

Longhorns take overtime win from Aggies, 67-63

By RICK STOLLE
Battalion Staff

The Texas A&M basketball team, which had been playing with the style and vigor of the first part of the season but fell to the University of Texas Longhorns in overtime at G. Rollie White Coliseum Monday night, 67-63.

The 6,032 fans who showed up were treated with fine performances by both teams. The overtime contest was close to going into double overtime before Texas scored the final six points to put the game away.

Texas, behind big Lasalle Thompson's 32 points and 11 rebounds, seemed to have what it takes to snatch victory out of the jaws of defeat in a crucial Southwest Conference game. Thompson dominated the game as he shot inside, outside and was relentless going to the basket. The Longhorns used a zone that boxed Thompson inside and outside with Aggie guards and three different individuals man-to-man during the course of the game. They could only not stop the 6-10 Longhorn from scoring.

Thompson has really improved this year, said a disappointed and bewildered Shelby Metcalf. "He has added a lot of new weapons to his arsenal like that turnaround jumper and has improved a lot going to the basket."

Metcalf said the Ags stayed behind Thompson last year and defended him well. This year, with the turnaround shot, he devastated A&M.

"I felt good about this game. We had some real good chances until we started making mistakes," said Metcalf. "This is probably our most disappointing loss of the season."

"We've been playing well but we have to quit making mistakes. The mistakes that killed Aggie chances came with 2:05 left in overtime. Freshman Ray Harper stole the ball from Vernon Smith and tried to tie the game at 63."

As the Ags tried for the last shot,



Staff photos by Greg Gammon

University of Texas Head Basketball Coach Abe Lemons angrily paces the sideline as he disagrees with a call in Monday night's Texas A&M-Texas matchup at G. Rollie White Coliseum.

The Longhorns won the game and raised their record to 3-4 in the Southwest Conference race. The Aggies play Houston Wednesday night in Houston.

Tyrone Ladson lost the ball and fouled Thompson with 45 seconds left trying to get it back. He was the wrong man to foul this game.

Thompson was perfect from the free throw line, hitting all 10 of his freebies for the game.

Then, behind 65-63, Ladson again had the ball downcourt. He angled inside the lane and his attempt to

pass to Rynn Wright went out of bounds with 21 seconds left on the clock.

"We just keep finding ways to lose," said Roy Jones. "It's hard to understand."

"It was obvious to everybody here tonight. We made the mistakes we couldn't make." Inconsistency killed the Ags down the stretch, he said.

The Ags were led by Reggie Roberts who turned in another super game. He had a career-high 18 points. Smith had 13 and Claude Riley, who fouled out of the game with 9:03 left in the second half, had 10.

A&M outrebounded Texas 32-26 and shot a respectable 43.5 percent from the floor. The Longhorns, however, shot a blistering 54.5 percent from the floor and 82 percent from the free throw line.

"I thought both Reggie and Claude played very well," said Met-

calf. "They hustle and compete all the time they are on the court. We really missed Claude when he fouled out."

It really hurts to lose at home like this, said Riley. The crowd was really supportive the whole way, he said, keeping the team going and fired up.

"I'm not going to give up until the last game of the season is over. I'm going to play as hard as I can," Riley stated. "It's the kind of attitude we're trying to keep among the players right now."

"We always talk about our confidence if we keep that winning attitude, something has just got to give."

Riley said the Ags made the mistakes they should not have and Texas took advantage of them. Texas was not the better team, he said.

"If we just keep on working we're going to win," said Riley.

"We thought we had it," said Roberts. "We had the lead and then lost it. We've just got to keep on playing, keep our spirits up and look to our leaders."

Roberts said the team has to look to captains Smith and Wright for leadership.

"They are the seniors and have the experience," he said. "At guard, you have to become a leader, too, but I know, personally, I am not ready to take that role."

He said he has a great deal of respect for the senior captains and would not feel comfortable ordering them around.

"I just try to play the best I can under their leadership and hit all the open shots I can," said the McKinney freshman.

Maurice McDaniel, playing in only his second SWC game, was a bright spot coming off the bench. He scored eight points and had four rebounds in 18 minutes of play.

"We played well," he said. "We should have had this game but... it's close, we'll get it before the end of the season."

"If I knew what to do, I'd tell you," said the disappointed, disgusted Metcalf. "I know the problems, I'm looking for the solutions."

Schools may switch schedule to resume Turkey tradition

By RITCHIE PRIDDY
Battalion Staff

There may be a change for football this next year come Thanksgiving. The Texas Aggies could possibly resume the once-traditional Turkey Day shootout with the Texas Longhorns.

The Texas A&M University Athletic Director Marvin Tate suggested Monday that a change may be in the air.

"It's not official, but I think it will be soon," Tate said of the proposal which he instigated over the holidays.

Tate talked to Bill Ellington (UTS, Athletic Director) about it at the NCAA Convention in Miami, Fla. Tate favored the idea. He said that

he would talk to his people and let us know.

Evidently Ellington gained support for the idea from his colleagues and the Texas University Athletic Council is expected to approve the plan soon.

The plan calls for switching the game from the Saturday following the A&M-TCU ballgame to Thanksgiving Day, as long as the TCU game is not scheduled after Thanksgiving. If passed this would mean that the game could be played on Thanksgiving beginning next season and every year following, with the exception of when the TCU game is scheduled after Thanksgiving. So, in effect, the game would be played on Thanksgiving Day four out of every

five years. The next Saturday game would be scheduled for the 1984 season.

The game was moved from Thanksgiving Day when the University of Houston entered the conference in 1976 to accommodate the eight-game conference schedule each team must play.

Tate said that the move would not only benefit the students, which he said would not have to cut their holidays short by coming back two days early for a Saturday game, but also would enhance the chances for the game to be televised.

"I talked to Tom (Wilson) over the holidays and he was very positive about the switch. It was tradition to play the game on Thanksgiving and everybody liked it."

Men tracksters finish 4th

The Texas A&M University men's track team, still sluggish in the early part of the season, finished fourth Saturday in a meet hosted by LSU.

The meet was held at the LSU Indoor House in Baton Rouge.

LSU took the meet with a 100-percent performance, while red-hot Baylor finished second at 82 and Florida third with 76 points. A&M finished 67 points for fourth.

On the positive side, James Hoser qualified for the NCAA Championships with a 7-2 3/4 high jump, 1979 school first in that division.

Aggie freshman Rod Richardson, coming from Louisiana originally, wowed the crowd by taking the 60-yard dash in 18.18 seconds.

TWO-MILE RUN — Jim Bolleter, 9:15.03, 5th.
HIGH JUMP — Jim Howard, 7-2 3/4, 1st.

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