

Aggies lose 92-75

Hogs defeat A&M in Fayetteville barnburner

by Bill Robinson

Battalion Staff

The Arkansas Razorbacks proved that they have a championship caliber basketball team Monday night as they burned the Aggies 92-75 before a partisan crowd of 9,300 in Fayetteville's Barnhill Arena.

The Razorbacks, 18-5, increased their Southwest Conference record to 9-4 and broke a two-game losing streak. Arkansas is now two victories away from clinching at least a tie for the regular-season league crown.

Texas A&M fell to 15-8 and 8-5 and into a second-place tie with TCU and Baylor, both of which play tonight.

Arkansas scored the first six points of the game and routed Texas A&M in the first half, when the Razorbacks took a 41-27 lead.

The Hogs built the margin to 20 points before the Aggies went on a late 13-2 streak.

Controversial guard Darrell Walker completed the game without incident and scored 16 points in the Hogs' victory, partially redeeming himself after Saturday's game against Texas.

Arkansas' fans were also unusually nice, earning the praise of A&M coach Shelby Metcalf.

"Arkansas has been getting a lot of ink over their crowd control lately, but tonight they were great," he said. "They are moving in the right direction and I hope they can sustain it."

"The crowd control tonight was comparable to what you would find in G. Rollie White."

Arkansas displayed incredible ball control en route to the 17-point thrashing of the Aggies for first place in the Southwest Conference.

The Hogs hit 65 percent from the floor with four players finishing the contest in double figures.

Center Scott Hastings paced the Arkansas attack, scoring a season-high 27 points. Razorback guard Tony Brown added 13 points and forward Keith Peterson had 12 points in the victory.

Guard Reggie Roberts led the Aggies, finishing with a career-high 26 points. Two other Texas A&M players scored in double figures, as guard Milton Woodley had 12 points and forward Claude Riley had 10 points.

The Aggies' performance did not satisfy Metcalf, however.

"I was disappointed in our defense," he said. "Players forgot assignments and then we were playing catch-up the rest of the night."

"As a team, I didn't think the team effort was good... we didn't limit them to one shot."

"Once we relaxed we played better, but you can't make up that kind of a deficit," he said.

Razorback coach Eddie Sutton had praise for his team's performance in the contest.

"I think for the first 30 minutes we played about as well as we played all year long," Sutton said after the game. "It got a little sloppy at the end, but that's going to happen any time that you break open a ball game."

"We felt it might be a higher scoring ball game than we have had in the past. I never would have thought we

would have put that many points on the board, but we're just happy to win and get back in first place."

"Everybody's going to be chasing us again, but that's a nice feeling to know that you're back in first place all by yourself," Sutton said.

"Certainly you've got to give Texas A&M some credit because their players continued to battle and I think they finally got it down to, I don't know, 11 points, I think, was the closest they ever got to us. But it was a great effort tonight. We did a good job attacking their zone and then when they went man-to-man we did an excellent job of getting the ball inside to Hastings."

"I guess it's the best shooting performance we've had in a while, both from the field and from the free throw line," he said. "Unofficially, these guys were 65 percent from the field and 71 percent from the free-throw line. I think if we had that type of average every night out we'd win a lot of ball games."

"I thought that defensively we did an outstanding job on the people inside," Sutton said. "Keith Peterson drew the defensive starting assignment on Claude Riley and that's been a real key in both our wins, because Riley's one of the top forwards in the conference. Pete did a good job and him and Scott did a good job on Rudy Woods."

The victory kept alive an Arkansas streak in Barnhill Arena, where the Razorbacks are 87-6 under Sutton and have won 36 of their last 37. Arkansas has 16 consecutive victories in the arena.

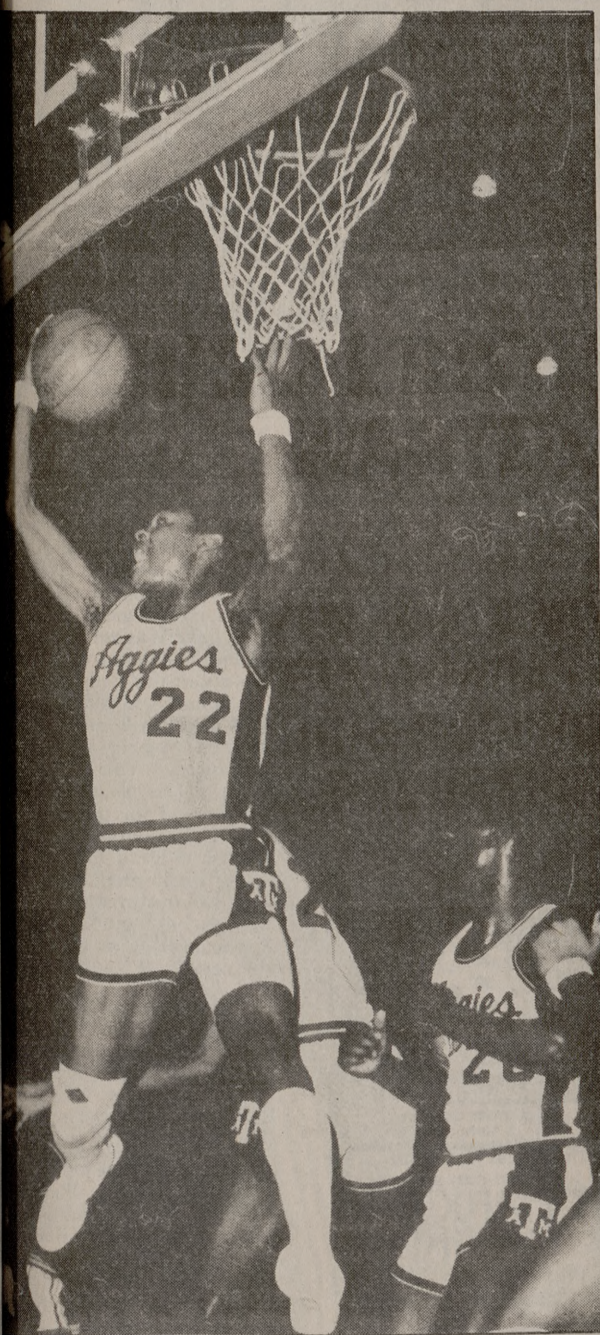


photo by Bob Sebree

Reggie Roberts (22) of the Texas A&M basketball team jumps high above teammates Tyren Naulls (left) and Rudy Woods to grab a rebound during the Aggies' victory over Arkansas Saturday in G. Rollie White Coliseum. Texas A&M lost to the Arkansas Razorbacks 92-75 Monday night to fall to a three-way tie for second place.

Nuggets defeat Jazz in battle

United Press International

SALT LAKE CITY — Denver Coach Doug Moe says his team was tuning up for the playoffs Monday night when eight of the Nuggets scored in double figures against the Utah Jazz in a physical game that featured 60 fouls, 38 turnovers and 22 steals.

The Denver Nuggets and the Utah Jazz are a pair of offensive-minded teams. In the last meeting between the two, at Denver last week, the Jazz won it 151-148. Monday night, the Nuggets took the game 145-134. That's a total of 293 points in two games for Denver and 285 points for the Jazz.

"Tonight's win was a good one for us," Moe said. "We needed it for the playoffs."

Denver came out shooting, scoring 45 points in the first

quarter to take an 11 point lead. The Nuggets added 32 more in the second period, stretching the lead to 77-64.

The second half was a repeat of the first, except for an occasional Jazz attempt to catch up.

"One or two times we gave them a little chance to come back, but it never got closer than 10 points," Moe said. "Utah just got cold and didn't play a good game."

Denver stretched its lead to 22 late in the third period after squelching a brief Jazz rally.

Utah trailed by 17 as the final period opened and rallied late in the game, but the Nuggets held on for the win despite turning the ball over several times in the fourth quarter.

The Nuggets hit on 57 percent of their shots from the field, with Kiki Vandeweghe, Alex English and Dan Issel combining for 69 points to lead the balanced attack.

Utah shot 48.6 percent from the field, with forward Adrian Dantley leading all scorers with 40 points, two short of his per-

formance against the Nuggets at Denver last week. Dantley also got a game-high 13 rebounds.

Vandeweghe led the Nuggets with 24 points, while English had 23 and Issel had 22. Issel, the Nuggets veteran center, also pulled down 10 rebounds.

Jazz Coach Frank Layden, who usually spends the game pacing, jumping and shouting on the sidelines sat out most of the Denver game in the locker room after he was ejected with less than two minutes to go in the first period.

He lost his temper when the officials failed to catch Thompson walking with the ball.

"I protested the walking, that's why I was ejected," Layden said. "You can't let the opponents have advantages like that early in the game."

Layden's son, Jazz assistant coach Scott Layden took over for the remainder of the contest.

The win left the Nuggets record at 27-23, good enough for third place in the NBA's Midwest Division, 5½ games behind first place San Antonio.

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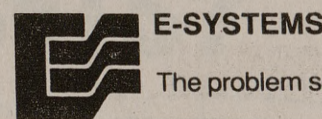
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