

Ag Ladies lose to SMU, 67-55

by Frank L. Christlieb

The Aggie women's basketball team lost its fifth game out of the last six Wednesday night, dropping a 67-55 decision to the SMU Mustangs in Dallas.

Texas A&M, which defeated SMU 77-60 in G. Rollie White Coliseum earlier this month, sank to 10-14 overall and 1-6 in Southwest Conference play with the defeat. The Aggie Ladies' road record stands at 3-10.

The Mustangs raised their record to 13-12 and 4-4 in the conference standings.

The Aggie Ladies fell behind 36-19 at halftime, shooting only 25 percent from field and being outrebounded 25-13 in first half. Texas A&M shot 31 percent in the second half to wind up the game at 29 percent and finished the game by winning the rebound battle, 44-42.

Michell Tatum, playing all 40 minutes, led the Aggie Ladies with 18 points and 15 rebounds and Kelli Harned had 13 points before fouling out late in the game.

Jenni Edgar, Texas A&M's leading scorer for the season, had committed three fouls by the 10:49 mark of the first half, so she sat out the remainder of the half. Edgar was whistled for another foul with 13:30 left in the game, was taken out and didn't return until the last few minutes. She scored four points.

Coach Cherri Rapp said the Aggie Ladies couldn't rebound from their cold shooting in the first half.

"We improved in the second half, but we made too many mental mistakes," she said. "The team may be getting down because of losing too many games. I think the players may be wondering 'are we ever going to win?' We may have been a little overconfident after beating SMU at home."

Texas A&M stayed with SMU during the first few minutes of the game, as the score was tied 6-6. But the Mustangs broke away for leads of 12-6, 26-10 and 36-19 at halftime.

The Aggie Ladies closed to within eight points at 46-38 with 8:30 left in the game, as Ann Trinka scored. But three straight baskets by the Mustangs made it 52-38, and Texas A&M could never get closer.

The Aggie Ladies play TCU Saturday in G. Rollie White at 12:30 p.m., while the men's team plays at 3:10. The women's team plays No. 3-ranked Texas here at 4:45 p.m. Monday.

Surging Spurs pop Portland by 10

United Press International
SAN ANTONIO — Mike Mitchell had the rhythm and Spurs did nothing to break his timing.

"I knew Mitchell was hot so I just kept getting him the ball," said San Antonio guard Johnny Moore.

Mitchell hit 32 points during the first three quarters to lead the Spurs to a 124-114 victory over the Portland Trail Blazers Wednesday night.

Mitchell, hitting on seven of eight shots from the floor, scored 14 of his points in the third period as San Antonio took an 87-70 lead.

"I really concentrated on my shots," he said. "We wanted to push the ball up the court and get our break going. We really need this game so we could have the home court advantage if we play Portland in the playoffs."

"Mitch was really shooting the

ball," Spurs coach Stan Albeck said. "He had great rhythm and timing on his shots. Moore and (Mike) Dunleavy did a great getting Mitch the ball where he could shoot and he got down the

floor well so he could get his shots."

Kenny Carr ignited a short Portland surge that cut San Antonio's margin to 93-82 early

in the fourth quarter, but George Gervin clinched the win with three consecutive baskets to move the lead back to 17 points with 8:36 to play.

The victory was San Antonio's

fifth in its last six starts and enabled the Spurs to maintain a five-game lead over Kansas in the NBA's Midwest Division. It snapped a five-game losing streak.

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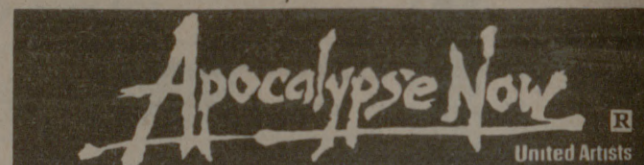
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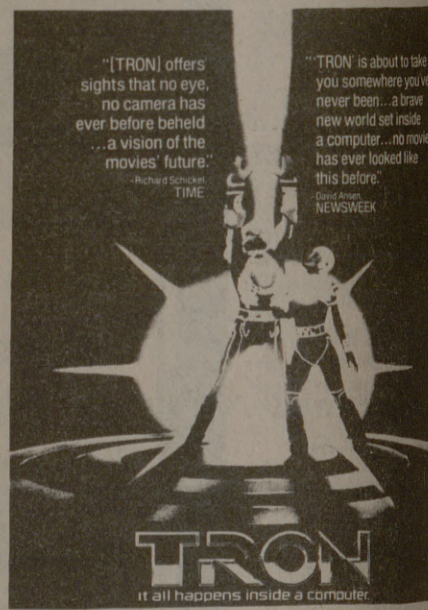
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