

Dallas saga begins

Must-win situation for Texas A&M, Baylor in tournament quarterfinals

by Bill Robinson

Battalion Staff

It seems fitting that the Southwest Conference post-season basketball tournament is being played in Dallas' Reunion Arena.

At times during the 1982 season it appeared that the events unfolding in the conference could easily have been written as an episode of the television series Dallas.

Tonight that all changes, however, as the new season—a season of sudden death—begins, and the events of the regular season, for the most part, are forgotten.

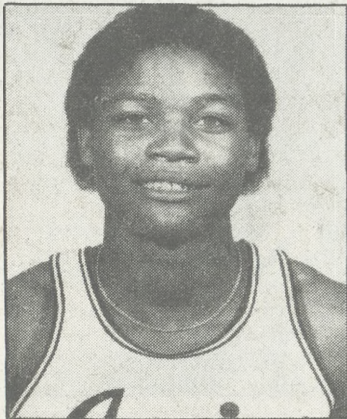
Before the night ends, two of the conference's six remaining teams will be dead for the season, unless the NCAA should choose to give them an at-large berth in the tournament.

For Texas A&M University, 17-9, Baylor University, 17-10, and the other two teams involved in tonight's action, that possibility is highly unlikely.

Tonight it is do-or-die for Coach Shelby Metcalfe's Aggie basketball team as it battles with the Baylor Bears for the rights to a shot at playing the University of Houston and winning a SWC championship.

The game will not be easy for either team. This season the two clubs split their series, with the Aggies winning 47-46 in G. Rolie White Coliseum and the Bears winning 58-55 in a dark Heart O' Texas Coliseum.

In both meetings the Bears



Reggie Roberts

outshot Texas A&M. At home the Aggies shot 47.7 percent while Baylor hit 55.6 percent. In Waco, the Aggies' shooting dropped to 36.6 percent as the Bears shot 48.9 percent.

A major factor in the game will be consistent play from Texas A&M's Claude Riley and Baylor's Terry Teagle.

Teagle, the conference's second leading scorer this year, who became the league's all-time leading scorer late in the season, is trying to come back from a bout with the flu.

"Obviously," said Baylor coach Jim Haller, "we need Terry playing well if we have a chance against the Aggies."

"The only thing I hope is that our shooting comes back. Our shooting the last two games has

been terrible."

Shooting has not been a problem for the Aggies in recent games, though.

Texas A&M shot 55 percent against both Texas Christian University and Houston, its last two opponents of the season.

Senior forward Rudy Woods led the Aggies in shooting accuracy this season at 56.6 percent. Woods also had 22 dunks in 26 games.

The Aggies' leading dunker was Reggie Roberts, however, with 23. Roberts shot over 50 percent on the season and stole the ball 36 times to lead the team.

Junior forward Claude Riley has sparked the Aggies this year. He scored 406 points and shot 45 percent, grabbing 263 rebounds to lead the team.

Riley scored a career high 38 points and had 18 rebounds in the Aggies' 95-77 victory over Houston Feb. 1 but was held to six points and seven rebounds two days later as Texas A&M fell to Baylor.

Following the Texas A&M-Baylor game, TCU will take on Texas Tech University for the right to meet the University of Arkansas, whose coach had

some strong words about the tournament.

Coach Eddie Sutton's ire was raised because no games from the Southwest Conference post-season basketball tournament will be televised this year.

"I think we are missing the boat by not televising some portion of this tournament," said Sutton. "We have great basketball in this conference and we should be exposing it more to the public."

"I don't care if you feel you have to black out Texas and Arkansas, but we should be trying to show our product all over the country."

League officials have said the chief reason for no television is that no decent offer was made to the league.

The lack of television coverage of the games has caused the 17,000-seat Reunion Arena to sell out, meaning the largest crowd in SWC history for the post-season tournament.

For the Aggies, it is the fifth time in seven years they have made it past the first round, compiling a 2-3 record in actual tournament action and winning the 1980 SWC championship.

Baylor has never won a post-season tournament game.

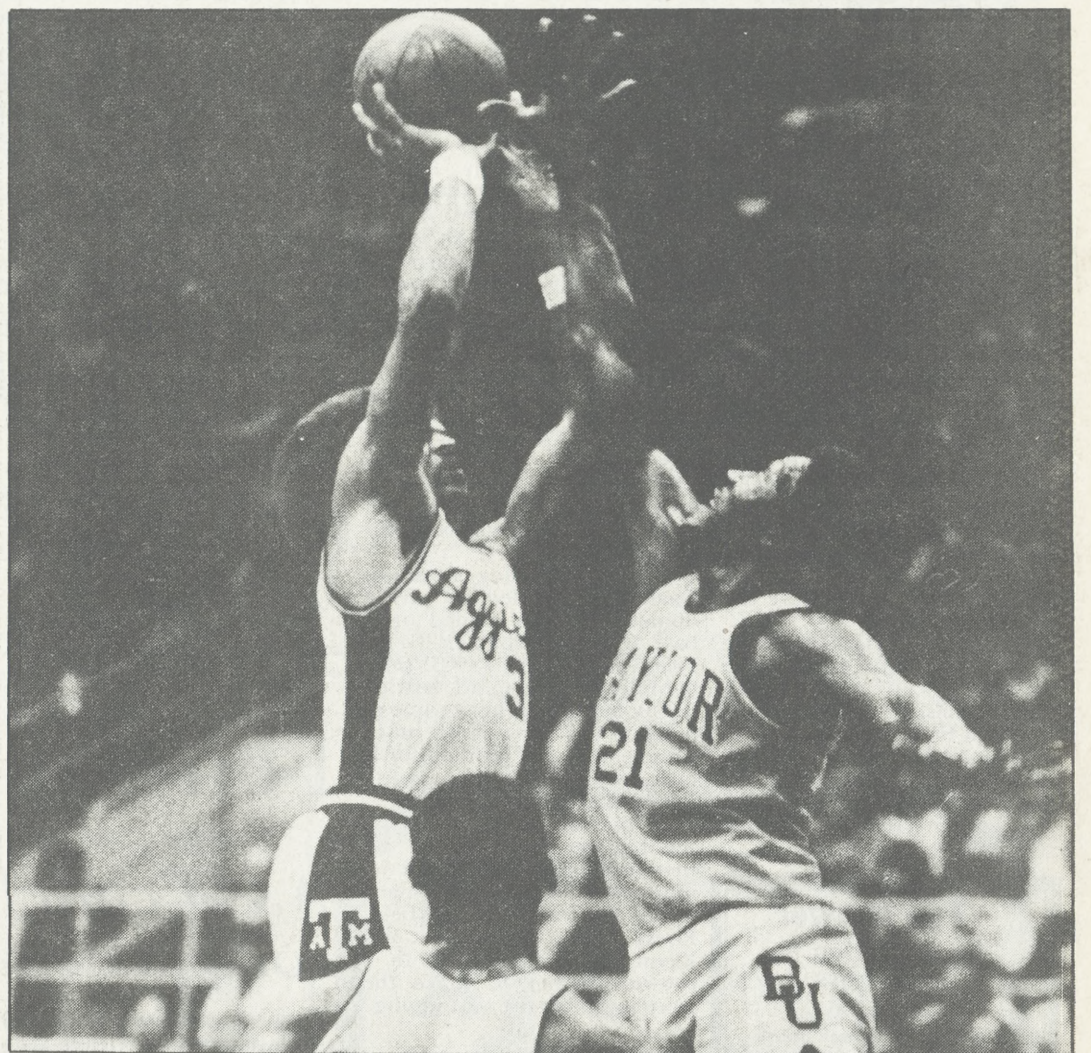


photo by Donn Friedman

Texas A&M's Lonnie Bluntson goes high to loft a shot over Baylor center Ozell Hall in the Aggie's 47-46 victory earlier in the season, while Baylor forward Joe Copeland

watches the play. Texas A&M and Baylor play tonight in the quarterfinals of the Southwest Conference tournament in Dallas.

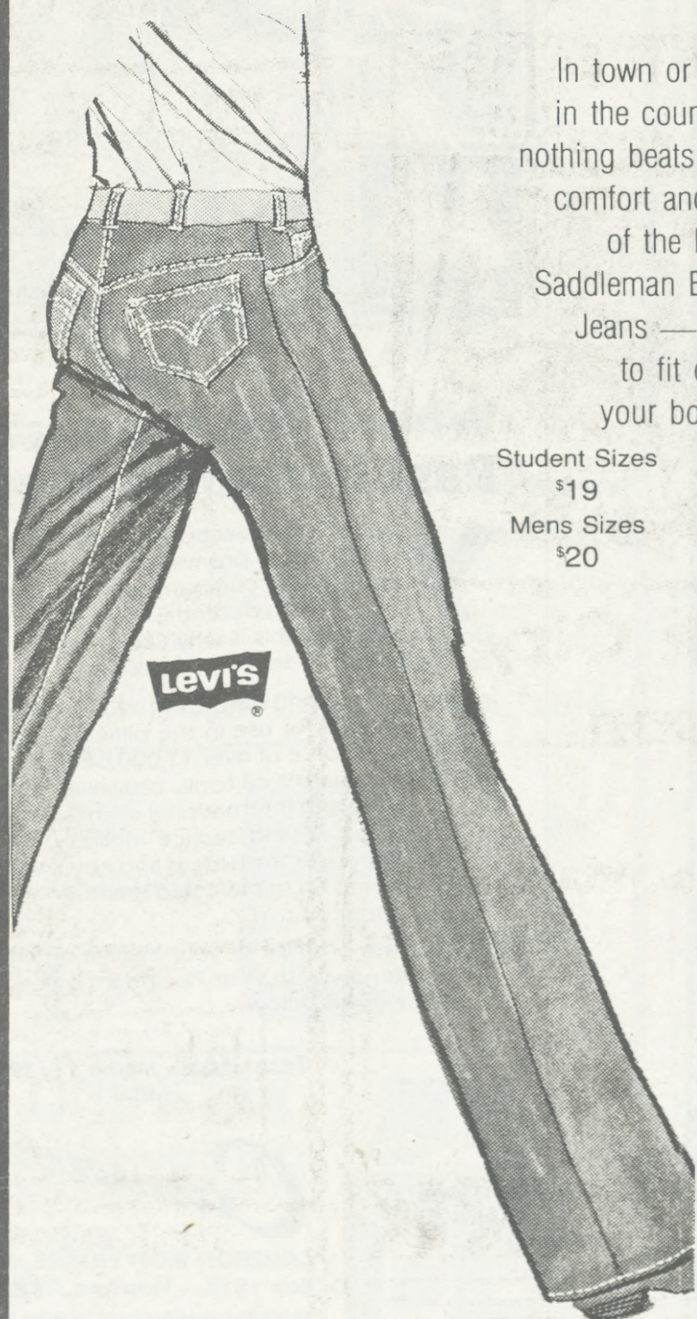
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