

sports



Staff photo by Lee Roy Leschper

David Britton plays 'keep away' with Houston Cougar 'Juice' Williams in last night's Aggie victory over UH. Britton scored 28 points, including eight-for-eight at the free throw line, helping the league-leading Aggies to the win.

Aggies do it again—92-79

By TONY GALLUCCI
Sports Editor

Rudy Woods is head and shoulders above the Southwest Conference and last night he played that way, scoring a career-high 31 points and pulling down 13 rebounds in leading the Aggies to a 92-79 shellacking of the Houston Cougars. David Britton was best supporting man in the game as he hit 28 points, including the last 14 Aggie points in the game.

The win makes head coach Shelby Metcalf's team the only one to beat every SWC team so far this season — that is, every team except the Aggies. The Aggies would have had a hard time keeping up with the 72 percent pace they themselves set from the field during the second half last night.

In Lubbock last night Arkansas kept the pressure on, defeating the Texas Tech Red Raiders 71-69 in overtime, to remain one game behind the Aggies. The Hogs hit 75 percent of their shots from the field in the second half in taking that win.

A&M is now 8-0 in SWC and 16-5 overall and have one game left with each SWC opponent, including road trips to Baylor, Arkansas, Lubbock, and Houston to try the Cougars again.

Metcalf had warned about the dangers — both their speed and their shooting touch — of playing Houston. And sure enough the Cougars came out pistols ablaze and quickly jumped to a four point lead, at 4-0 and 6-2, before the Aggies had their warmups off.

But Woods took control, hitting 11 points in the first ten minutes, and completely dominating the boards to bring the Aggies within cruising range of the Coogs. Britton tossed in eight points in that stretch.

Houston, which set a school record for fouls in a game with 35 against Baylor on Saturday, was whistled almost continuously in the first period as SWC referees once again tried to turn sport to circus.

Willie Porter drew three fouls in the first seven minutes and was benched in favor of Darryl Brown. Brown fared no better, though, picking up four fouls in four minutes. Porter returned and four minutes later was sent to the bench for good

with five fouls.

Brown received his fifth less than three minutes into the second half and Houston was forced to play third-man Larry Rogers the remainder of the game.

Two cousins, Kenneth 'Juice' Williams and Rob Williams, were incredible from 15 feet out. The two combined for 42 of Houston's 79 points. Rob hit 75 percent from the floor in pickingup his team-high 22 points.

The turning point in the game came with some offensive changes by both teams. "Early in the second half they put a 6-5 guard on me," said Britton. "Once, I just went by him. I thought, well I can just take it to the hole and I did."

"Rudy played an outstanding game," continued Britton. "Our shooting was good. We've been working on that and dropping it into the Vernon and Rudy and Claude."

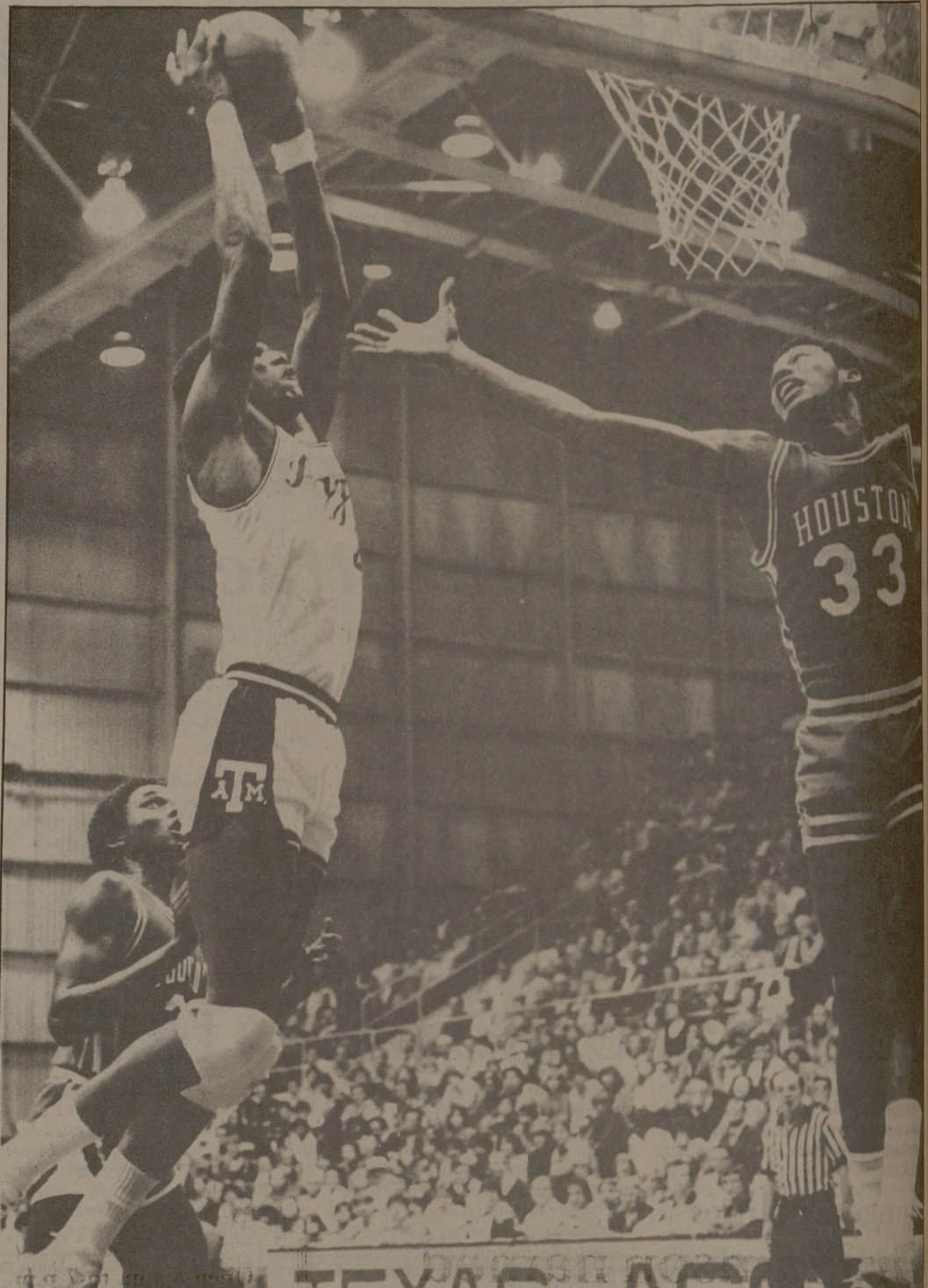
"We had a good game tonight," said Metcalf. "Houston played a good ballgame, too. We just go hot in the second half. I thought all of our players were outstanding in the second half."

Houston coach Guy Lewis said, "They just manhandled us. I don't think there is any doubt that Texas A&M is the best team in the league."

Vernon Smith was the only other Aggie to score in double figures, hitting four of four at the line and five from the field for 14 points. Smith also gathered in six rebounds, second only to Woods. Rynn Wright played his usual outstanding defensive game but was colder than usual from the floor, connecting on only two of his six shots. Wright hit all four of his free throws, while, as a team, the Aggies hit 92 percent from the charity stripe. That figure is especially encouraging in light of recent free throw efforts by the Ags.

In two consecutive games A&M has hit the crucial free throws down the final stretch. On this night they hit all their free throws in the second half.

The Aggies next play Baylor in Waco on Wednesday and then take Saturday off before venturing into Lubbock to play third place Texas Tech on Monday. The Tech game will be televised in College Station by KBTX, Channel 3.



Rudy Woods flies in for a slam dunk in last night's 92-79 Aggies victory over the University of Houston. Woods had a career high 31

points, hitting 13 of his 17 shots from the floor. He also had 13 rebounds and four blocked shots in the game. Staff photo by Lee Roy Leschper

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Player misunderstanding — only lack of communication
It was a simple misunderstanding and the "heat-of-the-battle" that forced David Britton to call timeout with 58 seconds remaining in the first half of last night's A&M-Houston game.
With A&M in the stall game, Britton tried to get Steve Sylestine to — trying to get above the crowd — and I think Sly thought I was yelling at him, but I wasn't. I just wanted him to move into the corner," said Britton. "I wasn't trying to tell him how to play."
"It was just one of those things," said Sylestine. "It was just one of those heat-of-the-battle sort of things. I was real fired up when I came in and when that happened I just lost my temper. It's over now. It doesn't mean anything now."
"It's not really surprising," said Britton. "You expect those things to happen when you get intense like this. I told him I was sorry and we shook hands and it's over."
Tactically, the situation was best handled by calling the timeout. "We wanted the last shot," said head coach Shelby Metcalf. "So we went to the four corners which David usually runs."
The timeout allowed everyone to collect their senses. The last shot was missed but a few minutes at halftime in the locker room was all the Ags needed as they came back and blistered the Cougars for their eighth straight win.
To start the second half, Britton fed Woods underneath for two Sylestine was the first to applaud — good news, which is all the Ags need right now.
— Tony Gallucci

Commentary
move into the corner near mid-court. After a couple of passes and words were exchanged Britton called timeout to adjust things. At the time, it appeared to be more than a communication problem. All parties now agree that's all it was.
"Sly (Sylestine) was intense and the crowd was real loud. I was yelling

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