

Ags beat Cougs 82-72, win SWC title Friday

By MIKE BURRICHTER
Sports Editor

The Texas A&M basketball team won the Southwest Conference title Friday night at Hofheinz Pavilion when they whipped the UH Cougars, 82-72.

Shelby Metcalf, Aggie coach, made the record books by becoming the first SWC basketball coach to win championships in three different decades. He has also won five conference titles, more than any other southwest conference coach. Metcalf has now coached the Aggies to the conference championship in 1965, '69, '75, '76 and 1980.

"It makes me feel kind of old," Metcalf laughed. "It's a great feeling to be a winner again."

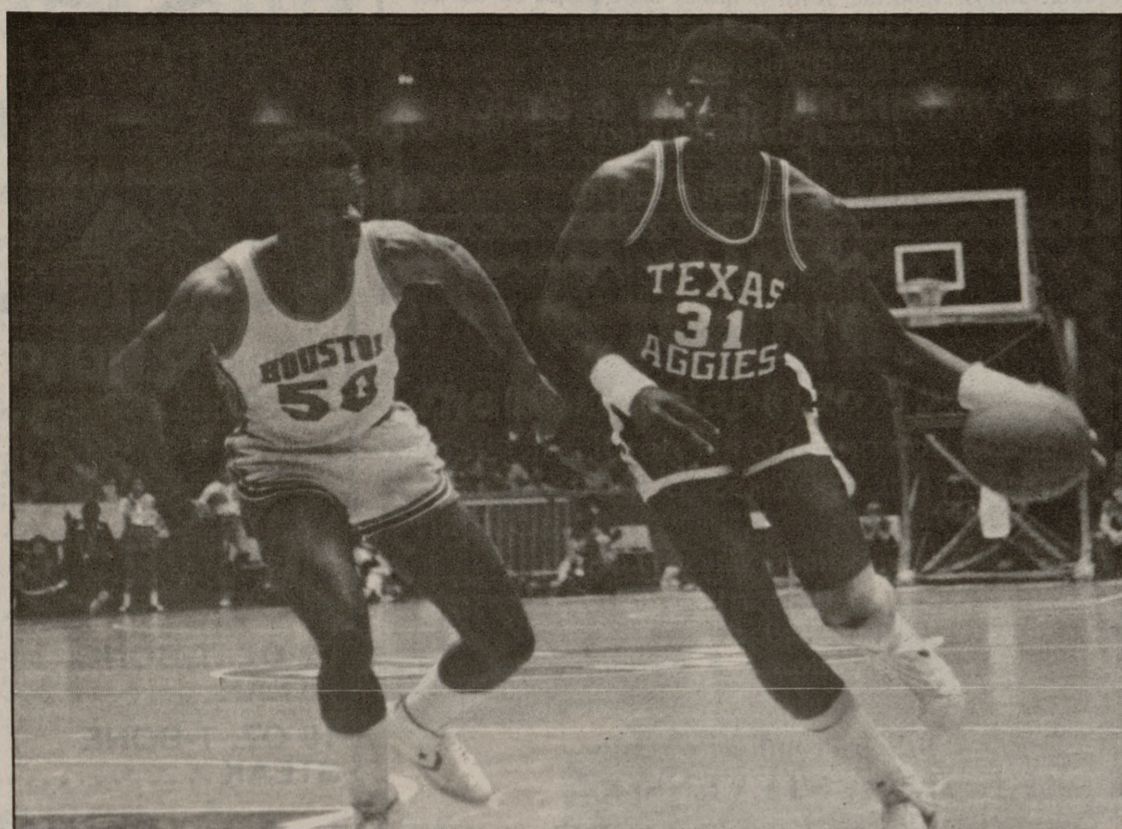
Vernon Smith had the hot hands and giant earth quake of a performance in that game, hitting 12 of 16 shots from the floor, most of them coming from the outside.

The Ags started fast in the televised game, racing to a 10-2 lead during the first three minutes. Smith hit three straight shots during that stretch, and Rynn Wright hit the other two.

The Cougars started in a four-man offense, working to get one hot in order to avoid any confrontations with the Aggie front line round the boards. However, when the Ags began to build up a sizeable lead around mid-period, Cougar coach Guy Lewis got out of the four-man.

The Cougars attacked the Aggie zone and got themselves back into the game by halftime, cutting the Ags' lead to two at 41-39.

The Cougars stayed close in the exciting second half, and the crowd at 10,000, sensing they were seeing one of the best games of the year, cheered louder every minute. But all things must pass and when Tyrone Adson's layup made the Aggie lead 56-51, the Cougars' bubble burst. UH withered under the ensuing Aggie onslaught and Metcalf watched his team coast in for another conference title.



Texas A&M's Vernon Smith (31) dribbles around Houston's Marshall Sauls (50) in Friday night's 82-72 Aggie victory. Smith hit 12 of 16 field goal attempts to help the Aggies secure

the Southwest Conference title and a bye into the semifinals of the postseason tournament. The Aggies' first tournament game is Friday night in San Antonio's HemisFair Arena.

Staff photo by Lynn Blanco

The Ags, whose record stands at 22-7, finished with a 14-2 conference record. The Cougars are 13-13 and 8-5.

The Aggies next play in the semifinals of the SWC tournament in San Antonio this Friday. The Cougars will play Rice in Hofheinz Monday night in the first round of the tournament.

Aggie Ladies lose first round game in state playoffs, 66-61

By JON HEIDTKE
Sports Reporter

The Texas A&M women's basketball team made an early departure from last week's Texas Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (TAAIW) State Tournament when the third-seeded Aggie Ladies were knocked off by a fired-up Houston quintet, 66-61 in overtime.

Fouls and poor shooting in the first half by the Aggies paved the way for a Cougar upset. The Ags, who only had players foul out 12 times during the season, had four of their starters foul out in this game. The starting five racked up 24 fouls and Trigg Crawford was the only Aggie starter on the court at the final buzzer.

Lola Baler, Lisa Hughes, Peggy Pope and Lori Foreman all fouled out, giving the Cougars 34 free throw attempts. They hit on 24. This offset the Aggies' advantage from the floor, where the Aggie Ladies hit 27 shots to the Cougars' 21.

The Aggies, who had beaten the Cougars 75-64 earlier in the year, lead by five at 14-9 with 9:21 left in the first half to give them their biggest lead. But the Ags went cold and the Cougars rallied, outscoring the Ags 19-10 the rest of the half to take a 25-24 advantage.

The loss dropped the Ags to 18-10 on the year, while the Cougars advanced to face Stephen F. Austin in the tournament semifinals. SFA, the second-seeded team, won that game and went on to upset top-seeded and previously undefeated Texas 86-71 in the finals.

The Ags' season finale will be against Wayland Baptist, which finished third in the tournament, in G. Rollie White Coliseum Saturday night at 7:30.

Lakers drub Rockets

United Press International
INGLEWOOD, Calif. — Jamaal Wilkes scored 29 points Sunday and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, playing only in the second half, added 15 to lead the Los Angeles Lakers to a 112-100 victory over the Houston Rockets.

The win was the Lakers' sixth in a row and 17th in their last 20 games. Houston, led by Moses Malone's 29 points and 17 rebounds, dropped its

fourth game in five starts. Malone scored 15 points in the first period and Houston built a 22-14 lead, but the Lakers caught up at 34-34 after holding the Rockets to only eight points in the first eight minutes of the second period.

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