

sports

# Ags win again—try for No. 8 tonight

By TCNY GALLUCCI  
Sports Editor  
There was no doubt in anybody's mind. It was a challenge. It was the Special Events Center. It was on television—regional, NBC. It was against a brilliant coach and a sensational freshman.  
It was Shelby Metcalf's Amazing Rhythm Aces drumming the Texas Longhorns 56-53 despite "The Drum," the TV, the coach and the freshman. "I was really proud of them," said Metcalf. "They played like champions down the stretch."  
In a game which saw the Aggies lead by as much as nine in the first half and the gutsy Longhorns fight back to take the lead late in the game, it was indeed a champion effort by A&M that gave them their seventh win in a row.

Texas' Henry Johnson connected on a three-point play with 13:04 left in the game giving Texas its first lead of the night. Claude Riley, A&M's own sensational freshman hit three consecutive jumpers from the baseline to keep the Ags in the game at that point.  
There were four or five things there at the end that could have gone either way," said Metcalf. A&M went up 52-51 with 1:41 on another Riley jumper to begin one of the heart-thumping last minutes of basketball in the SWC this year.  
Rynn Wright, the Aggie defensive ace, was called for a foul when he went up to block a shot by John Danks. Danks hit both free throws to

reverse the lead to 53-52 Texas. At the other end 35 seconds later it was Danks who fouled Wright when the Ag postman tried to tip in a shot by Riley. Wright also dropped both of his free throws to put the Ags back up 54-53.

During one Texas play in the last minute, Ron Baxter tried to drive the lane only to have Dave Goff slap the ball away. Rudy Woods was there to grab the ball and was immediately fouled by Baxter. The inbound pass went to Woods and he was bottled up in the corner and fouled. In the bonus situation then, Woods went to the free throw line. He missed the front end of the one-and-one to give Texas yet another chance.

The Horns worked the ball inside patiently but Danks came up short driving the lane, and Britton came

## Game tonight 8 p.m.

up with the loose ball.  
Britton was fouled on an inbound pass with three seconds left and he calmly sank the two free throws to give the Aggies their final three-point margin and their first victory in Austin since 1976.  
Vernon Smith, tied for first place scoring honors, 11 points, with Wright said, "Texas had a real good outside shooting team. They were getting two shots on offense. They stayed in the game off our zone."

Texas first started to move late in the first half when the Ags went into a 1-3-1 defense. The Longhorns

were having to shoot from outside but were able to get the followup shots when they missed.  
A&M lost the battle of the boards again, 31-25, but it didn't seem to matter. The Aggies have lost on the boards now in six of the last ten games while winning nine on the scoreboard. But then, who can trust statistics.

The Aggies are now 15-5 for the season and 7-0 in SWC play. On paper they are two games ahead of the pace they set last year—winning in two locations, Austin and Dallas, where they missed in 1979.  
The Aggies host the University of Houston tonight at 8 p.m. in G. Rolie White Coliseum. A win would give the Aggies an unblemished first half record and, coupled with a possible Tech win in Lubbock over second-place Arkansas, could put them in the drivers seat.  
Houston brings in a fivesome of extreme talent according to assistant coach Bob Gobin and lack only time to gel.

"It's going to be tough," said Metcalf after his men's Sunday afternoon practice. "They (Houston) have a lot of speed and quickness. But I

thought we looked good today."  
"Last year, Britton did a good job on Juice," said Metcalf, "and I think we'll start him there again." Juice is Kenneth Williams, a 6-1 guard from Houston Milby. He plays opposite his cousin, 6-2 guard Rob Williams who will be manned by Goff in the game. Woods will start on 6-9 freshman center Larry Rogers. Smith will begin the game on 6-6 senior Victor Ewing.

Top relief will come from Claude Riley and Steve Sylestine. Doors to the Coliseum open at 5 p.m., in time for the women's game.



Vernon Smith looks for an opening in the Texas defense. Smith scored 11 points in last night's Aggie victory against the Longhorns. The Aggies are now 15-5 overall and 7-0 in Southwest Conference play.  
Photo by Pat O'Malley

## Track team takes 5 firsts in meet

The Texas A&M track team dominated the 12th Annual North-east Louisiana Indoor Invitational held Saturday in Monroe, La.  
The Aggies won three track events—the 60-yard dash, the 60-yard high hurdles, and the mile relay—the two field events, the shotput and the pole vault.  
Eberence Murphy won the 60-yard dash in 6.08 seconds, while Mike Claspig won the hurdles in 7.12 seconds. The mile relay team of Vernon Pittman, Bill Busch, James Washington and Leslie Kerr won in 3:18.58.  
Tim Scott won the shotput with a throw of 62-4½ feet. Randy Hall set a meet record of 17½ feet to take first in the pole vault.  
The only school besides Texas A&M to win at least two events was Northwestern State, which won the long jump and the two-mile relay.  
Kathleen McElroy

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MESSENGER will be appearing at T.J.'s Restaurant and Lounge from January 23 to February 2. Messenger is led by three former members of the Toby Beau band: Ron Rose-vocal, lead guitar, banjo, mandolin; Rob Young-vocal, drums; and Steve Zipper-vocal, bass guitar. All three were with Toby Beau for several years, including tours with Bob Seger and the Doobie Brothers.  
Michael Workman, formerly of Great Southern, plays keyboards for Messenger. Beth Hooker is lead vocal for Messenger. About Beth, Action Magazine has written, "In a tasteful and ladylike way, Beth Hooker has definite sex appeal and presents it on the stage."

## Monday Night Madness

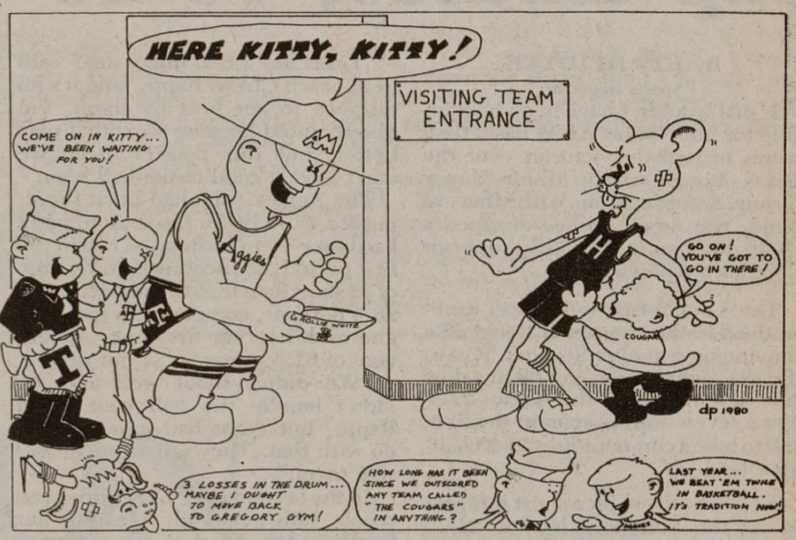
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