

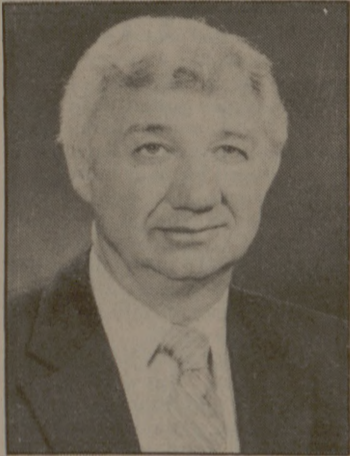
The Battalion Sports

Friday, March 11, 1983/The Battalion/Page 5

Horned Frogs advance, 65-53

TCU ends A&M season

by John P. Lopez



Shelby Metcalf says TCU defense played aggressive

Texas A&M Head Coach Shelby Metcalf said he was very impressed with the Frogs' defense. "TCU played as well tonight as I've ever seen a TCU basketball team play," he said. "They took it to us in every aspect, attacking every defense we threw at them with great patience and shot selection. They played a very aggressive zone defense." The Frog offense wasn't too

bad, either. TCU burned the nets on 67 percent shooting in the second half and 61.4 percent shooting for the game.

The main factor in the Frog offensive punch, surprisingly, was Nick Cucinella, who normally plays the role of defensive stalwart. Cucinella hit seven of seven shots from the field for 14 points.

Arnold, who hit for 16 points himself, said Cucinella's performance was perhaps his best of the year.

"Boy, he really did well tonight," he said. "He was hustling and moving around out there all night. Every time I got the ball at the top of the key and turned around, Cooch was wide open."

Cucinella said his teammates had a lot to do with his outstanding performance.

"I had a really good night tonight, and I'm glad, but let's face it — most of the (shots) were

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layups," he said. "I got lots of screens because the other guys were doing all the work. I just had to turn around and score. Brian (Christensen) and Doug

(Arnold) were setting screens and picks and were doing a really great job of it."

Naulls led the Aggie attack with 20 points and Claude Riley and Gilbert grabbed eight rebounds apiece. TCU placed four players in double figures. Darrell Browder added 17 points and Christensen chipped in 10 to go along with Arnold and Cucinella's total.

Texas A&M finishes the season with a 17-14 record while TCU faces Arkansas tonight at 8:30 in the semifinals.

In the other semifinal bracket, SMU will face the University of Houston at 6 p.m. after defeating Texas Tech by a score of 76-69.

TEXAS A&M (53)
Riley 3-11 2-2 8, Naulls 5-10 10-12 20, Roberts 4-10 3-3 11, Gilbert 2-3 0-0 4, Jones 0-2 1-2 1, Lee 2-5 0-0 4, McHenry 2-4 1-2 5, Brown 0-4 0-0 0.

TCU (65)
Nutt 3-6 2-3 8, Browder 8-13 1-2 17, Arnold 6-13 4-5 16, Cucinella 7-7 0-0 14, Christensen 3-4 4-6 10, Mortimer 0-1 0-0 0.

Halftime — TCU 33, A&M 31. **Total fouls** — A&M 17, TCU 14. **Fouled out** — Riley, Roberts. **Steals** — A&M 6 (Roberts 4), TCU 4 (Arnold 2). **Assists** — A&M 8 (Naulls 3), TCU 21 (Nutt 8). **Turnovers** — A&M 12, TCU 11. **Rebounds** — A&M 29, TCU 25. **A** — 12, 000.



photo by Dean Saito

TCU center Brian Christensen guards Aggie forward Claude Riley during a game in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

Texas A&M won this game, but the Horned Frogs won Thursday night in the SWC tourney quarterfinals, 65-53.

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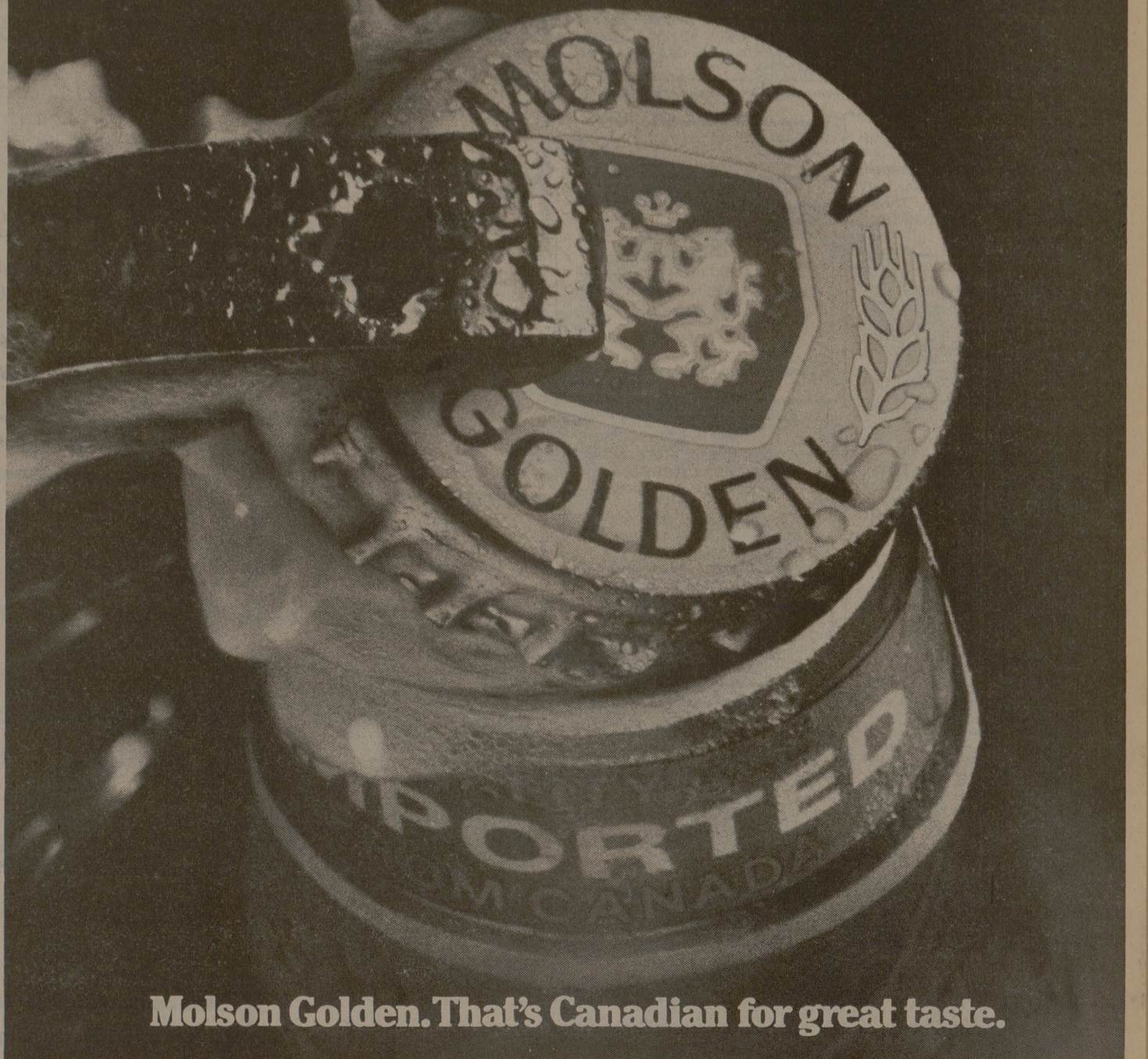
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