

# Morning after rough for Aggs

By RICHARD OLIVER  
Sports Editor

There's got to be a morning after.  
For the Texas A&M basketball team, Tuesday morning was undoubtedly rough to face, as the memory of Monday night's last second loss to TCU came up time and time again in conversations and newspapers screamed the story.

Darrell Browder leaping with four seconds left and launching a 38-foot bomb over two Aggie defenders. The shot sinking through the net without touching rim; a beautiful basket under pressure, but a bitter pill to swallow for the Aggies.

After a fine 7-1 SWC second half record which included wins over every team but Arkansas, one of the longest seasons in the school's history came to an end in a few short seconds.

It all seemed so short.  
"It's a heartbreaker," Head Coach Shelby Metcalf lamented. "Our season's over."

It's as simple as that. But the season itself was far from simple. The highly touted Aggs had it all, said the conference soothsayers in November, 1980 — speed, Rynn Wright, Vernon Smith, Rudy Woods, defense and a past history of success.

But Woods failed to hit the books and thus hit the road, Smith and Wright's one-two scoring punch took a standing eight-or-nine game count, guard Tyrone Ladson's attitude kept him on the bench and usually at home and Shelby Metcalf ended up racking his brain for an effective guard combination.

After seven wins to start the season, the Aggs received a top 12 ranking and perhaps got a bit heady. Five straight losses and a 1-7 first half SWC mark cured that, though.

Enter Milton Woodley and Reggie Roberts, two young guards who were to help turn the Aggies around. Woodley brought a fine ball-handling ability on the court and some needed savvy, and Roberts brought raw talent.

Wright and Smith overcame their slump and began to dominate offensive backboards again. The result — a 7-1 second half record and a few wary glances from other SWC teams as tournament time neared.

But it all crashed down as Browder's 30 points and jump shot en-

second in rebounds and third in scoring.

In 1980, the duo along with guards Dave Goff and David Britton led the Aggies to the NCAA regionals, where eventual champions Louisville had to rely on an overtime effort to stop the amazing Aggs.

"Yeah, it's kinda nice for everyone to say Rynn and Vernon did this, Rynn and Vernon did that," said Wright. "It's very nice."

Metcalf was reluctant to see the season end.

"I sure wanted to go to San Antonio," he said. "TCU just play-

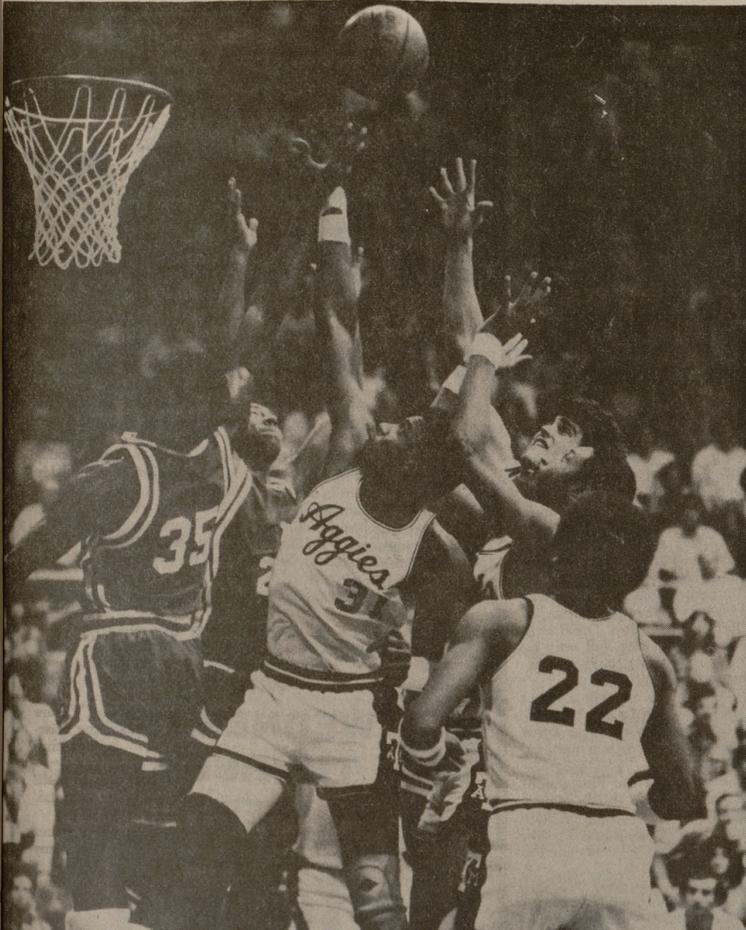
ed well."

The season also ended sour for the Ag fans, who displayed their worst sportsmanship in many years (give or take a few Texas football games).

"I saw one paper cup," said Metcalf. "I haven't seen that in several years."

But, if only ...  
"Everybody was in shock," said Wright. "Our team screamed for a timeout (after the shot). Everyone was in a daze."

"I wish we could play it over. But we just have to accept it and go on."



Staff photo by Greg Gammon

TCU and Texas A&M players battle for a rebound during Monday night's game in G. Rollie White Coliseum. The Aggs were eliminated by the Horned Frogs in the first round of

the SWC tournament, 62-60, on Darrell Browder's 38-foot jump shot with time running out. Texas Christian will play Baylor Thursday night in San Antonio's HemisFair Arena.

## Boston stops Mavs behind Bird, Robey

United Press International  
DALLAS — The Boston Celtics held off an inspired and pesky Dallas Mavericks squad 117-105 behind the fourth quarter efforts of Kevin McHale and Cedric Maxwell in a game not reflective of the final score.

Dallas jumped out to a fast 25-9 first quarter lead behind the excellent floor leadership of Brad Davis, much to the delight of 15,593 fans.

Rick Robey led a 20-10 Celtic

second period spurt with 10 points to pull Boston to within 47-43 as the half neared.

It was not until four minutes remained in the third stanza that Boston could pull even at 74-all as Larry Bird finally shook a first half shooting slump.

Boston led 102-98 with only five minutes left when McHale, substituting for Bird, and Maxwell hit the crucial baskets as the Celtics pulled away to their deceptively comfortable margin of victory.

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