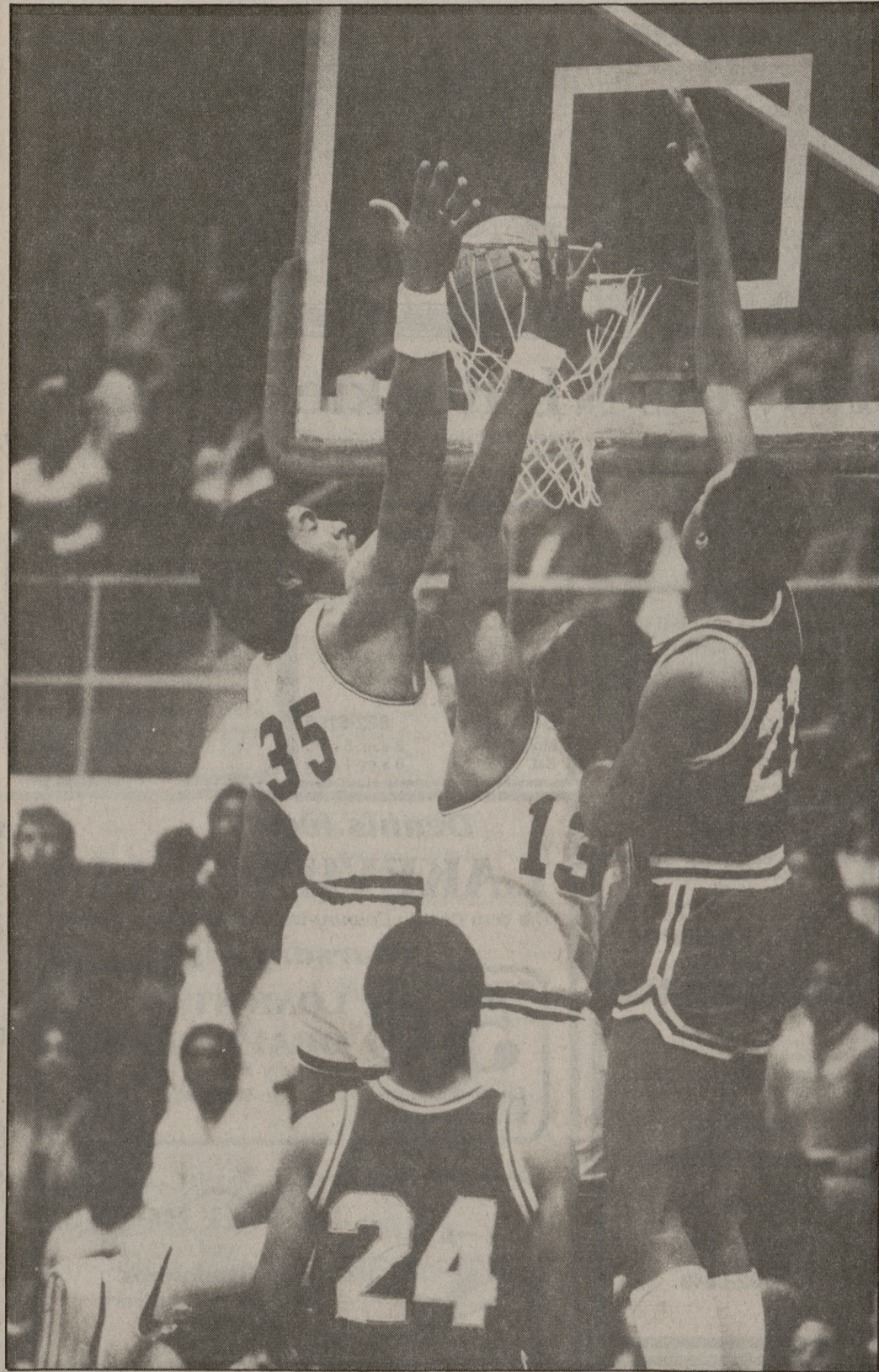


Aggies overcome sluggishness to beat TSU, 61-50



Aggies Rynn Wright (35) and Claude Riley (13) jump for a possible rebound Tuesday night against the Texas Southern University Tigers.

Texas A&M took their second win of the young season, 60-51.

Staff photo by Greg Gammon

By MIKE BURRICHTER
Battalion Staff
Texas Southern University tamed "The Wall" for half the game Tuesday night, but forgot about a little freshman guard named Reggie, as Texas A&M University stormed back from a one point halftime deficit to take a 61-50 win.

A&M coach Shelby Metcalf, given the unenviable task of replacing all-conference guards David Britton and Dave Goff after last season, says everything is beginning to fall into place in his backcourt.

"The way it's working out, Tyrone's taking Goff's place and Reggie is playing the role of Britton."

Metcalf was talking about Tyrone Ladson and Reggie Roberts. Ladson, a senior, has always been the team's best ball handler since his arrival two years ago. After the departure of Britton and Goff, most eyes shifted to Ladson as heir to the backcourt throne. The big question was, and still is, who can play the other guard, or, should the Ags stay with one little man?

Metcalf may find the the answer to that question a little easier after Roberts' performance Tuesday night. After watching Ladson run the show for most of the first half, the all-district shooting guard from McKinney High School made his entrance. After sinking a couple of long jump shots, Roberts had changed the tempo of the game, and the 14th-ranked Aggies came back from a 25-24 halftime deficit to record their second win in as many games.

Roberts, a scoring guard in high school, says he's adjusting to his role as a passer quite well.

"He (Metcalf) brings me in late, so I can get used to the game," he said. "I don't mind (not shooting as much). I'm just coming in to get it to the big men now. That's a good enough job. I'm trying to learn their styles. I've got to know where they want it (the ball). I'm working on hitting the right spots with my passes. I'll be shooting more later in the season."

The big men — Rudy Woods, Vernon Smith, Rynn Wright and Claude Riley — were stymied in the first half, though they scored all 24 A&M points. Wright, guarding Harry "Machine-Gun" Kelly, the nation's third leading scorer last year, had a miserable first half from the floor, hitting only two of nine shots, which may have overshadowed another statistic: Kelly, who averaged over 29 points per game last season, was held to 11 hard-earned points against the Aggies. Most of his points either came late in the game or with Wright all over him.

Smith was the only bright spot in the Aggie front line during the first half. He hit five of nine shots from the floor, most of which were in the 20-foot range. Smith brought the near capacity G. Rollie White crowd

to its feet when he knotted the game at 15 with a two-pump top of the key jump shot with nine minutes left.

Center Rudy Woods had a frustrating first half, but not by his doing. Woods was smothered by TSU's big front line and didn't get the ball much. He did score six points, but snared only one rebound. Napoleon Johnson, the Tigers' 6-9 center and his backup, 7-footer Pat Cavenall clogged up the middle, making the Aggie shot selection poor. Woods pulled no punches in his synopsis of the first half A&M effort.

"We didn't do anything right in the first half," the Bryan junior said. "We were taking terrible shots. We weren't working on offense, we weren't working on defense, we just weren't working on anything. In the second half, the difference was our defense. We didn't change our strategy, but each player dug in and decided to play better."

So far, the much talked about Aggie forwards are pleased with the play of their guards.

"Roberts came out in the second half and made a couple of baskets that really fired the team up," Riley said. The 6-11 sophomore didn't have such a bad second half himself, three of five shots from the floor, ending up with a total of 14, including a perfect six for six slate from the free throw line.

Metcalf maintains it is still early for his team to start taking things for granted.

"We have no reason not to give everybody respect," he said. "We've only played two games. We haven't done anything; we've had our moments, but we still have a lot of work to do."

One change Metcalf may make before his team takes the court again Monday night here against Sam Houston State is his press defense.

"We're going to have to take some of the big men out while we run the press," he said. "At one time we had Rynn out there trying to defend a guard ... I thought our 1-2-2 (defense) went pretty well."

Another guard turned out to be a pleasant surprise for Metcalf. Milton

Woodley, a junior transfer from Tennessee, entered the game in the 10th minute and ended up with five points.

"I put him in there because of the four corner in junior college (Trezerant), and he stepped up and scored five points," Metcalf said.

Metcalf said the second half rebound was also key. In the first half, the Aggies played a flawless second half, turning the ball over once.

Riley led the team with 10 points, followed by Smith with eight, Wright with 10, Johnson with 11, the Tigers, and Kelly with 11.

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Tennis team scatters for various tourneys

By RICK STOLLE

Battalion Staff
Three members of the Texas A&M University men's tennis team will travel to Fort Worth Friday for the National Indoor Qualifying tournament.

The winner of the tournament wins the right to advance to the NCAA National Finals in Houston in January.

Reid Freeman, Brian Joelson and Trey Schutz are three of 32 players who qualified from the Southern region. A committee of coaches nominated players on the basis of their fall play.

The region includes the southern half of Texas and Louisiana.

"It is a great honor and all three are real excited about the tournament," said coach David Kent.

The rest of the men's team traveled to Houston Tuesday to compete in the Yonex Pro tournament. The tournament will end Sunday.

The Ags competing in this tournament are Max King, Jim Grubert, Ron Kowal, Tom Judson, Leonard Smith and Genero Fernandez.

"We will need some great effort," said Kent. "Our top players will be competing in Fort Worth and the team will be at about half strength."

The doubles teams will be drastically rearranged due to the players in Fort Worth. Kowal-Judson, Smith-Fernandez and King-Grubert are the teams listed for the Yonex.

Kent said the Yonex is a good tournament and will be a good learning experience for the team. The players who come to compete in this tournament are very good, he said.

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