

The Battalion Sports

January 24, 1983 Page 11

Aggies 'Rocket' past SMU Mustangs 85-77

Lack of control hurt, Bliss says of Mustangs

by John P. Lopez
Battalion Staff

Before SMU head coach Dave Bliss fielded questions from the press after his Mustangs lost to Texas A&M 85-77 Saturday night, he did some thinking out loud while looking over the final play-by-play statistics.

"(Kenny) Brown 30-foot jumper left side, Brown 33-foot jumper right side, Brown 30-foot jumper right side — boy, can he shoot," Bliss said. "You can't consistently win games by shooting from the outside that much, but you can sure build an early lead and set the tempo of the game with those bombs."

Indeed, the Aggies did just that in handing SMU only its sixth loss of the year against 11 wins. In the early stages of the game, SMU used a tenacious full-court press to give the Aggies fits and keep the game close, but Brown's key shots kept the Mustangs from taking a lead.

Texas A&M jumped out to a 2-0 lead on a Reggie Roberts' reverse dunk, but the Mustangs used the press to come back and tie the score eight times before Brown, Jimmie Gilbert and Roy Jones took control of the remainder of the first half.

At the 8:47 mark of the half, after SMU's Jon Koncak hit a

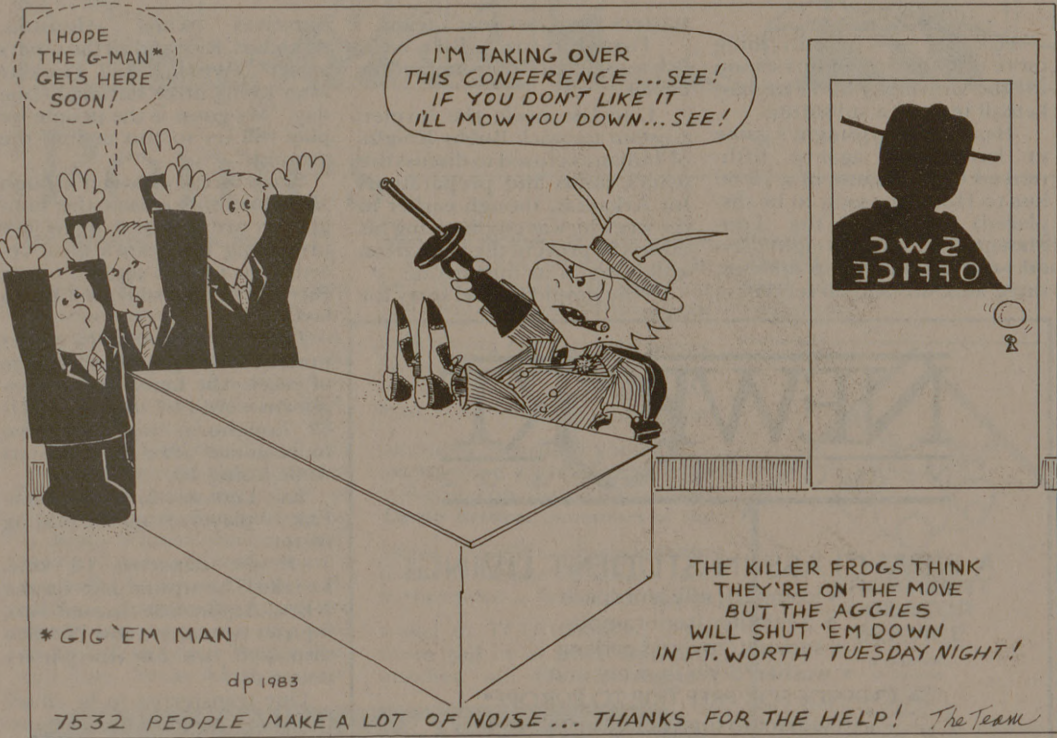
short jumper from the right side, Texas A&M ran off six straight points to take control of the game. Jones drove for a slam and Lowell McHenry followed with a 12-foot jump shot from the lane after a snazzy move that brought the crowd to its feet.

After McHenry's basket SMU called time out, but a minute later the Aggies picked up where they left off as Tyren Naulls stole a pass and went the distance for a layup.

Later in the half, Gilbert gave the Aggies a 10-point lead on an alley-oop tip-in that was intended for Claude Riley. Brown continued to loosen the Mustangs' 1-2-2 zone by hitting a 25-footer from the right and swishing one in from 29 feet.

Brown's long-range bombs, strong inside scoring by Jones and Gilbert and Texas A&M's adaption to the SMU press helped the Aggies finish the half with an eight-point lead, but Bliss said that with the exception of Gilbert, the Aggie trio was not as big a factor in the second half.

"I kind of expected Gilbert to have a good game," Bliss said. "He's an up and coming player that has really developed. He hurt us the whole game. I don't think Brown hurt us as much in the second half, but that's because we gave Claude the shots



in the middle." So true. The Mustangs stifled Riley in the first half, limiting him to only four points, but in the second stanza Riley exploded for 14 points and six rebounds. At one point during the second half, SMU had cut what was a 13-point Aggie lead to six. Mustang guard Chuck Anderson was shooting a one and one when Riley rocketed high to

grab the rebound off the missed free-throw and converted on the other end of the court with an 18-ft baseline jumper off a Lowell McHenry assist. From that point, the Aggie lead never again dipped below eight points as Gilbert and Riley dominated the offensive and defensive boards and controlled almost all of the Aggie scoring. From the 6:44 mark of the second half until there was less than three minutes to play in the game, Riley and Gilbert accounted for all of Texas A&M's points. Gilbert tallied seven of his eight second-half points during that stretch and Riley added four points along with two assists and a blocked shot. Going into the game, Texas A&M's main concern was stopping Koncak, the Mustangs' 7-foot center who has been a stellar force in the middle for SMU. By the middle of the second half, however, Koncak and Co.

was doing all it could to stop the Riley-Gilbert tandem. "We stopped coming up on Riley in the second half and paid for it," Bliss said. "He burned us for a lot of points in the second half but really, he's just a super player. One time we did come up on him and I thought we did a good job, but he made the shot anyway and we fouled him. "I think Texas A&M just did a good job shooting the ball the whole game, but if you were to look at one statistic that gave them the game it would be rebounding. Time after time they had second and third shots." Texas A&M outrebounded SMU 38-29. Perhaps another key factor was the 7,532 screaming Aggie partisans cheering on Texas A&M. Bliss said the vocal crowd shouldn't have affected his young and inexperienced team — but did.

Riley scores 18 points to power Aggie effort

by Joe Tindel Jr.
Battalion Staff

The SMU Mustangs should have scheduled the Aggies a couple of weeks ago when Claude Riley was still recovering from mono. They should have played Texas A&M while Kenny Brown was still wondering what happened to his long-distance jumper.

They should have caught Jimmy Gilbert during his shy days, and they never should have set foot in G. Rollie White Coliseum, where 7,532 screaming, whooping and wildcatting Aggie fans were waiting for a slaughter.

But the Ponies were committed. The result was an 85-77 loss at the hands of Coach Shelby Metcalf's steadily improving basketball squad.

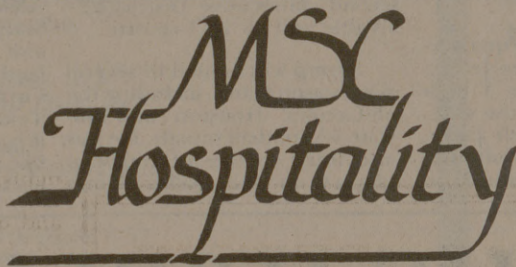
Saturday night's victory moves the Aggies' conference record past .500 at 3-2, and sets the stage for a key contest Tuesday night at TCU. The Horned Frogs are hailed as the third most formidable team in the Southwest Conference, behind Houston and Arkansas, and the Aggies perhaps will have a chance to steal that honor with a victory.

Riley, Texas A&M's 6-10 senior forward who exploded for 18 points against the Ponies, said recovering from his illness has brought him back up to par. "Earlier in the year I wasn't able to get to the boards as well as I should, but that's because I wasn't 100 percent," Riley said of his rebounding. "Now I'm feeling stronger, and tonight I was able to get some offensive and defensive rebounds."

Riley's jump shots, which before Saturday were bouncing off different parts of the rim, once again began to fall. "I felt like this was going to be the game that I was going to be

coming back around," Riley said. The "Crockett Rocket" wasn't the only Aggie who made a comeback against SMU. Freshman guard Kenny Brown, who gained respect early in the season with his Rob Williams-like jump shots, entered a slump during the first few conference games. But Brown re-connected his long-distance services against the Ponies, contributing 12 points to the Aggie cause. Brown said he'd been spending a lot of extra time working on getting his touch back, and it paid off Saturday night. Five out of Brown's six field goals were distant enough to be 3-pointers in the NBA. "I love to shoot — especially when I make it," Brown said. "I've been in a little bit of a slump lately, but the coach wants me to keep shooting, so that's what I do. It's certain Metcalf would just as soon see Brown keep such an attitude about shooting. "What he did tonight I've seen him do in practice everyday," Metcalf said. "He really shoots a picture-perfect shot." While Riley and Brown have made the comeback, freshman center Jimmie Gilbert is leaping into view as both a scorer and a powerful rebounder. Gilbert scored a career-high 16 points against the Ponies. Metcalf said he's pleased with Gilbert's progress. "He's just going to get better because he stays out 30 minutes every day and works on his shooting," Metcalf said. "Jimmie Gilbert wants to be a good player." The Aggies have won four out of their last five games, and can have sole possession of third place in the conference standings with a victory over TCU Tuesday.

See PONIES page 13



Interviews for new members
Sunday, January 23 Room #145 MSC
Monday thru Wednesday Room #203 MSC
5:30-9:00 p.m.

Applications and interview sign-ups in the hospitality cubicle in the SPO.

Sunday is Smash The Trash Night
50¢ Bar Drinks All Night
 Lipstik & Hastings rate newly released music.
 Guys \$4⁰⁰ Ladies \$2⁰⁰


Monday is \$1000⁰⁰ Gong Show Night
 Winners from Monday nights go to finals worth \$1000⁰⁰.
 Tonight's winners receive \$1000⁰⁰ 1st, \$250⁰⁰ 2nd, Lipstik Shirt 3rd.
\$1⁰⁰ Bar Drinks & Beer
All Night Long \$1⁰⁰ cover

Tuesday is Pajama Night
\$1⁰⁰ Bar Drinks til 10 p.m. and all night if you wear your P.J.s.
Naughty Nighty Contest
 \$300⁰⁰ first — \$1⁰⁰ second — Lipstik Shirt 3rd
 \$2⁰⁰ Guys — \$1⁰⁰ Ladies

Wednesday is Ladies Night
50¢ Bar Drinks for Ladies
All Night \$2⁰⁰ Guys Ladies FREE



Woodstone Commerce Center



COLLEGE REPUBLICANS

AGGIES FOR GRAMM

Organizational Meeting

TUESDAY

JANUARY 25

8:00 p.m.

308 RUDDER TOWER