

Aggies vs. Coogs

Second place, bye to SWC semifinals on line

by Frank L. Christlieb

Sports Editor
Claude Riley hasn't forgotten

But the 6-10 Texas A&M forward, who has led the Aggies in scoring all season, says he isn't really expecting to repeat his masterful performance here that day.

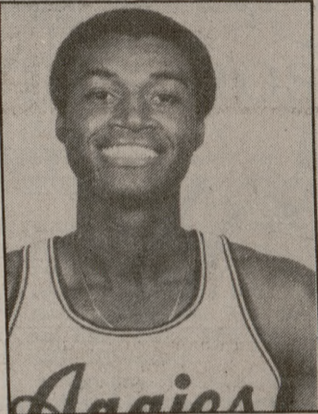
Riley showed the Houston Cougars that ought to pay more attention to him in the future, scoring a career-high 38 points and collecting 18 rebounds in the Aggies' 95-77 victory. But he said Thursday that he still expects to show Houston coach Guy Lewis will make certain he won't have that kind of success Monday when the Aggies face the Cougars in Hofheinz Pavilion at 2:10 p.m.

"In that game, I had no idea anything like that was going to happen," Riley said. "I just got a little hot and started hitting the id fruits boys."

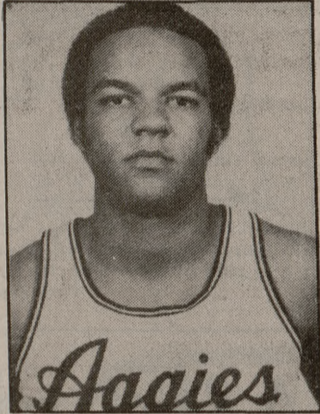
"They're going to be very conscious of me this time. They'll have two people close to me at all times until our guards get hot."

"I'll have someone in my face the whole game. If our guards keep hitting and penetrating, I'll have to get out there on defense."

The Cougars have won seven games in a row since the loss to the Aggies and have crept slowly



Claude Riley



Gary Lewis

into a second-place tie with Texas A&M. While both teams have 10-5 records, Houston has a 19-6 season mark and Texas A&M is 17-8.

If the Aggies defeat the Cougars, they will clinch second place and a bye into the semifinals of the Southwest Conference tournament next week. If Texas A&M loses and fourth-place Baylor defeats TCU in Fort Worth, the Aggies will finish in fourth place and will host the last-place SMU Mustangs Monday in the first round of the tournament.

During the past few games, the Aggies have relied mostly on

the play of guards Milton Woodley, Reggie Roberts, Tyren Naulls and Gary Lewis, who combined for 31 assists in Tuesday's 83-74 defeat of TCU.

Lewis had 10 assists in the game, Woodley had eight, and Roberts and Naulls had five apiece.

Lewis said the Aggies aren't even thinking about their easy victory over the Cougars three weeks ago.

"Nobody's overconfident," Lewis said. "You've got to go in there like you haven't played them before."

Riley, who had been shooting

only 31 percent from the field since the Houston game, broke loose for 23 points against the Horned Frogs.

Roberts, averaging 12 points a game, said that the Aggies realize the importance of the game.

"It'll be a really tough game," Roberts said. "We won't make any changes — we'll use the same defense. They'll have to worry about shutting us down. I'm sure they're going to be keying on Claude."

"We're confident, but we're not overconfident."

Riley said that the Aggies have no intention of playing here in Monday's opening round.

"It's going to be tough, because the Cougars know that they have to win," Riley said. "This is a must game for us and Houston too."

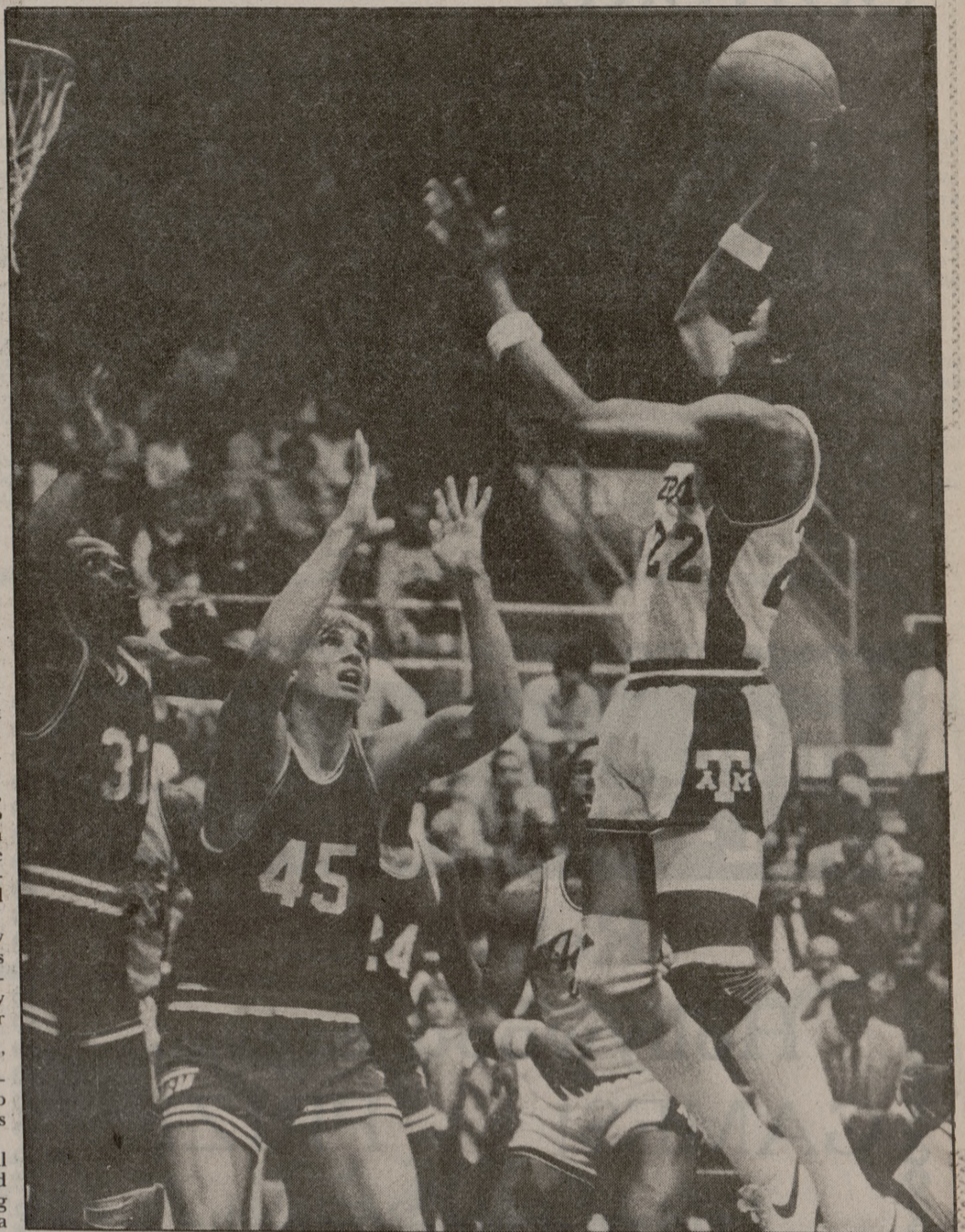
"If we keep playing patient, smart ball, we should be able to beat them. I know that they can be beat down there. I think if we can go down with that great intensity, we'll have a real good chance to win."

Texas A&M coach Shelby Metcalf said that if the Cougars are thinking about concentrating their efforts on Riley, they may have their work cut out for them.

"I think that'd be a mistake," Metcalf said. "Houston has improved a lot defensively and Rob (Williams, Cougar guard) has gotten his eye back."

Metcalf said the Aggies will have to stop Houston forward Clyde Drexler, who is averaging 16 points and 12 rebounds a game.

"Drexler's the guy we have trouble with," Metcalf said. "We've got the SWAT team from the Houston police coming out to stop him. If we could have one player off that team, it'd be Drexler."



staff photo by Eric Mitchell

Texas A&M guard Reggie Roberts leaps above TCU's Brian Christensen and Doug Arnold to put up a one-handed jumper during the Aggies' 83-74 victory Tuesday night. Texas A&M battles the Houston

Cougars for second place Saturday at 2:10 p.m. in Hofheinz Pavilion. Both teams are tied with 10-5 Southwest Conference records.

Metcalf says junior Thomas to remain on Aggie squad

by Frank L. Christlieb

Sports Editor

Coach Shelby Metcalf said Thursday that reserve forward

like Thomas, who stormed off the floor and out of G. Rollie White Coliseum during Tuesday's game with TCU, is still on the team and has been "disciplined" for his outburst.

Thomas had twice missed defensive assignments in the second half of the Aggies' victory, prompting Metcalf to take

him out for purposes of correcting the mistakes. However, Thonding redness left the coliseum abruptly and knocked down a chair on his way out.

Metcalf said: "He (Thomas) met with the coaches and the captains and it's all over. It's forgotten."

"Things happen in the heat of battle. The news media are the ones who make a big deal out of it."

Metcalf would not comment on the handling of Thomas' situation.

"I don't think that's anything the public needs to know," Metcalf said. "He's been disciplined and it's over."

Graduate assistant coach David Goff also said the episode had been taken care of.

"Mike had to apologize," Goff said. "He got disciplined and it's all cleared up."

Thomas practiced with the team Thursday after having missed Wednesday's workout.

Thomas, a 6-6 transfer from Kilgore Junior College, is averaging three points and two rebounds a game. He averaged 22 points and 12 rebounds a game at Kilgore, and attended Central High School in Detroit, Mich.

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