

# Sports

## Wright, Roberts lead Aggs in victory

# Aggies humiliate Bearkats, 75-68

By MIKE BURRICHTER  
Battalion Staff  
Rynn Wright made a sparkling debut at outside guard and Reggie Roberts came off the bench to ignite the Texas A&M offense as the Aggies rolled to their third victory, over

Sam Houston State University squad, 75-58, Monday night at G. Rollie White Coliseum.

In making the transition from inside forward, where he depended upon his muscular body for his points and rebounds, to more of a ball handler at his outside slot, Wright didn't seem to lose a step. He did everything Monday night, pouring in a game high 20 points, dishing out another game high six assists and hauling down 8 rebounds.

Roberts, the freshman guard from

McKinney, entered the game with just over 12 minutes left in the first half and Texas A&M leading 17-9. He promptly scored 10 points, hitting five of six from the field.

Behind Roberts, the team got into a fast-paced offense, jumping to a 45-33 intermission lead. He hit a couple of long shots from outside of the key, stole three balls, and even hit a slam dunk. A tremendous jumper, the 6-2 guard also plays a mean defense.

This was the part of the game Head Coach Shelby Metcalf was the most impressed with.

"We played some good defense," he said. "Our 1-3-1 was effective again. Tyrone (Ladson) plays the front man, and he can push out or swing to the side as much as he wants. He's got the same role as Goff did last year. He's my man right now."

Metcalf said Ladson has put together three solid games in leading the Aggs to a 3-0 start and a No. 12 ranking in the country. Equally impressive though, has been Roberts.

"Roberts is our best defensive guard right now," Metcalf said, "and he's as good as anyone on defense we've ever had. He's a make things happen type of player."

Roberts said the Texas A&M zone cut off any inside shots by the Bearkats.

"We ran the man to man really well," he said, "but our zone was better. In the zone they can't get the inside shot."

Roy Jones, a reserve forward who'll see plenty of action this season, said the team can also run the 2-3 defense effectively. Jones also had nothing but praise for Roberts.

"Reggie's super," Jones, who sat out last year after playing his freshman year here two years ago, said. "He's the best freshman in the Southwest Conference. He's coming off the bench and not looking shaky at all."

Vernon Smith, who scored 11 points and snared eight rebounds, said the team, with Jones and Roberts adding depth, make this team stronger than the Aggie squad from a year ago.

"We're trying to use more people this year," he said. "Reggie was super tonight. We're counting on him for our two guard offense. We have more strength than we had a year ago."

"When we have a guard like Reggie who can come in there and shoot, the defenses are going to start coming out, so we can work the ball in more."

Bearkat coach Bob Derryberry seems to be more than mildly impressed with the Aggie team, saying, "I thought A&M has the best team that I have ever coached against in more than 700 games in high school and college."

Derryberry said he wasn't ready for the Aggies to come out with such a good freshman guard. When his team lost to Texas A&M a year ago, 71-47, it was mostly the doing of "The Wall."

"I thought A&M went to the boards better than they did last year, but we played better also," he said. "I was impressed with the outside shooting ability of the new guard (Roberts). He is going to be a very good player in a year or so and of course A&M's front line is virtually unstoppable inside."

Ladson, a senior, had long been labeled a troubled athlete, an underachiever. Metcalf admitted he'd almost given up on him, after the New York native got into academic trouble last year. According to Metcalf, Ladson's biggest change has been off the court.

"I didn't think he'd get eligible,"

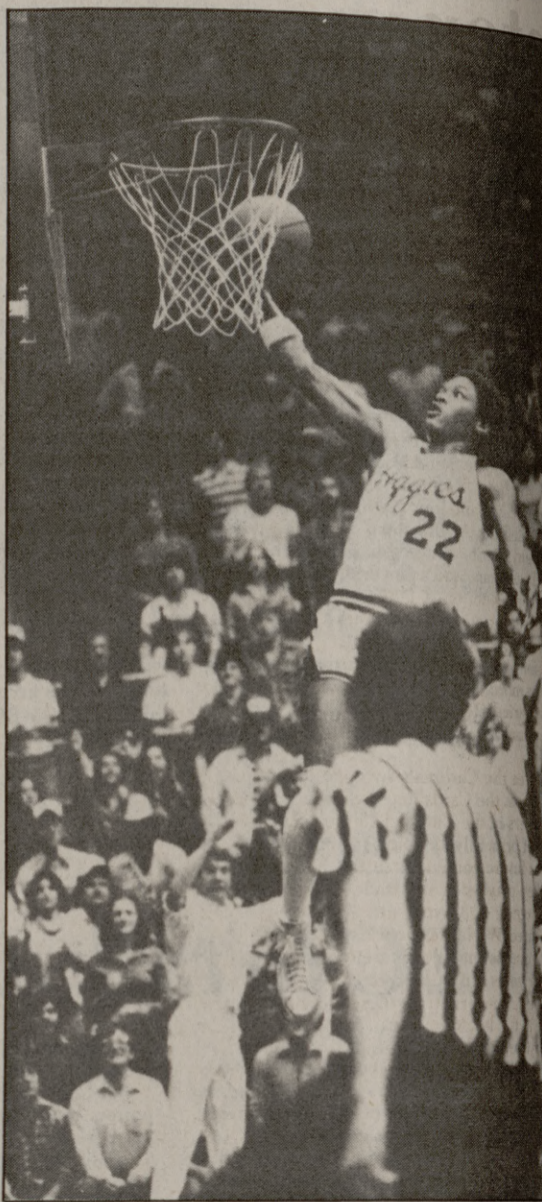
Metcalf said. "He did it on his own. I don't know how many hours he had to pass here this summer, but it was enough to where everyone was betting against him coming back. And right now he's got the best study habits on the team."

Once again, the Aggies opened with a one-guard offense. Ladson, not a shooter but a cool operator, directed the attack. With only one guard on the court, the Aggs expect to see the press defense very much this season, and they spent the week preparing for Sam Houston to use that strategy. However, the Bearkats, whose tallest player measured only 6-6, used the zone for most of the game.

For the record, Sam Houston did play very aggressive basketball, leading once by two points early in the game, but with four big men in for Texas A&M, the Bearkats were outmuscled under the boards. The Aggies outrebounded Sam Houston 33-25, as the game turned into a rout midway through the first half. John Savoie, a 6-4 center, looked on helplessly while the Texas A&M wall of Wright, Smith, Claude Riley and Rudy Woods, scored on numerous tip-ins and second shots. The Bearkats were paced guard Tony Massey, who tallied 17 points. Scott Horstman, Massey's counterpart in the backcourt, also played a good game, dishing out five assists and playing aggressive defense.

The Aggies next travel to North Carolina for a tournament this weekend. Derryberry thinks the Aggies may have a shot at a national title this year.

"A&M has a definite shot at a national title because they have that kind of talent and they seem deeper than a year ago," he said. "I believe they are totally by themselves as far as the SWC goes this year. If there is a team that beats them out for the title, I don't want to see them because they would be awesome."



Staff photo by Greg...

Texas Aggie freshman guard Reggie Roberts (22) seems to be concentrating on the basketball on his way to a layup or another two points in Monday night's game with Sam Houston. The Aggies won their third game and remain undefeated for the season with a 75-58 decision over the Bearkats.

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## Phillips concentrating on winning final games

HOUSTON — Houston Oilers Coach Bum Phillips Monday confessed to being interested in other games that could affect the Oilers' playoff hopes but vowed he was concentrating first on the Oilers' winning their own last two contests.

On Sunday the 9-5 Oilers visit the 5-8-1 Green Bay Packers. The same day, the AFC Central-leading Cleveland Browns, one game up on the Oilers at 10-4, meet the NFC Central-leading Minnesota Vikings, who are 8-6.

"I'm not worried about Minnesota and Cleveland," Phillips said. "I'm worried about Houston and Green Bay. I don't even think about the other one."

That might be because Cleveland could lose to nonconference foe Minnesota Sunday, but beat division rival Cincinnati the following week and win the division on a tiebreaker, even if the Oilers win their last two games.

In that case, the Oilers and

Browns would finish 11-5, but the Browns would own a better conference mark (8-4 to 7-5). If both end up 11-5 but Cleveland loses to Cincinnati, Houston would win on division record (4-2 to 3-3).

If Cleveland wins both its final games and the division title, the Oilers need to win both their last two games to bid strongly for a wildcard playoffs berth. But Phillips shuns such analyses.

"We appreciate all the help we can get," he said. "But I'm not gonna worry about what everybody else does. We'll worry about what we do. I think it'll go right down to the wire. I just hope we're in there when the time comes."

Phillips said he expected the Packers to play better against the Oilers than they did in losing 61-7 Sunday to Chicago.

"I expect we'll find an angry bunch up there. I'd rather they'd got beat 14-13," Phillips said.

"It's always kind of been that way in this league. When somebody gets embarrassed, they get up on their hind legs the next week and really play hard. We do, Pittsburgh does. Everybody does."

Phillips said offensive tackle Conway Hayman, out since Sept. 24 because of a ruptured spinal disc and

corrective surgery, will not practice this week and could

against Green Bay.

He said offensive tackle Larry Gray, who suffered a season-ending rupture of his right Achilles tendon in the Oilers 6-0 win Thursday in Pittsburgh, will undergo surgery this week and recuperate in New England with his family.

Phillips expressed scant sympathy with Pittsburgh Coach Chuck Noll's complaint about the noise at the stadium. Astrodom and said the Oilers should have complained during the game.

Noll said he was thinking about trying to ban drum-banging and leader Crazy George Heath from NFL games.

"In all fairness to Pittsburgh everybody, it was noisy when they had the ball, but it was extremely noisy when Houston had the ball in Pittsburgh, too," he said.

"If it's that bad, obviously you walk away from center and the official will stop the clock, the 30-second clock," Phillips said. "Evidently they thought they could hear."

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