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Sports

Ags beat Horned Frogs, 57-48

BY MIKE BURRICHTER
Sports Editor

The Texas A&M basketball team on its last home game of the season Tuesday night, 57-48, to move a little closer to winning the Southeastern Conference regular season championship.

A victory in Houston against the Cougars Friday will give the Aggies the crown, something that has eluded them since 1976. The Cougars will be coming off an 81-74 win to Rice Wednesday night.

Four seniors, David Goff, Steve Bestine, David Britton and John Schlicher played their last game in Rollie White. A crowd of 5,058 showed its appreciation for the four several times, climaxing with a standing ovation when seldom-used Schlicher entered the game for the first time with 1:36 left to play.

Texas A&M coach Shelby Metcalf, who got to use all twelve of his players in the win, was impressed with the Horned Frogs.

"TCU came down here and made us earn the win," Metcalf said. "They played a very disciplined offense and also good, tough defense. (TCU coach Jim) Killingsworth is building a really good program up there."

Killingsworth used only six of his players in the game. TCU is a team without a senior, and played most of the game with three freshmen on the bench. Killingsworth said his team would be a worthy opponent for league leaders.

"We had a shot at them a couple of times in the second half, but Brit-

ton's three point play that put them back up by 10 really hurt," he said. "Still, our guys didn't hang it up after that. I was hoping that our young kids would come in and play well."

"Texas A&M is a fine ball club. Everybody pecked A&M to win it and then people said A&M would screw it up somehow. But the Aggies came on and got better as the year went. Shelby did a fine job."

David Britton was the offensive star for the Ags, scoring 18 points, 10 of which came in the first half. He also provided some good entertainment for the crowd.

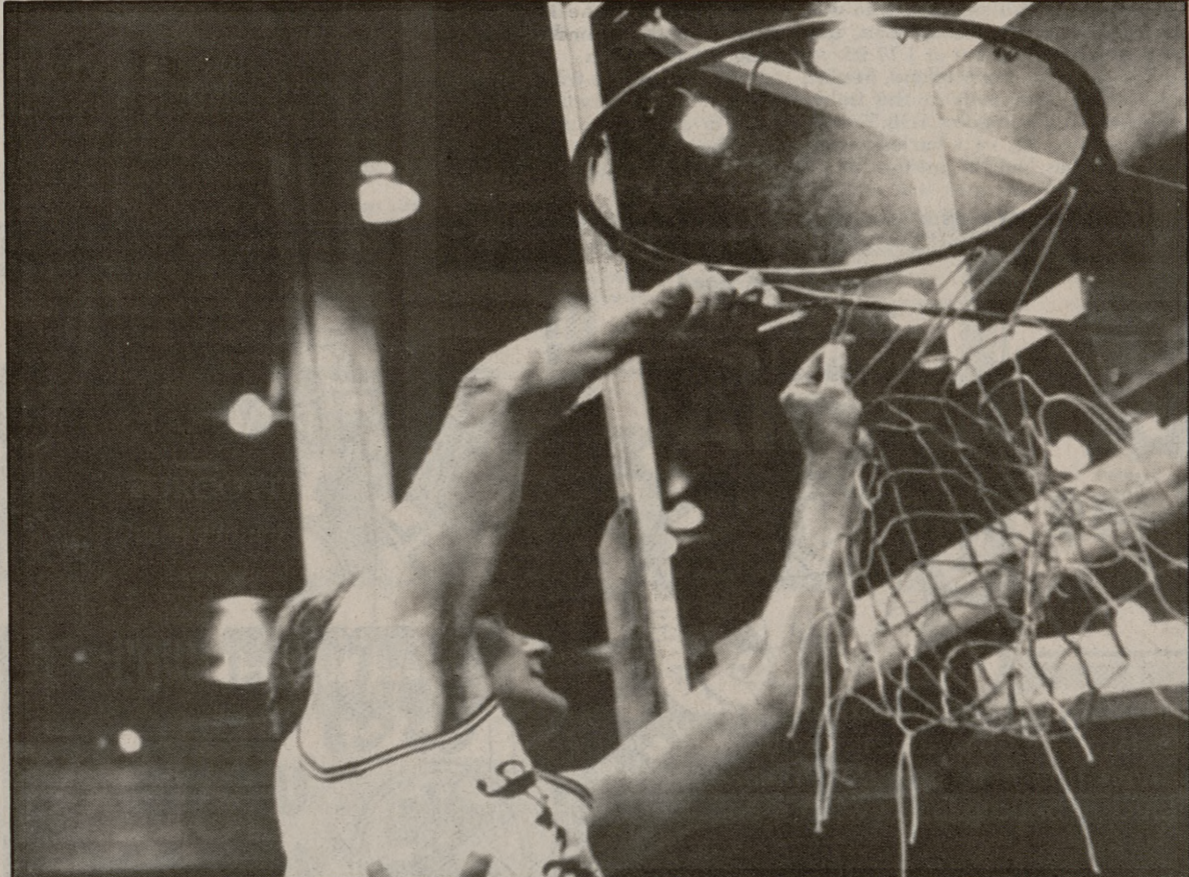
"I wish I could have done everything tonight," the Harlem native said. "I wanted to get a dunk, but it just didn't happen."

Goff said the team was really up after hearing about SMU's upset win over Arkansas Monday night, a win that moved the Ags into sole possession of first place.

"I had given up the thought of winning it all," he said. "I was sure we'd end up in a tie. When someone called me last night and told me, I thought they were kidding."

Britton's 18 points led all scorers. Rudy Woods had 13. TCU was led by junior Deckery Johnson, who had 13. Once again, the front line of Woods, Rynn Wright, who had four blocked shots, and Vernon Smith snagged 24 rebounds, four more than the Frogs. The Ags pulled down a total of 36 rebounds.

Texas A&M plays at Houston Friday at 8 p.m. in a regionally televised game.



Senior John Schlicher cuts down the basketball net after his last home game with TCU at C. Rollie White last night. The final score was 57-48. The Ags journey to Houston Friday to play the University of Houston Cougars in the last regular SWC basketball game of the season. The game, which starts at 8 p.m., will be televised. Staff photo by Lynn Blanco

Baseball team wins in openers

By KATHLEEN McELROY
Sports Staff

The Texas A&M baseball team opened its 1980 season Monday by beating the St. Mary's Rattlers 8-1 and 8-2 in a doubleheader at Olsen Field.

The Aggies were almost as perfect as the sunny, pleasant weather. Senior center fielder Simon Glenn got on base six of the eight times he came to the plate, and Coach Tom Chandler's inexperienced pitching staff pitched like veterans.

In the first game sophomore starter Bobby Taylor pitched his way out of a jam in the second inning, giving up two runs after loading the bases with just one out. He gave up two hits in five innings pitched, and was relieved by freshman Robert Slavens in the final two innings.

Offensively, Chandler expected his team to have speed this year, but no power — but the Aggies demonstrated ample quantities of both. In the third inning of the opener, senior right fielder Mike Hurdle broke open the game with a three-run homer over the left field wall, bringing in junior first baseman Rodney Hodde and junior shortstop Bryan Little. In the fifth, Hurdle also singled in Hodde, who had doubled.

In the second game freshman pitcher Rick Lueken threw five no-hit innings in his first college start. Lueken completely shut out St. Mary's, which has been an NAIA power team for the last two decades. Lueken struck out five batters while walking three in the innings he pitched. Freshman David Flores replaced Lueken in the sixth and gave up the only Rattler run in that game.

Hodde led off the second inning of the final game with a homer over the scoreboard. That was the beginning of a six-run, 10-batter inning for the Aggies.

Chandler had planned to pull out his young pitchers after they threw 60 pitches — he said he didn't want them overworked early in the season when they're not in top playing condition.

Glenn, Flores (the designated hitter in the first game), Hodde, and freshman catcher Joe Szekely each batted in a run in the first game. "Our boys were swinging the bat real well," Chandler said after the game.

Glenn, who has been moved up to leadoff batter, got on base with a walk and a single to left field in the opener. In the second, he had two walks, a single and reached base on an error. He stole two bases alone in both games and combined with Little for a double steal in each game.

The next opponent for Texas A&M is Northeast Louisiana, an independent school that Chandler says has a well-balanced line-up. The three-game series will begin Friday at Olsen Field.

Tennis team falls to Trinity

By RICHARD OLIVER
Staff Writer

Despite beautiful weather and a vocal Aggie crowd to back them up, the Texas A&M tennis team was trounced 8-1 Tuesday in a dual match against nationally-ranked Trinity University.

Trinity, ranked second in the nation, was paced by senior All-American Tony Giammalva. The first-seeded Trinity player combined flawless passing shots and a steady serve to overcome top-seeded Aggie Alberto Jimenez, 6-1, 6-1.

Brian Joelson, a big factor in the recent Aggie successes including a second place finish in the Pan American tennis tournament Saturday, provided the lone Aggie victory, 7-6, 6-2, over Eddie Reese. Joelson is a highly recruited freshman from Oregon. Both players were seeded fifth in this match.

The highlight of the day's matches, attended by approximately 200 people, was provided by Trinity's Erick Iskersky and Texas A&M's Reid Freeman.

In their second-seed matchup, Iskersky defeated Freeman, 6-3, 7-6, in a match much closer than the score indicates.

Iskersky and Eddie Reese, the top-rated Trinity doubles team, overcame a stubborn Texas A&M doubles team of Jimenez and Freeman, 6-4, 1-6, 6-2.

The Aggie team travels to Beaumont Friday to take on Lamar University.

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