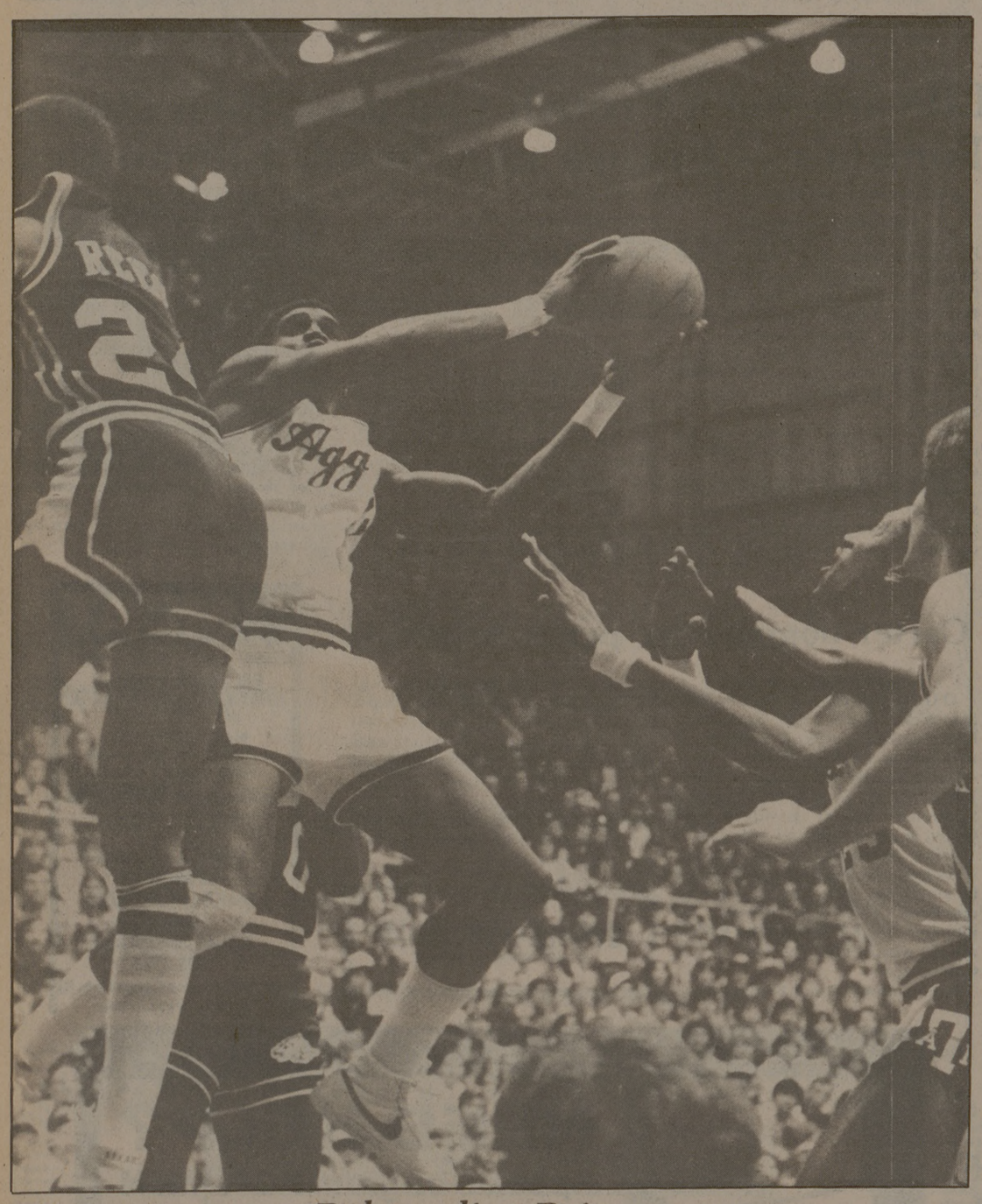

Rebounding Britton

Texas A&M Guard David Britton snatches a rebound against Arkansas earlier this year in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

Battalion photo by Lee Roy Leschper, Jr.

Ag wall crumbles as Raiders win, 63-53

By TONY GALLUCCI
Sports Editor

LUBBOCK — Texas A&M stretched the balloon until it burst Monday. The men's basketball team suffered its first conference loss of the season, falling to Texas Tech 63-53.

Coach Shelby Metcalf's men found out that playing just well enough to win wasn't going to cut it this time. The loss snapped a nine-game winning streak for the Aggies.

The Ags played just good enough the first half and took a 30-28 lead to the locker room. Early in the second half Texas A&M hit the basket enough to stay even, but Tech never let the game get out of hand. Texas A&M's last lead came at 40-39 with eight minutes left.

"The turning point came with the score 41-41," said Metcalf. "We made two mistakes in a row and never caught up again."

In that stretch, Ralph Brewster got a stuff and Rudy Woods fouled him. Brewster missed the three point play, but Ben Hill picked up the rebound and put it back in for a 45-41 lead.

Thiry seconds later came the play that put the game out of reach.

Vernon Smith was whistled for his fifth foul underneath the Tech basket. After the foul was called, Smith muttered something referee Mike Tanko didn't like and Smith was given a technical.

David Little was allowed to shoot the one-and-one and hit both shots. Kent Williams sank the free throw on the technical.

Texas A&M started pressing on the inbound. Tech went into a four-corner offense then. Brewster went to the bucket with six minutes left for an easy layup, but he was fouled by Rynn Wright. He connected on the three-point play to put the Raiders up by 10 at 51-41.

The Aggies battled back, coming within four points several times, but were unable regain the lead.

A final spurt by Tech resulted in the winning 10-point margin.

Brewster and Jeff Taylor were stand-outs for Texas Tech. Taylor was Tech's leading scorer with 13 points. Williams, Brewster and Little each had 12 points. Brewster was the leading rebounder for Tech with seven points.

"We had a great effort from everyone," said Tech head coach Gerald Myers, "and our inside people played especially well. We started out to try and stop them on the inside game. Brewster, Hill and Little did an outstanding defensive job.

"I also have to compliment Williams and Taylor on their smart play," Myers said. "I really can't single out anybody. It was just a great team effort."

"We played with a lot more intensity this time than we did in College Station," said Tech senior guard Williams. "They just tried to overpower us and they were good at it, but our defense just did so much for us. Brewster did an excellent job on the boards and we were able to get some fast, breaking buckets."

Wright was the Aggies' leading scorer with 13 points. He hit six of six free throws in the last stretch to keep the Aggies close. Freshman Claude Riley had another outstanding game, hitting five of his six shots from the floor. He also had five rebounds.

Woods scored eight points [illegible] pulled down 11 rebounds in [illegible] game.

"We just didn't have a good [illegible] formance," said Metcalf. "Tech [illegible] served to win. They played bet[illegible] than we did. They had a good ga[illegible] plan and they stayed with it all nig[illegible] They were almost perfect from [illegible] free throw line in the second half [illegible] kept us from catching up."

"I thought we played a good [illegible] half, but we just never got it going [illegible] the second half," he said.

"Even if we had won tonig[illegible] would have been a tough ro[illegible] end of the way. Now we have to [illegible] the rest of them. I know it is tou[illegible] win in Arkansas, but I'll take [illegible] chances with this team," Me[illegible] said.

First the Aggies must face SM[illegible] home Wednesday night and [illegible] Rice on Saturday before they tr[illegible] to Fayetteville for the show de[illegible] Texas A&M and Arkansas are tie[illegible] the SWC lead with 9-1 records. [illegible] has taken sole possession of [illegible] place. Texas A&M's season re[illegible] now stands at 17-6.

Aggie Ladies win close game in Lubbock over Texas Tech

The Texas A&M women's basketball team battled its way to a nine-point lead over Texas Tech last night before escaping with a narrow 66-64 win.

The Aggie Ladies, down by as much as 10 points early in the first half, slowed the game down with a deliberate offense and went to the locker room at the half trailing, 34-32.

"We just tried to work it around some," said head coach Cherri Rapp of playing catch-up early in the game. "We were taking some bad shots, so we just slowed it down a little. Our press began to work and our defense looked better."

After the early going, the teams began trading shots. The Aggies' shots were falling more often, though. The press wore into Tech's running style of play and Kelley Sullivan came up with two steals and some important rebounds in helping the Ags catch the Raiders.

With 43 seconds left in the first half Cathy Fuller hit a turnaround jumper to bring A&M within two at 32-30.

To start the second half, the Aggies came out hot and Tech's big center Pam Stone went cold. Sullivan added two steals early and after the second fed Peggy Pope underneath. Pope was fouled on her shot and hit both free throws to give the Ags their first tie since the early going, at 42-all. There was 15:42 left in the game.

Texas A&M took its first lead at 46-44, two minutes later. Another four minutes of trade-offs occurred before the Aggies went ahead for good at 50-48.

Again, the Aggie press and strong defensive rebounding began to wear on Tech and A&M, taking advantage, jumped to a quick nine-point lead at 63-54 with three minutes left.

Tech, though, showed the mettle that has earned them a 19-7 record. The Tech ladies, utilizing a strong press of their own cut the Ag lead to one point, 65-64, with ten seconds remaining on a baseline drive by Gwen MacRae.

Texas A&M missed the front [illegible] of four one-and-ones in the last [illegible] minutes but Lola Baker hit the [illegible] one with two seconds left to [illegible] A&M its final margin. A last-[illegible] Tech shot at the buzzer hit the [illegible] but not the net, giving Texas A[illegible] the victory over the state's fo[illegible] ranked Tech team. The Aggies [illegible] currently ranked fifth in the sta[illegible]

Leading scorers for Texas A[illegible] were Lori Foreman with 16 poi[illegible] Pope with 13 points, Baker with [illegible] points and Trigg Crawford with [illegible] Foreman was Texas A&M's lea[illegible] rebounder with nine.

Texas A&M is now 14-8 for [illegible] season and plays SMU Wednesd[illegible] 5:30 p.m. at G. Rollie White [illegible] iseum.

—Tony Ga[illegible]

1980 sports festival could be in Colorado if U.S. leaves Olympic[illegible]

United Press International

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — A United States Olympic Committee official reports at least three sites are under consideration for a 1980 National Sports Festival to be held if the United States boycotts the Summer Olympics in Moscow.

Baaron Pittenger, USOC director of special events, said during the weekend that he was making plans for the festival should American athletes not attend the Moscow Olympics.

Officials have said it did not seem likely the United States would be sending its 550 top athletes to Moscow in July for the 1980 Summer Games.

But if the Soviet Union complies with President Carter's request to pull all Russian combat troops out of Afghanistan by Feb. 20, then the USOC would no doubt get White House approval to send U.S. athletes to Moscow.

Lord Killanin, president of the [illegible] ternational Olympic Committee, [illegible] stated repeatedly the Moscow ga[illegible] would go on "with or without [illegible] United States."

The USOC has until May 2[illegible] enter its teams in the 1980 Sum[illegible] Olympics.

Pittenger said tryouts for the [illegible] Olympic team would be held as s[illegible] duled across the country in Ma[illegible] June.

At the same time, he and his [illegible] assistant, Geraldine Maestas, [illegible] planning a 1980 National Sports [illegible] tival.

The 1978 and 1979 National Sp[illegible] Festivals — a first for the USO[illegible] were held in Colorado Springs. [illegible] city also is a contender for the [illegible] national contest, but as a result of [illegible] present crisis facing the USOC, [illegible] tenger said Colorado Springs [illegible] just one of several sites being co[illegible] dered.

He said Syracuse, N.Y., a[illegible] Orlando, Fla., were two other lo[illegible] tions considered to host the eve[illegible]

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