, 199, and 120 yards. His rushing

totals in his last three games against the Steelers are deceptively low.

He was held to 41, 62 and 38 yards in the three subsequent meetings, all Steelers wins. But two of those were blowouts in which Houston was forced to throw more, and in the other one Campbell was injured after amassing 41 yards in the first quarter.

He still remembers the Donnie Shell blow which separated two ribs last year, and Oilers tight end Mike Barber can give a graphic description of Mike Wagner's blow to his knee in the AFC Championship game last year. But there does not seem to be any animosity surrounding any recent Oilers-Steelers games.

United Press International  
The highlight of the young Southwest Conference basketball season comes tonight in the cozy gymnasium that the DePaul Blue Demons call home.

Coach Abe Lemons and his Texas Longhorns, who last week played in the Boston Garden, will be in Alumni Hall tonight — a bandbox gymnasium in which the nation's winningest active coach hangs out.

"I'm asking for volunteers to go to DePaul," said Lemons. "Anybody who wants to sign up and go is fine with me."

Texas is 3-0 thus far and DePaul, ranked 10th, has won its only game of the year — a 90-77 decision over Wisconsin.

DePaul went to the Final Four of

the NCAA last year, eventually finishing in third place. The Blue Demons return three starters from that team, including the nation's leading freshman scorer from 1978-79 — Mark Aguirre.

Meyer will be going after his 599th victory as a college coach, a career dating back to the 1940's.

The other games on the Southwest Conference slate tonight have Rice (1-4) at Tulane, Texas A&M (3-2) hosting Sam Houston State, TCU (1-1) at home against Illinois and Texas Tech (3-1) traveling to the Air Force.

Arkansas (4-0) will meet the Athletes in Action at Little Rock in a game that will not count in the season record.

The action during the middle of

the week will be light, but Houston and Texas A&M will take part in tournaments next weekend.

Houston, which lost twice at home last week (including a one-point stunner to Texas A&I), will be in the Albuquerque Cage Classic where the host University of New Mexico has had its basketball program ripped to shreds by scandal, and Texas A&M will be in the BYU Classic.

Other than Arkansas and Texas, the only unbeaten club in the SWC is Southern Methodist, which last Wednesday night surprised the 18th-ranked Kansas Jayhawks.

SMU will not play this week until Saturday night when they go after win No. 5 at home against Texas-Arlington.

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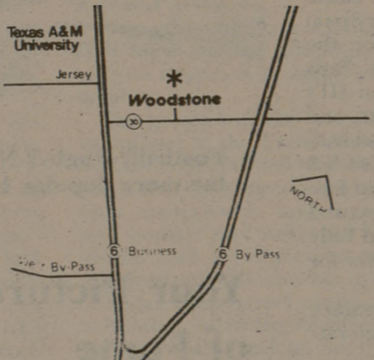
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