

# Sports

## Lose Sunday to LSU

By RICHARD OLIVER  
Sports Editor

Will the real Texas A&M University basketball team please stand up?

The Aggies took their up and down road show to Austin for a televised game against the Texas Longhorns Saturday, and it didn't take Shelby Metcalf's gang very long to impress the viewing audience.

And that was a surprise. Both the Aggies and the Longhorns have trodden a rugged path this year, despite promising preseason forecasts.

With 10:43 remaining in the first half of Saturday's battle, Texas A&M had already rolled up a 20-4 lead and was well on its way to a crucial 108-79 win over the Longhorns, Texas' worst drubbing ever in the Drum and Abe Lemon's worst defeat as Longhorn coach.

The Aggies are now 6-8 and the victory moved them into a sixth place tie with TCU; the Horned Frogs will host Texas A&M Tuesday night in Fort Worth. The sixth slot is important in the SWC race because it gives the school a home-court advantage in the post-season playoffs.

In action Sunday, the Aggies lost 67-57 to nationally-ranked LSU in Baton Rouge in a regional televised non-conference game.

Although the Ags were thinking upset heading to LSU Saturday evening, the thrashing of Texas that afternoon was the most important win of the year for Texas A&M, as they will most likely enter post-season tournament action next week as the dark horse team.

In Saturday's game, senior forwards Vernon Smith and Rynn Wright combined for 43 points (25 and 18 respectively) to lead the Aggies, but it was on defense that they were most potent as they shut down the Longhorn scoring machine. Texas spells scoring T-h-o-m-p-s-o-n.

Sophomore center LaSalle Thompson, 6-10, raked the Aggies for 32 points and 17 rebounds Jan. 26 in a 67-63 Longhorn win in overtime in College Station. But on Saturday, he was held to "only" 17 points.

"I think everybody in the world knows who our best player is," said Texas Head Coach Abe Lemons after the game, "and who we should get the ball to — everybody, that is, except my team. It was my game plan to get the ball to LaSalle. The players had other ideas. All I'm thinking about now is next year."

For a season-weary Metcalf, the victory was a long time comin'.

"That (the win) is a once-in-a-lifetime thing in this conference," he said.

Texas A&M could do no wrong. Buoyed by approximately 900 Aggie fans in attendance (out of 9,500), the Ags shot 57 percent from the floor and 71 percent from the line.

Besides Wright and Smith, Texas A&M was paced by the additional scoring of Reggie Roberts (17 points, a surprising Roy Jones (16 off the bench), Milton Woodley (12) and Claude Riley (9). Riley has been ill for a week and missed practice Friday, but managed to start.

After the game, the Aggie cen-

ter was ecstatic about the performance, which saw every team member score except reserve Bruce Sooter, who didn't attempt a shot in the nine minutes he played.

"This is lovely," said Riley. "It's just what we needed. A big win will help us. I knew we could play just like we did today all along."

"We stayed on the offensive boards and only let them get off one shot, and one shot only. We stopped LaSalle Thompson, and that stopped their whole game."

Freshman wonder Reggie Roberts, who played the game despite having what doctors described as mild tendonitis in his knee, said the win was crucial not only in the standings, but for team morale.

"We needed it bad," he said. "Our big men held down LaSalle ... We just got hot today."

"We had a better game. We were more prepared. We didn't want to ease up, we just wanted to take it to 'em."

With the game in the bag in the final minutes, Metcalf started substituting freely, a move that surprisingly paid some dividends.

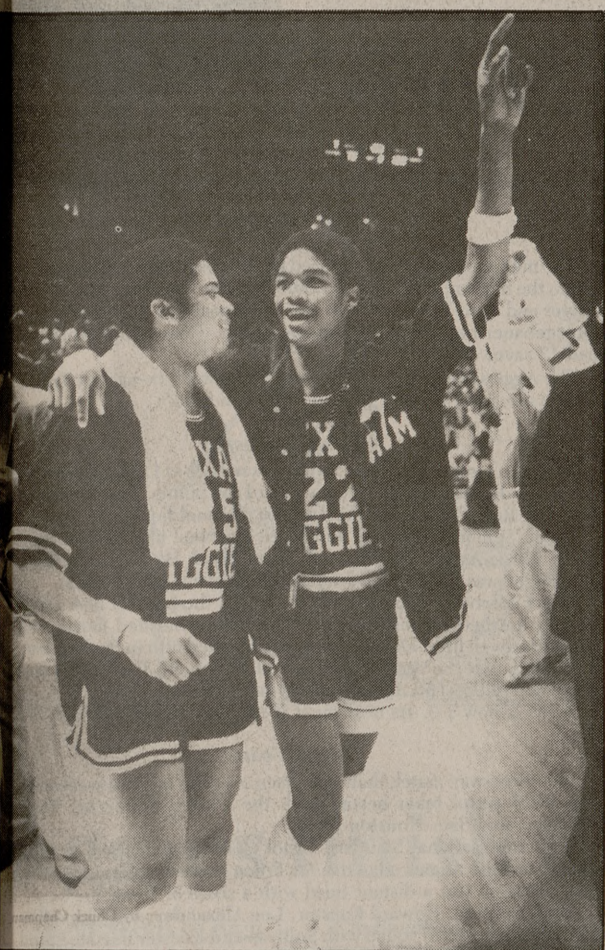
Off the bench, guards Jay McHugh and Mike Brown had two assists each in just three minutes of playing time. McHugh scored two points and Brown four.

Reserve center Ethan Glass missed his first shot, but sank his next two to finish with four points. Maurice McDaniel came off the bench to score Texas A&M's 100th point on a free throw and pull

down five rebounds in just two minutes.

Asked if the Aggies were actually better now than when they first

played Texas, Metcalf didn't pause. "Better? Oh yeah, we're 100 percent better. There's no comparison."



Staff photo by Greg Gammon

Texas A&M guards Milton Woodley, left, and Reggie Roberts head off the court Saturday in Austin after helping the Aggies thrash the Texas Longhorns, 108-79, in front of a television audience of five states and Mexico. The two players accounted for 29 points, eight rebounds, four steals and 14 assists in the win.

## Ags win tourney; to go to regionals

By RICK STOLLE  
Battalion Staff

In sweeping the three games of the Texas Collegiate Rugby Tournament, the Texas A&M University rugby team earned the right to advance to the Western Collegiate Regional Tournament.

The tournament, part of the U.S. Rugby-Football Union, leads to the National Finals that will be held in Dayton, Ohio. The Regional Tournament April 25 will be held at a site to be named later.

The Ags swept the field both Saturday and Sunday without allowing an opposing score in front of approximately 100 fans who showed up at the main drill field to watch the action.

Saturday, the Ags crushed Rice 46-0 and Stephen F. Austin University's second team 39-0. The Ags played some of the best rugby they have ever played, according to a few team members.

Sunday, the first team of SFA was the victim as it fell to the Ags 26-0. SFA reached the finals by defeating SMU 24-0 and the Texas A&M second team 18-10 in a close match.

The Western Regionals may be played in Austin. The two divisions of the Rugby Union each have separate playoffs.

The club division is generally considered the more difficult because the players are older and have more time to practice. The collegiate division includes most of the colleges in Texas.

The Ags host the Houston Heathens at the main drill field at 10 a.m. Saturday.



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