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Naulls, Riley lead in 68-63 win

Aggies upend struggling Tigers

By FRANK L. CHRISTLIEB
Battalion Staff
When Dale Brown came out of the locker room at halftime with his Louisiana State Tigers losing 33-30 to the Texas Aggies, he nonchalantly looked upward at the G. Rollie White Coliseum scoreboard. If anything, his casual glance showed only unconcern about his team's deficit.

But as the Aggies maintained their lead throughout the second half, Brown began to display looks of worry and concern about the possibility of his team losing its second straight road game. During much of the second half, Brown vented his anger on the officials, complaining about several of their calls.

Despite Brown's constant bickering and the near-total comeback of his team, Texas A&M held on for a 68-63 upset of the Tigers Monday night before 7,192 loud

and supportive fans in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

The Aggies now have a 3-0 record, while LSU drops to 0-2 after having lost its opening game against the University of Nevada at Las Vegas.

From the opening tipoff, it was evident that the game would be close. The Aggies jumped out to a four-point lead at the 17:34 mark of the game, as forward Roy Jones scored on a 7-foot bank shot and a 17-foot jumper from the left side. Center Rudy Woods' rebound layup off a Jones miss made the score 6-2.

The Tigers then found their shooting touch as they ran off 13 of the next 15 points to take a 15-8 lead. At that point, it seemed LSU might build a larger lead, but it was the Aggies' turn to put on a spurt.

Texas A&M junior guard Tyren Naulls brought his team into an

18-18 tie with the Tigers as he scored on a 26-foot jumper and a shot from the left baseline. For the remainder of the first half, Texas A&M and LSU traded baskets until the Aggies were able to take the three-point halftime lead.

The halftime statistics showed the closeness of the game, as the Aggies shot 58 percent and the Tigers hit 54 percent of their shots. However, the Aggies led in rebounds 19-9 as Claude Riley had five. Riley and Naulls were the high scorers for the Aggies as well, each hitting eight points.

Forward Howard Carter pumped in 10 points in the first half for the Tigers.

Naulls opened the Aggies' second-half scoring with a layup after a Rudy Woods steal at the LSU end of the court. The Aggies stayed between three and six points ahead of the Tigers until coming alive with a 7-0 scoring streak that gave them a 48-38 lead with 14 minutes left in the game.

Neither squad scored until the Aggies went up 50-38 with 11:49 to go, but then the Tigers began to mount a stretch drive. Reserve center Tyrone Black scored 10 key points during the next eight minutes as the Tigers pulled to within 60-59 with 2:31 left in the game.

However, Texas A&M moved back to a five-point lead at 66-59

with only 31 seconds remaining. Riley, Naulls and sophomore guard Reggie Roberts hit four of seven free throws during that stretch, while Roberts also hit a short jumper off a Gary Lewis assist. The Tigers, forced into a desperate situation, then fouled Roberts and Lewis, with the freshman hitting both of his one-and-one shots.

Naulls finished with 17 points to lead the Aggies, and Riley had 15 and 11 rebounds. Jones ended with 11 points to round out the Texas A&M double-figure scorers, while Lewis had nine and Roberts and Rudy Woods each had eight.

The Tigers were led by Carter's 18 points, Black's 15 points and forward Leonard Mitchell's 10 points.

Aggie coach Shelby Metcalf didn't seem ecstatic about his team's victory, but he said he felt both teams played well enough to win.

"I thought it was a hard-fought ball game," he said. "LSU showed a lot of poise. We had to come in there last year (when the Aggies lost 67-57 in Baton Rouge, La.), but this is a pretty noisy place too. I thought the intensity in this game was better than last year."

Metcalf said the Aggies' effective transition from a man-to-man

setup to a 3-2 zone on defense was an important factor in the game.

"I thought our 3-2 zone was fairly effective, and I thought we did a good job on the boards too (outsbounding the Tigers 40-25)," he said.

Metcalf added that the crowd gave the Aggies a much-needed lift in the game.

"I think that's a class crowd," Metcalf said. "We're noisy, but we're organized."

The 19th-year Aggie coach cited the play of Jones and Naulls along with Lewis' mature ball-handling, in the upset of one of last season's NCAA Final Four.

"I didn't think the game was ever out of hand," Metcalf said. "I thought either team could have won until the last minute."

"There's a mystique about the Final Four, but we're just trying to make the Final 400 now."

Lewis, who has improved with each of the Aggies' three games, said he and his teammates felt confident and excited about their chances against the Tigers.

Riley said: "It was definitely an upset. For one thing, last year we played them at the wrong time (following a 108-79 win over the University of Texas the day before). We didn't have enough time to prepare for them. This time, we had a few days to prepare for them, so we were ready."

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Brown pleased with effort, complimentary of Aggies

By RITCHIE PRIDDY
Sports Editor
It wasn't your typical losing locker room.

Louisiana State University head coach Dale Brown wasn't disappointed in his team's play. In fact, he was quite proud of the

effort. It didn't make sense.

The Aggies had just whipped the Tigers 68-63 for their third win of the season, as the Tigers dropped to 0-2. Losing isn't something they are accustomed to.

"We're 0-2 now," Brown said. "We're not used to losing but I am proud of this team. I thought both teams played an excellent game."

The Aggies outplayed the Tigers throughout the game but could never put it out of reach.

The Aggies finished the game hitting 52.7 percent of their shots from the field. LSU finished with 50 percent from the field.

In addition, the Aggies outrebounded the Tigers 40-25.

"Texas A&M is a much better team (than last year)," Brown said. "They played much harder and with a lot more discipline."

Last year the Aggies traveled to Baton Rouge to face the Tigers on national television and lost 67-57. LSU advanced to the Final Four before losing to eventual national champion Indiana.

The Tigers lost three starters off that team to graduation and

another quit, but despite that they were ranked high in the polls for 1981-82.

LSU opened its season with a double-overtime loss to Nevada Las Vegas last week.

"We've been beaten by two good teams on the road but I'm confident that we'll bounce back and win."

The Tigers host St. Peter's Wednesday night in their first home appearance of 1982.

"I thought we did a good job of slowing the pace down. It was a low scoring game just as we had anticipated. We ran our offense well and were not intimidated by them," Brown said.

"It was a good major college basketball game," he added. "I thought we hung in there. I know it would go to the wire."

Brown said that both teams are of good caliber and could go for this year.

"They have a good chance of winning the Southwestern Conference title. They are a different team. They played harder and have got some talent. They are a fine team."

"We're young but we'll be in every game we play this year. I know these guys are going to keep improving."

Brown said that the crowd definitely played a role in the game and praised it for its behavior.

"I really admire the crowd and spirit in this place. We never heard anything bad from anyone, even when we came off the floor. It's a hell of a place to play."

"I just can't say enough about those people in the stands. They are magnificent. They should be proud."

Texas A&M assistant coach Barry Davis agreed: "The crowd was very important. It felt like old times again. I think the fans spoiled the guys. They'll expect a crowd like that for every Southwestern Conference game."

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