

Road win

Jones leads Aggies with 18 in easy 81-55 victory

by John Bramblett
Battalion Staff

A career-high 18 points from Roy Jones and 29 points off the bench propelled the Texas Aggie basketball team to a convincing 81-55 win over Southern Methodist University Tuesday night in Dallas.

The Aggies win, combined with Arkansas' 70-58 win over Baylor left Texas A&M with sole possession of second place in the Southwest Conference race. The Aggies, 3-1, trail only the 4-0 Texas Longhorns.

Aggie Head Coach Shelby Metcalf said the win was his team's best game since the Aggies defeated LSU 68-63 Dec. 7.

"It was a good performance from everyone who played," he said.

Metcalf was particularly pleased with the play of freshman guard Gary Lewis.

Coming off the bench, Lewis scored 13 points, shooting 71.4 percent from the field and a perfect 3 for 3 from the free throw line.

Along with Lewis, the Aggies received an outstanding game from junior center Lonnie Bluntson. Center Rudy Woods got into foul trouble in the first half, picking up three personals and his fourth only 3:45 into the second half. He eventually fouled out with 55 seconds left in the game.

Bluntson scored eight points and had three rebounds. Milton Woodley and Mike Thomas each added four points coming off the bench.

The Aggies' win, only their 10th in 26 games in Moody Coliseum, began slowly. The Mustangs began the game quickly, taking a 12-8 lead. A Lewis steal resulting in a Reggie Roberts layup tied the game at 12. Texas A&M then ran off six straight points before a goaltending call against Bluntson made the score 18-14.

Playing better during the final 10 minutes of the first half, Texas A&M took a 33-22 half-time lead. Southern Methodist, however, outshot the Aggies in

the first half, 43 percent to 41 percent.

A follow-up bucket by Bluntson off a Riley miss at the 13:30 mark of the second half increased the Ags' lead to 21 at 48-29. A nail in an already closed coffin was driven in by a Riley layup with 6:39 left to play, giving the Aggies a 61-44 lead.

As a team, the Aggies shot 52 percent from the field, hitting 32 of 62 shots. They also hit 70 percent of their free throws and held a 45-25 rebounding edge.

Also scoring for Texas A&M were Riley with 16, Roberts and Tyren Naulls with seven, and Woods with four.

In other Southwest Conference action, Rice defeated Texas Tech in Lubbock 66-57.

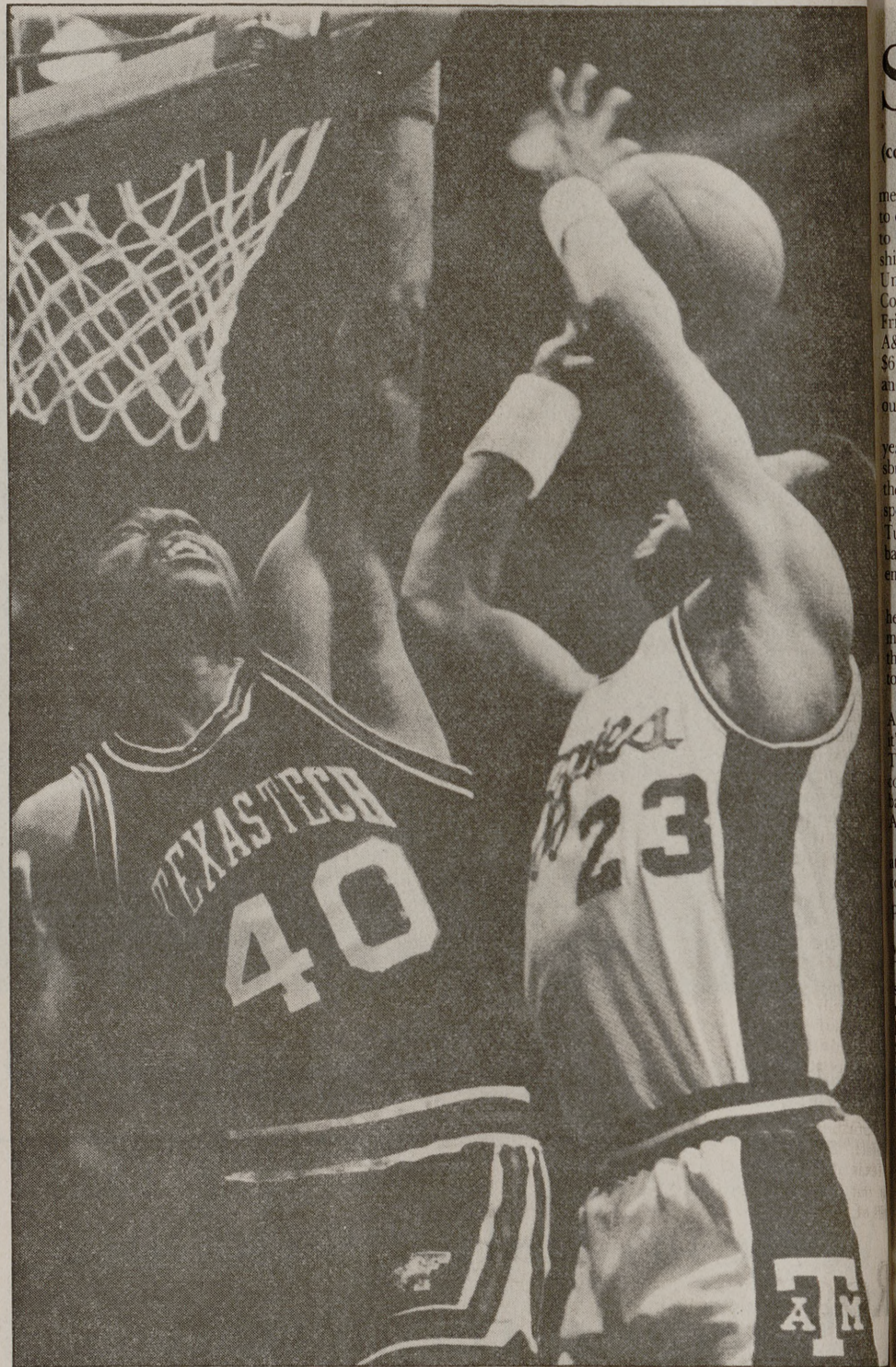


Photo by Donn Friedman

Texas A&M center Rudy Woods (23) shoots over Texas Tech's Joe Washington in the Red Raiders' 68-64 win over the Aggies in 3-1, while the team's season record is 14-1. G. Rollie White Coliseum Jan. 11. The Aggies defeated the SMU Mustangs Tuesday night to raise their conference record to 3-1.

Ditka hired as Bears' head coach

United Press International
CHICAGO — Mike Ditka finally has what he wanted — the Chicago Bears' coaching job.

In 1978, the former Bear tight end set a goal for himself — to return to the team where he was Rookie of the Year, a three-time All-Pro and a star on a championship team where he

was known for his fiery temper. Ditka wanted to be the Bears' head coach.

"At that time," Ditka said Tuesday, "I did set the goal. That's where I wanted to go back to — the Bears."

Bear owner George Halas offered the job to Ditka Tuesday, apparently sidestepping General Manager Jim Finks, who said he had no reaction to the news of Ditka's hiring.

Finks, gradually drained of his authority in the Bears' organization, has said he will stay on the job in spite of any disputes with Halas. A 5 percent stockholder in the team, Finks has two years remaining on his contract.

The Bears slated a news conference today to announce the hiring of Ditka, 42, an assistant coach for the Dallas Cowboys,

where he also made All-Pro, for the last nine years.

Halas and Ditka emerged from a lengthy session at Halas' apartment Tuesday afternoon saying minor contract details had yet to be worked out, but they did not divulge terms of the pact.

"I don't have a short contract," the new coach said. "However, if I don't do the job I won't be around anyhow."

Ditka had been the leading candidate for the job since Halas fired Neill Armstrong earlier this month.

Ditka, the Bears' first draft choice in 1961, will inherit a team that finished 6-10 in the NFC Central Division last year — as well as an entire coaching staff.

Ditka said he would not make many initial major changes in the Bears, saying the team had enough personnel to become a winner.

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PRE LAW SOCIETY MEETING

Wednesday, Jan. 20
7 p.m. 301 Rudder

Guest Speaker:
Sen. Kent Caperton

More information available on the Mock LSAT & Baylor Law School Field Trip at the meeting.

California may sign Jackson

United Press International
LOS ANGELES — Executive Vice President Buzzie Bavasi flew Tuesday to Phoenix for another meeting with Reggie Jackson and his agent, Gary Walker, today as the California Angels appeared close to sign-

ing the free-agent slugger. "Buzzie would not be going unless he had strong feelings he could sign Jackson," a source in the Angels' organization said.

In a statement issued before he left, Bavasi said, "I feel comfortable across the table from Jackson and Walker but I'd rather not speculate on the outcome. Reggie knows our guidelines and we'll try to put some figures between those guidelines."

The Angels and Jackson have been talking money since Sunday afternoon when Walker, a

Phoenix land developer, made his initial offer. Bavasi has he would not get involved in bidding war with New York Yankee owner George Stein-

brenner and today's meeting could indicate a lack of interest on the part of the Yankees re-signing Jackson.

The Yankees already signed two outfielders who could replace Jackson, Ken Griffey and Dave Collins, obtained by trade and free agency respectively from Cincinnati.

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