

The Battalion Sports

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A&M rolls past Texas Tech, 78-63

Riley, Roberts combine for 38 points

by Joe Tindel Jr.

In some cases, statistics don't always tell the story of a basketball game. Monday night's contest between the Aggies and Texas Tech, however, wasn't one of those cases.

Given the Aggies' 64 percent field-goal shooting to Tech's 47.5, as well as Texas A&M's 36-2 rebounding edge, it's simple to understand the conclusion — 78-63 Aggie victory.

From the outset, one could tell it would be Claude Riley's evening. The Aggies' 6-10 senior forward was responsible for the first four Aggie points, and when it was all over, he and Tech's Bubba Jennings shared

the game-high 20 points.

After Riley opened the scoring with a 13-foot jumper from inside the lane, Tech guard David Reynolds' 15-footer tied the game for the last time at two. From then on it was all Texas A&M, with Riley and forward Roy Jones acting as masters of ceremonies for the first half. Jones scored all 10 of his points in the first half, using just about every kind of shot imaginable.

"We came out with a lot of intensity tonight," Jones, the 6-7 senior said. "That's always the key. That's what Coach (Metcalf) always tells us."

The crowd might have become bored if the Aggies hadn't thrown in a few alley-oop dunks

along with some fancy ball-handling to keep things going. But even without such entertainment, Coach Shelby Metcalf's cagers still would've chalked up their fifth conference victory in eight outings.

Junior guard Reggie Roberts and senior guard Tyren Naulls picked up the show for Jones and Riley in the second half. Naulls, who finished the contest with 13 points, scored the opening points of the half on a layup, stretching the Aggie lead to 44-31.

Roberts scored 11 of his 18 points in the second half and stole the show late in the game with some impressive behind-the-back dribbling.

Freshman guard Kenny Brown got in the game often enough to contribute 8 points to the Aggie cause. Brown, known for his long-distance jumpers, hit from 28, 23, 22 and 25 feet.

While four Aggies scored in the double figures, only Jennings and sophomore forward Vince Taylor, with 17 points, entered two digits for the Red Raiders. Their shots kept the score respectable but did little else to counter the Aggie onslaught.

Aggie coach Shelby Metcalf spoke highly of his team's improvement — improvement that has helped the Aggies win five out of their last seven outings.

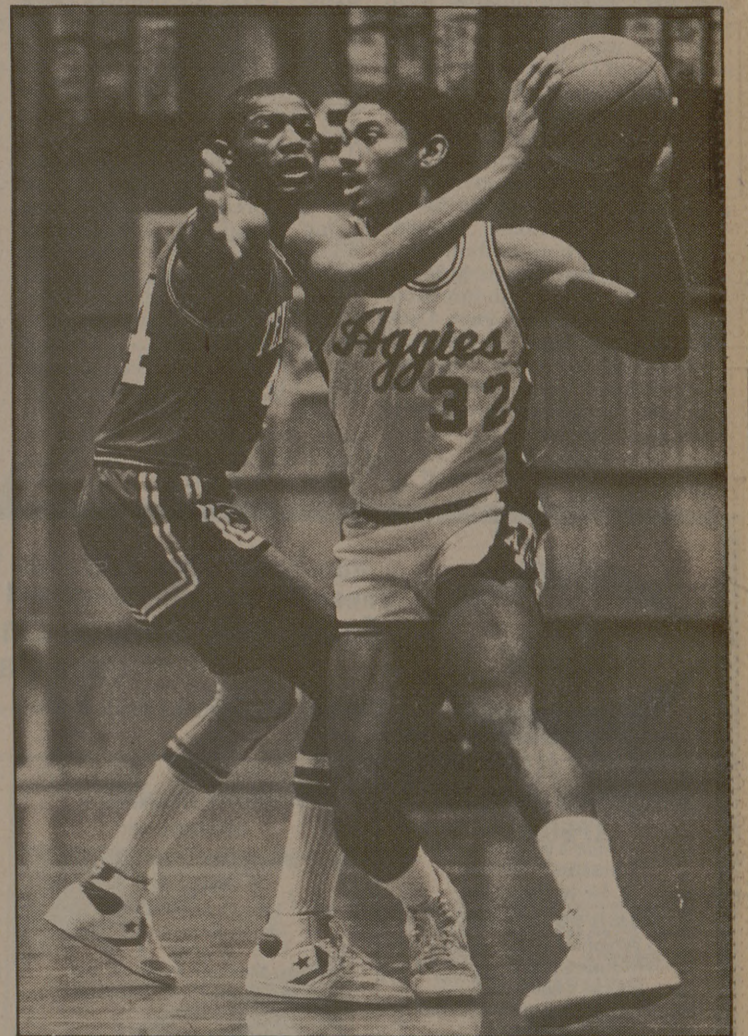
"We wanted to be disciplined, and we are getting better all the

time and our shot selection is getting better," Metcalf said. "I think the team has made great progress in January."

The Aggies will open the second round of conference action when the Houston Cougars, unbeaten in SWC games and ranked 11th nationally, will invade G. Rollie White Coliseum Saturday. The game will be televised regionally by NBC.

The Cougars blasted the Aggies 84-61 in the first round, but Metcalf said he's expecting quite a shootout this weekend.

"The Cougars haven't lost a game since we played them, and they've played everybody in the league," Metcalf said. "I think we'll be better prepared than last time."



staff photo by David Fisher

Kenny Brown looks for help from his teammates as Texas Tech forward Vince Taylor defends. Brown and the Aggies defeated the Red Raiders 78-63 to raise their Southwest Conference record to 5-3.

Red Raiders still 'holding together'

by Frank L. Christlieb

It had been over a year since the Aggies had defeated the Texas Tech Red Raiders. In two games during Tech's 17-11 season in 1981-82, Texas A&M lost 38-64 in G. Rollie White Coliseum and 91-82 in the chilly confines of Lubbock Municipal Coliseum.

And to make the Raiders even more confident of their chances of success against the Aggies, Coach Gerald Myers' Texas Tech teams had won four of their last five against Texas A&M.

Make that six of their last eight. Or even nine of their last 12. What about 12 of their last 15, dating back to the 1975-76 season?

At any rate, no matter where the games have been played, the Aggies have had their troubles against the Red Raiders.

Myers, who's been a Texas

Tech mainstay for the past 12 seasons, made a drastic move in early January when he kicked starters Charles Johnson, Joe Washington and Dwight Phillips off the team for disciplinary reasons. The team promptly lost its next two games — to SMU 94-77 and TCU 59-57 — as Myers tried to choose his starting five from a group of eight players.

But 5-10 guard Bubba Jennings, the team's scoring leader all season, says the Red Raiders haven't decided to roll over and play dead, even with a 6-15 record overall and a 3-5 record in the Southwest Conference.

"I think we've made a little progress, if anything, since we lost those players," Jennings said after the Aggies defeated the Red Raiders 78-63 Monday night in the coliseum. "It really hurt losing the guys we did, but we've held together. I think

that's going to help our younger players a lot."

Progress or not, Jennings said, he and his teammates had decided beforehand that they could give the Aggies a close game. But the strain of Saturday night's 58-57 road victory over Baylor in Waco may have been a bit much for the Red Raiders, he said.

"The Aggie came out real hot and were getting a lot of shots inside," Jennings said. "I felt like we didn't play very good defense at all in the first half (when the Aggies connected on 20 of 29 field goals). I think we may have been a little tired mentally from that tough road game, but we weren't tired physically, because we've gotten some rest."

"We thought that since we beat Baylor on the road, it would give us some momentum coming in here. We knew we hadn't lost to the Aggies in a while, so we came in confident. But we

weren't overlooking them."

As it stands, the Raiders may experience a losing season for the first time since 1968-69, when they finished 11-13. Myers, who has a 215-130 record in 12 seasons at Texas Tech, has but the second half of the season to turn his team toward the .500 mark.

Myers said the Aggies, who outrebounded the Red Raiders 36-22, merely took advantage of his team's missed opportunities.

"A&M just got us playing their game right off," Myers said. "They were extremely hot

and hit well in the first half. Anytime a team hits that high percentage (A&M's 69 percent in the first half), your defense isn't playing too well."

"We needed a slower-paced game and a lower-scoring game on the road, but the Aggies played very well, and they were inspired and ready. After the first five minutes, our guys were a little complacent. I think after that win at Baylor, they just couldn't play real hard. But they never threw the towel in. They didn't give up — they're that

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