

Sports

38-foot jumper ends Aggie party

By RICHARD OLIVER
Sports Editor
Vernon Smith looked helplessly at the officials, his eyes pleading for one more chance.
Reggie Roberts walked slowly toward the dressing room, his hands on his hips, staring straight ahead.
Milton Woodley looked down and then back up at a still net, wondering if there was something else he could have done.

Behind them, the TCU Horned Frogs hesitated a moment, glanced at the clock and at the officials, and then erupted in yells and ran after one solitary figure who stood at the far end of the court with his arms held high in the air.
Darrell Browder's incredible 38-foot jump shot over Woodley's outstretched arms with two seconds left had given TCU a 62-60 win in a contest marked by one brief fight and two technical fouls against both coaches.

Because of the win, the Horned Frogs advance in the SWC post-season tournament to San Antonio to take on Baylor Thursday.

For the Aggies, it was a bitter end to an up-and-down season that had seen them crawl from a surprising 1-7 SWC start to a 7-1 second-half slate and a home court berth in the tournament.

For Vernon Smith and Rynn Wright, the final game of their collegiate careers was a nightmare. Smith ended with a respectable 19 points and nine rebounds, and Wright had 13 points and eight rebounds.

But neither will forget this night. Only 4,321 fans showed up for their finale.

The tone of the game was set early as the referees let the contest get so out of hand it resembled street basketball.

The comedy hit its zenith with 3:15 left in the first half, when Browder went up for a jump shot and Wright tipped the ball. The shot glanced off the rim and a Frogs player tipped it in. The official called the shot good despite it being after the foul and then claimed it was goaltending. Browder sank both ensuing free throws after Metcalf's vehement cries resulted in a technical foul against the Texas A&M bench to put TCU up, 28-20.

Three minutes later with the score a closer 28-25, Milton Woodley dove for a ball, knocking it out of Warren Bridges' hands. Bridges instinctively reached out and grabbed for the ball, but instead shoved Woodley to the ground.

The foul was called on Bridges, and the TCU bench came alive. Head Coach Jim Killingsworth kicked a chair and stormed behind the scorer's table, screaming at the referee. He ran back onto the court and Bridges had to restrain him. A technical was called against the TCU bench, and Killingsworth responded by stalking off the court and into the TCU dressing room.

Claude Riley hit a 24-foot jump shot as time expired and the Aggies were within one at intermission, 28-27.

Second half calls brought the coaches to their feet time and time again, with Metcalf at one point taking off his coat and slinging it around in exasperation at a call. Three times Wright was called for goaltending, and three times Metcalf protested.

Killingsworth, after the first half warning, was calmer the second half, but at one point looked over at the Texas A&M bench wide-eyed and shook his head with Metcalf in agreement over a questionable call.

The score see-sawed for all of the second half, with both defenses falling apart as the play became sloppy.

The fans, praised from several points this season as being the most well-behaved in the conference, were also rowdy. At several points the Texas A&M yell leaders pleaded for silence during free throws, but they were ignored. Ice, cups and pennies often rained on the court after contro-

ersial plays or decisions.

The Aggies, who were out-rebounded 15-10 in the first half, came back to finish the game with four more than the Horned Frogs, 30-26, but it all became moot when Browder's shot went cleanly through the net as time expired.

For Shelby Metcalf, it was the end of perhaps his most frustrating season. His team entered 1981 as the team to beat, ranked high nationally, and destined to vie for the national crown.

Instead, an 8-8 SWC record and a first-round tournament loss la-

Analysis

ter, Metcalf sat bleary-eyed in front of a strangely silent press corps, trying vainly to find a reason for the loss.

Officiating, lack of intensity and lack of fans were all considered, but it didn't matter — it all hurt.

"We had three seasons this year; two good seasons and one bad one," he said. "It's tough to go through all this adversity to get to this position ... it's really a heart-breaker."

"They say time heals all wounds. The season's over. Now there's nothing to do but wait until next year."

Metcalf paused.

"I suffered when the players suffered," he said. "We went through a shooting slump like I've never seen the likes of. I'm just not happy with what happened here tonight."

"The season had its good points. We won the North Carolina tournament (at the beginning of the season)."

Aggie guard Bruce Sooter was also stunned.

"We really didn't deserve to win with the way we played," he said quietly as his teammates silently dressed. "We didn't have much intensity."

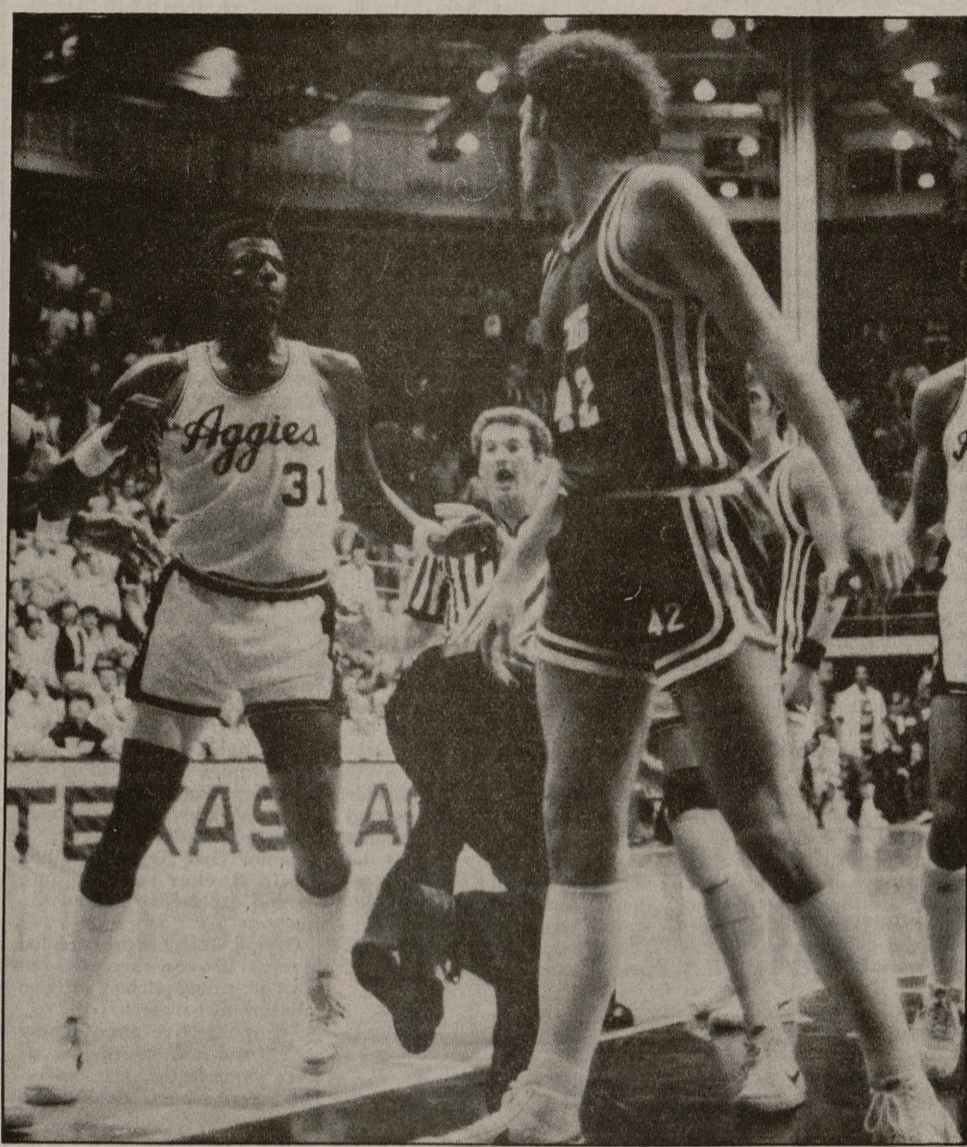
He agreed with Metcalf on Browder's final desperation shot. "It was an amazing shot," he said. "I mean, what kind of play is that when a player dribbles around and then puts it up? It was a great shot."

In the TCU locker room, Killingsworth was ecstatic.

"It was a game that could have gone either way at the end," he said. "Browder just put it up and it went in. To tell you the truth I wasn't even looking at the clock. I was looking at A&M's defensive setup. I heard our assistant coaches yelling at our guys to shoot."

"I just couldn't be any prouder of these guys."

For the Horned Frogs, it's on to join Texas, Baylor and Texas Tech in the ranks of the tournament survivors Thursday night, but for Texas A&M, all that's left is the memory of one long jump shot ripping through the net as time ran out on 1981.



Staff photo by Brian Tate

Texas A&M forward Vernon Smith (31) and TCU center Larry Frevert (42) square off in a brief scuffle late in Monday night's game in G. Rollie White Coliseum. The Horned Frogs pulled out a 62-60 win on an amazing 38-foot

jump shot by Darrell Browder with time running out. Texas A&M, 15-12, was thus eliminated from the Southwest Conference post-season tournament.

Texas A&M, TCU box

TCU (62) — Johnson 5 0-3 10, Cucinella 3 0-0 6, Frevert 2 0-0 4, Browder 12 6-6 30, Bridges 2 3-4 7, Baker 1 3-4 5, Collier 0 0-0 0, Luke 0 0-0 0. Totals 25 12-17 62.

TEXAS A&M (60) — Smith 8 3-5 19, Wright 5 3-4 13, Riley 5 0-0 10, Roberts 4 2-2 10, Woodley 4 0-0 8, Jones 0 0-0 0, Sooter 0 0-0 0, Ladson 0 0-0 0. Totals 26 8-11 60.

Halftime — TCU 28, Texas A&M 27. Fouled Out — none. Total Fouls — TCU 12, Texas A&M 17. Technicals — Texas A&M coach Metcalf, TCU coach Killingsworth. A — 4,231.

Owls win Monday 5-4 in 10 innings

United Press International
HOUSTON — Rice reliever Ronnie Peoples came in for Pat Devine in the sixth inning Monday to put the clamp on Centenary and the Owls pulled out an extra-inning 5-4 nonconference baseball victory.

A squeeze bunt in the 10th inning by pinch hitter David Evans sent Owl Frank Dishongh under the catcher's tag for the Rice victory.

The Owls are now 7-1 on the season and Centenary is 2-3.

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