

Tech triumphs

Aggies' slow start leads to 91-82 OT loss

by Frank L. Christlieb
 Sports Editor

When the Texas Tech Red Raiders jumped to a quick 8-0 lead over the Texas Aggies in Monday night's game in Lubbock's Municipal Coliseum, the words "blowout" and "runaway" must have crossed the minds of many of the 6,964 spectators.

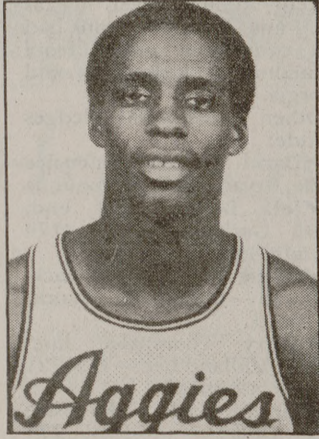
Guards Steve Smith and Jeff Taylor gave the Raiders an early advantage, with Smith hitting an 18-foot jumper and Taylor connecting on two 18-footers and a slam dunk off a fast break. At that point, the 17:31 mark of the first half, Texas A&M Coach Shelby Metcalf called a timeout and a musical performance by the church choir.

After watching the Raiders build their lead to 12 points at 33:21 with 3:47 left in the half, Texas A&M fought back throughout the remainder of the game, only to lose in overtime by a score of 91-82. Texas A&M several times managed to cut Texas Tech's lead to four and two points, but the Aggies only once surpassed the final obstacle that gave them the lead.

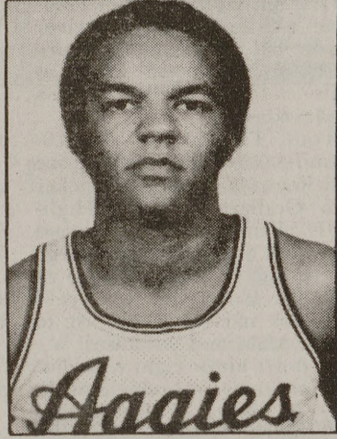
Forward Claude Riley's 18-foot jumper with 19 seconds left in the game tied the score at 76, where it remained until the end of regulation. Texas A&M took its only lead of the game, 82-80, with 2:53 left in the overtime, but Texas Tech's seven free throws in the final 1:28 of the game secured the victory.

The Aggies, after Arkansas' 79-69 defeat of TCU, Houston's 77-63 defeat of Texas and Baylor's 70-59 victory over SMU, are two games behind the first-place Razorbacks in the Southwest Conference. Texas A&M's overall record is 13-7, while the Aggies' conference record of 6-4 falls two games shy of Arkansas' 8-2.

Texas Tech is in a five-way tie for third place with Texas, TCU, Houston and Baylor, all



Tyren Naulls



Gary Lewis

of whom have 6-5 conference records.

The loss marked the ninth straight time the Aggies have lost in Lubbock, with their last win being by a 64-62 score in 1976.

Leading the Aggies were guard Tyren Naulls with 19 points, while freshman guard Gary Lewis had a season-high 15 points. Also in double figures for Texas A&M were Riley with 13, and Rudy Woods and Milton Woodley with 10 apiece.

Smith led the Red Raiders with 24 points, and Taylor finished with 21. Joe Washington had 16 for Texas Tech, and center Clarence Swannegan had 13.

When the Aggies pulled to within five at 26-21 with 6:11 left in the first half, the Raiders scored seven consecutive points to take the 12-point lead. However, baskets by Woods, Riley and Lewis cut the lead to 35-27 with two minutes remaining.

A three-point play by Taylor after a foul on Woods made the score 40-32, but the Aggies scored the final four points of the half to trail 40-36 at half-time.

The Aggies finally tied the Raiders at 44 with 16:43 left, one of four times in the game that Texas A&M tied Texas Tech. Two of those were in the overtime, and one was at the end of regulation.

Woodley's 15-footer brought the first tie, but Texas Tech built its lead to 50-44 on a basket by Swannegan, two free throws by Taylor and a goaltending call on Woods on a shot by Washington.

Texas A&M fought back again to cut the lead to 52-50 on a field goal by Reggie Roberts and two free throws each from Riley and Woodley. Once again, however, the Texas Tech lead grew to eight at 60-52 with 10:14 left in the game.

Less than three minutes later, the Aggies cut the lead to 62-60 on a pair of free throws by Roberts at the 7:48 mark. A Swannegan jumper gave Texas Tech another eight-point lead with five minutes left, and that lead rose to nine points, 73-64 with only 3:37 remaining.

One free throw each by Lewis and Naulls cut the lead by two, and the score stood at 73-66 with 2:58 to go. Lewis' 15-footer and

Woodley's two free throws brought the Aggies to within four, 74-70, with 1:49 left in the game.

Naulls was fouled by Charles Johnson with 1:31 remaining, and hit both ends of his one-and-one attempt to make the score 74-72. Smith's two free throws after being fouled by Woodley gave Texas Tech a 76-72 lead with 53 seconds left.

A jumper by Lewis made the score 76-74 with 40 seconds remaining, and Smith's traveling violation six seconds later gave the Aggies the ball and a chance to tie the game. Riley's shot with 19 seconds left sent the game into overtime.

Texas Tech took a four-point lead 40 seconds into the five-minute overtime, and the Aggies took their only lead of the game two minutes later. However, with the score 82-80, the Aggies couldn't score in the final 2:53 of the overtime, while the Red Raiders scored 11 points during that time.

The game was one in which six players fouled out, four of them for the Aggies. Roberts, Thomas, Lewis and Woodley fouled out, with the latter three doing so in the overtime, while Taylor and Johnson fouled out for Texas Tech.

Metcalf said the Aggies never recovered after Texas Tech took its early lead.

"Tech played fine, they really did," Metcalf said. "We had to work so hard to get back in the ballgame, but we just couldn't do it. It was just one of those things where at the end, we were pretty short-handed."

"We didn't get back (on defense)... and they got a couple of easy baskets on us early in the game. That put us in a hole and it was an uphill battle all the way."

Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. in G. Rollie White Coliseum, the Aggies host the SMU Mustangs, currently in last place in the SWC.

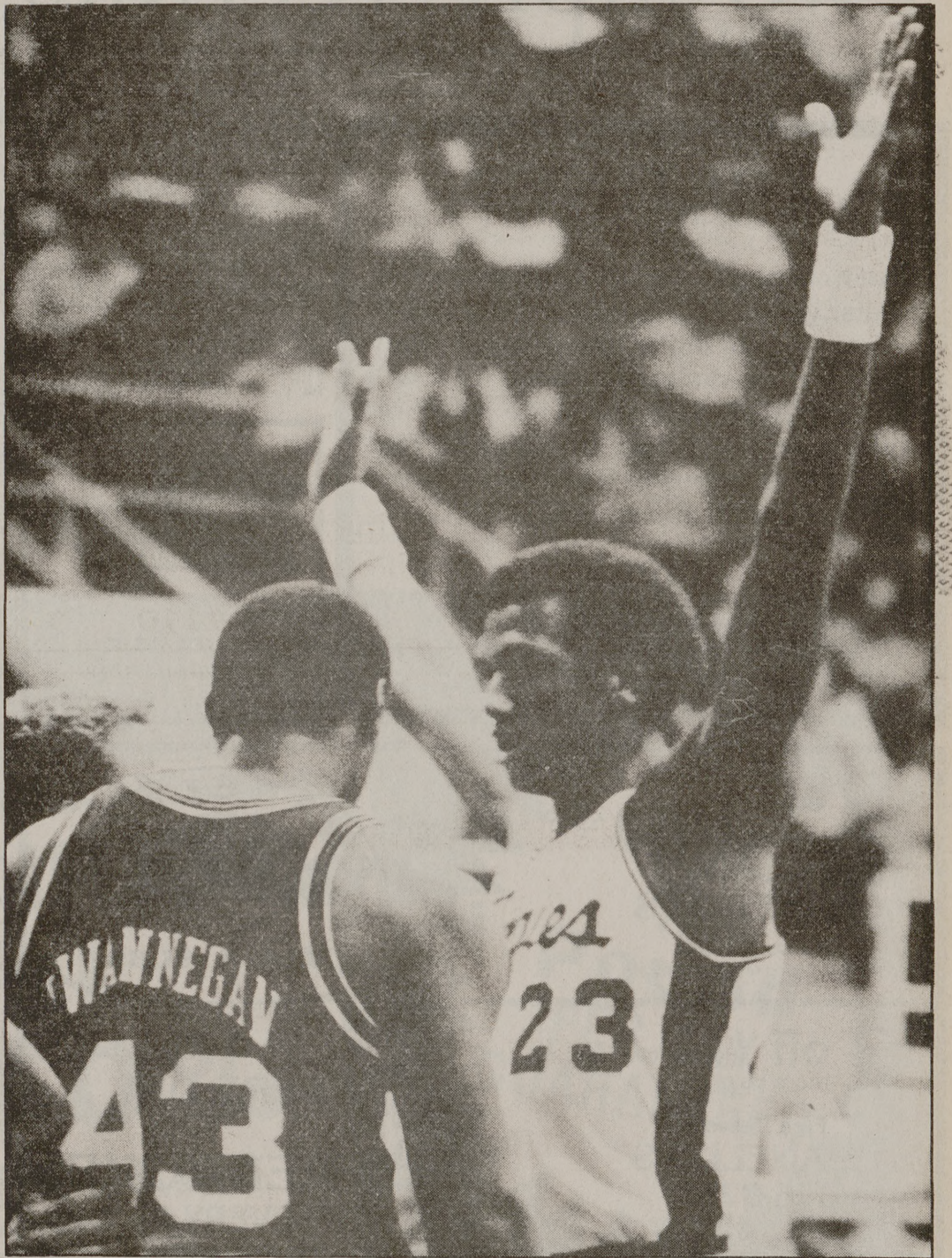


photo by Donn Friedmann

Rudy Woods (23) of the Texas A&M basketball team pleads innocence after a foul was called on him during Texas Tech's 68-64 victory over the Aggies Jan. 11 in G. Rollie

White Coliseum. The Red Raiders defeated Texas A&M again Monday night in Lubbock, this time by a score of 91-82 in overtime.

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