

Ags take 'cardiac' win, 78-77

By RITCHIE PRIDDY
Battalion Staff
The Texas Aggies, narrowly escaping defeat at the hands of the Houston Cougars, secured a home court berth in the first round of the SWC Post-season Tournament Saturday afternoon.

Led by Rynn Wright and Vernon Smith, the Aggies held on for an exciting 78-77 victory over the Cougars, despite a furious second half rally by Houston that saw the Aggies almost blow a 24-point lead.

The Aggies lead at the half by a 46-28 margin and were on the verge of blowing the Cougars out when they jumped to a 24-point lead (60-36) with 15:11 left in the game.

But the Cougars, with the hot shooting of Rob Williams and Michael Young, began an incredible rally that allowed them to pull within one point of the Aggies.

The Aggies connected on 51.6 percent (16-31) of their first-half shots while the Cougars managed to hit only 30.3 percent (10-33).

The second half was a totally different ball game though, as Houston hit 57.1 percent (20-35) and A&M 46.2 percent (12-26).

In the last 10 minutes of the game Houston outscored A&M 26-6, largely due to the outstanding play of Williams, Young and Co. The Ags also figured in the low

scoring as they went into a stall game with about seven minutes to play with a 72-60 lead.

"We wanted to kill some time. It's the way we normally play it—just like today," Metcalf said in defending his decision to go with the stall.

Rob Williams led all scorers with 29 points, Young finished with 20.

Houston jumped out to an early 2-0 lead on a Michael Young short jumper. The Aggies countered with a Reggie Roberts layup to tie the score.

Houston led for the last time the entire game by a 4-2 count with 18:12 left in the first half on a 14-foot jumpshot by Clyde Drexler.

Vernon Smith tip in with 17:05 in the half put the Aggies ahead to stay, 6-4.

Claude Riley made it 14-7 with a two-handed power slam off of a Smith pass. Smith finished the game with 10 assists.

The Aggies extended their lead to 19 points, 43-24, with 1:47 left before intermission with Roberts connecting on the front end of a one-and-one situation.

The Aggies went into the dressing room with a seemingly safe, comfortable 46-28 lead.

Texas A&M stretched its lead to the biggest of the afternoon (24), 60-36, when the Houston bench was called for its second technical

foul with 15:11 left in the game. Milton Woodley connected on one of two freethrows.

Riley got his second stuff of the game with 13:17 left when Wright hit him underneath the basket with a beautiful pass, to make it a 64-41 ballgame.

Riley finished the game with 13 points and 10 rebounds.

Houston, using a variety of presses, came battling back to within 10 points, 74-64, as Drexler connected on a layup with 6:12 left.

Houston's presses gave the Aggies all the trouble they could handle and then some, as it caused several A&M turnovers.

Riley scored the last A&M bucket of the game with 4:57 left to make it 78-66.

Throughout most of the second half A&M was in foul trouble and it came to a head when Smith and Roberts fouled out within one minute of each other, with about four minutes to go.

Smith finished with 14 points and 10 rebounds, Roberts with 16 points and three rebounds.

The Aggies lost much of their composure when Smith left, as they seemed shaky without the senior forward's leadership.

"When Vernon went out we got careless. He was holding everything together out there," Metcalf said, "Vernon has become our leader."

David Rose hit from 26 feet out to pull the Cougars to within seven of the Aggies, 78-71, with 4:13 remaining.

Drexler made it 78-73 with a midcourt steal and layup with just under four minutes to play.

The Aggies then called two timeouts to break the Cougars momentum, but without success as Williams connected to make it 78-75.

Roy Jones was fouled with 1:39 left but missed the front end of a one-and-one.

The Aggies had problems connecting on free throws as they missed several near the end of the game to enable the Cougars to come back.

Houston pulled to within one, 78-77, when Young connected on a beautiful 26-footer with 54 seconds showing.

The Cougars got the ball back and worked their way downcourt and scored what appeared to be the winning points with six seconds as Abe Davis connected. Houston called timeout, however just before the ball was shot.

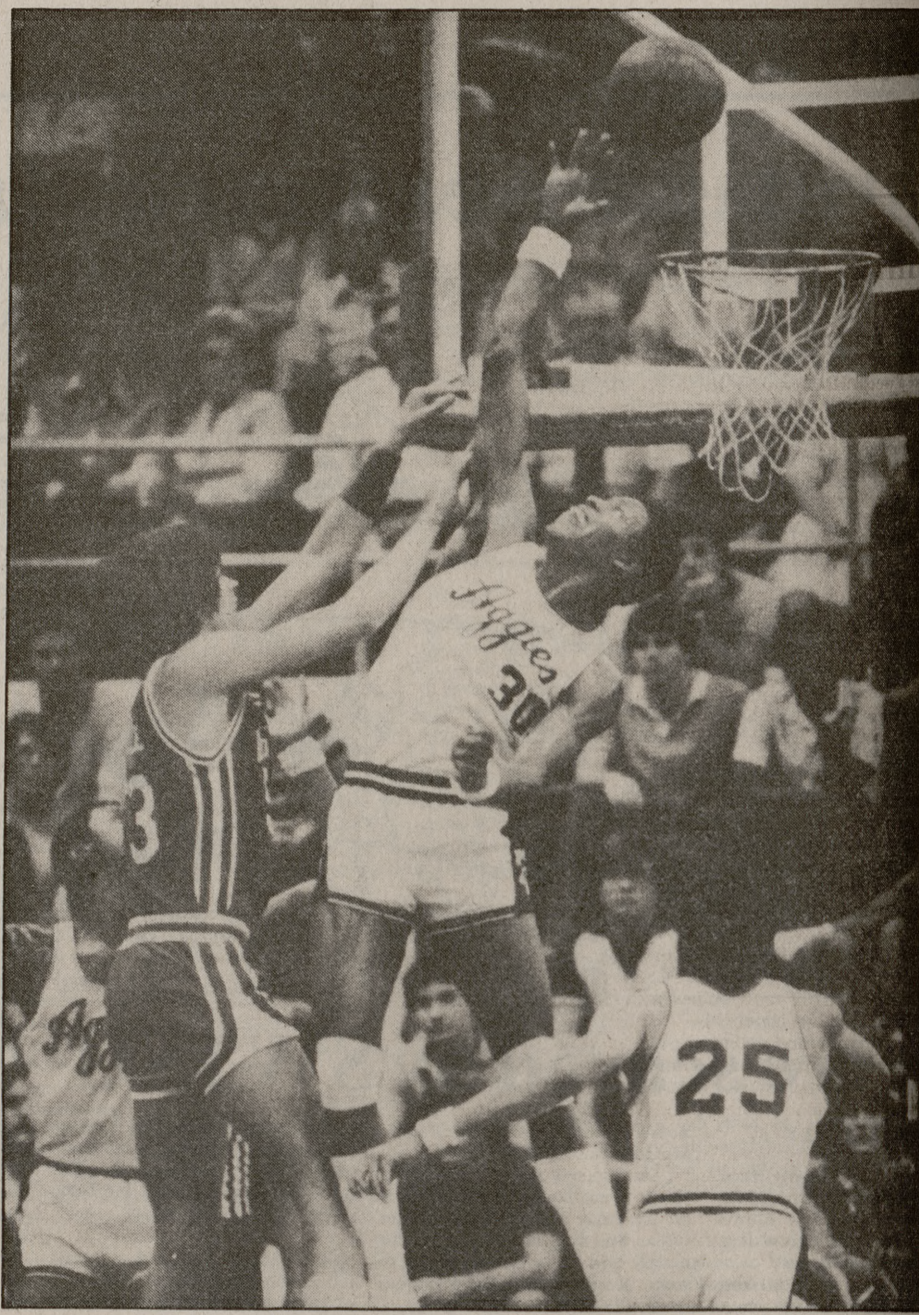
Houston came back after the timeout and Young put it up from the top of the key and missed. Drexler, however, got the rebound and missed a tip-in at the buzzer to secure the Aggie victory.

Asked what he was thinking as Davis went up with his shot Metcalf replied: "I was thinking of a private room in the cardiac ward. I'm just glad that Rob didn't put it in."

Houston Head Coach Guy Lewis was pleased with his team's performance: "I told them at the beginning of the game, win or lose, this game had nothing to do with the tournament and we will be ready to play Friday. The kids made a big impression on me today. It tells me that we have a lot of character, and they have shown a lot of class all year long."

Metcalf was pleased with the win but said the Aggies still have a way to go: "We've definitely still got a long way to go. We've won some close games down the stretch which is good, but it looks as if we can't stand prosperity."

With the win, the Aggies have completed a second half conference turnaround to even their record at 8-8. They finished at 1-7 the first half of the conference schedule.



Staff photo by Greg Gamm

Texas A&M center Maurice McDaniel leaps high to grab a rebound against the Houston Cougars Saturday afternoon as Milton Woodley (25) looks on. The Aggies knocked out a 24-point lead with 15 minutes left before eventu-

ally winning by only one point, 78-77, when Houston staged a furious comeback in the last 10 minutes. Texas A&M plays TCU tonight at 7:30 p.m. in G. Rollie White in the first round of the SWC post-season tournament.

PADDY MURPHY HEADED SOUTH

MOBILE, Ala. — State officials in Mobile, Ala. disclosed today that escaped murderer Paddy Murphy has been sited in this quiet southern Alabama town. Local police officers reported seeing Murphy driving through Mobile in a stolen car, but were unable to apprehend him after a high-speed chase through downtown streets.

Paddy Murphy, an alleged descendant of "Jack the Ripper," escaped from Attica State Prison in New York just one week ago in what has been described as one of the greatest prison breaks in criminal history. Prison officials, apparently embarrassed at this lapse in security, have refused to release all of the details.

Murphy is said to be heading southwest possibly in route to the Bryan/College Station area of Texas, where officials believe his girlfriend and partner in crime, Lucie Pattie, has taken refuge. Officials at Texas Tau have been warned and placed on active duty as of Thursday night.

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Tennis team wins; spring record is 7-2

By RICK STOLLE
Battalion Staff
The Texas A&M University women's tennis team survived a brutal weekend intact as the team defeated the University of Houston Friday 7-2 and Lamar University Saturday 6-3.

The ladies of the team took a lot of abuse and rough treatment at the hands of the Houston Cougar fans.

During the UH match, obscenities were screamed at the Ags in the middle of points by the beer-guzzling crowd. To make things worse, the new van the team uses was broken into by party or parties unknown and three purses were stolen. A window of the van was broken out with a rusted pipe.

The uncalled for behavior of the Houston crowd was the worst I have seen in 30 years of being around organized tennis," said Aggie coach Jan Cannon.

"And to make matters worse we were delayed for about an hour and 45 minutes for the police investigation."

But despite the rough treatment, the Ags retained their composure and soundly whipped the Cougars 7-2.

In singles: Liliana Fernandez beat Mary Sasser 6-4, 6-1; Pat Hill lost to Joy Tacon 6-7, 6-4; 24 Maylen Hooton lost to Rhonda Lewis 6-7, 2-6; Amy Closs beat Denise Hall 6-1, 6-1; Susan Hutcherson defeated Melissa Zoelle 6-0, 7-5 and Laura Hanna beat Stacy Riley 6-3, 7-5.

In doubles: Hutcherson-Hill defeated Sasser-Tacon 5-7, 7-5, 6-3; Closs-Hanna beat Lewis-Hill 2, 3-6, 6-3 and Fernandez-Hooton defeated Zoelle-Riley 1-6, 7-5, 6-6.

Saturday's match was a little more civilized as the Lamar team was very understanding with the Ags and the delay the theft caused.

"When we were so delayed getting out of Houston, I called the Lamar coach and asked if we could delay the match," said Cannon.

In singles Saturday: Fernandez lost to Ligia Mattos 7-5, 5-7, 3-6; Hill beat Eva Holm 6-1, 6-0; Hooton defeated Christina Ortega 7-6, 1-6, 6-4; Closs beat Monica Wiedel 7-5, 6-4; Hutcherson defeated Susan Ericson 6-0, 6-2 and Hanna lost to Gina Moriera 3-6, 4-6.

Doubles results: Hutcherson-Hill lost to Wiedel-Mattos 6-2, 6-6, 5-7; Closs-Hanna beat Holm-Ortega 6-0, 6-2 and Hooton-Fernandez defeated Ericson-Moriera 6-4, 6-2.

The wins raise the Ags season record to 7-2. The team's next match will be at the Brigham Young University Invitational Tournament in Provo, Utah. The eight-team tournament has seven nationally ranked opponents with Texas A&M the lone exception.

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Ag-Cougar box
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TEXAS A&M (78) — Smith 2-2 14, Wright 8 6-9 22, Riley 5-3 13, Roberts 5 6-10 16, Woodley 3-5 9, Jones 2 0-1 4, McDaniel 2-2 2. Totals 28 22-35 78.
Halftime — Texas A&M 48, Houston 28. Total fouls — Houston 29, Texas A&M 21. Fouled out — Micheaux, Brown, Smith, Roberts, Technicals — Houston coach Lewis, Houston coach Kippatrick. A — 6,819.