

Battalion Classifieds

sports

End of the road

TCU's victory makes Aggies' NIT chances nil

by John Wagner

Battalion Staff
DALLAS—With 33 seconds remaining in the opening game of the 1983 Southwest Conference postseason tournament, Texas A&M's Roy Jones fouled TCU guard Dennis Nutt on the sideline by the Aggie bench. As the ball rolled toward Aggie coach Shelby Metcalf, he picked it up with both hands and hid it underneath his chair.

That's exactly what his team should have done — take the basketball and hide it. Because with the ball, the Horned Frogs ruined the Aggies' chances for another shot at Arkansas, but



more important, knocked Texas A&M out of the tourney, 65-53.

The Frogs used tough inside shooting by the front-court trio of forwards Doug Arnold, Nick Cucinella and center Brian Christensen. That trio combined to score 40 points, most of them from inside the lane.

Aggie forward Claude Riley said Texas A&M's defensive problems stemmed from mental breakdowns.

The Aggies switched to a man-to-man defense after starting the game in a zone, but could do nothing to stop the Horned Frogs' inside power.

"It's a mental thing," Riley said in the Texas A&M locker room after the game.

"Sometimes when you get started concentrating on one person (in the man-to-man) you don't realize that you can help another person. That's what happened tonight."

That's not the only thing that happened. The Horned Frogs shot a blistering 66.7 percent from the field in the second half — 61.4 percent for the game. But when you shoot the ball from underneath (or above) the basket ...

"We (the Aggie guards) were

ence and shot selection, and played an aggressive zone defense.

"In some ways, it looked like a replay of the game with them in Fort Worth this year, where they made us look like we were standing around on offense."

The Aggies ended their season at 17-14, and a chance at a possible National Invitation Tournament bid is remote.

Word was out before the game that if the Aggies lost against TCU, but were still invited to the NIT, Metcalf would decline the invitation. But Riley said the Aggies should go if the chance is provided.

"I'll (a shot at an NIT bid) be slim," he said. "But we've got to just sit back and hope we get it. I feel that if we get a bid, he (Metcalf) would want to go just to keep our season going."

Riley added that the talk about Metcalf declining a bid was just "rumors."

In the pre-tournament press conference, Metcalf said he believed some team other than Houston and Arkansas would "get out of town," or receive a tournament bid. Both TCU and Texas A&M were on the NIT's list of 55 tournament hopefuls, a list that will be paired down to 32 teams which will actually receive bids.

In the second game of Thursday night's quarterfinal round, SMU defeated Texas Tech 76-69. SMU's inside offensive strength allowed the Mustangs to make several key baskets in-

side late in the game. SMU coach Dave ... the Mustangs' inside ... the key.

"Jon Koncak (SMU) got us off real well in the half," he said. "In the half, we had to rely on Larry Davis inside."

Koncak finished with 21 points, but scored for game-high 35 Texas Tech's Bubba Wright who had 29 points from the field.

Bliss had nothing for Jennings.

"Bubba Jennings tremendous show with Texas Tech," he said. "I got a heart bigger than that. That was a gutsy performance by the whole (Tech) team. They've had success before. We're just happy to play well against the deserve to go out to a ...

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Ladies for Razorball tonight

The seventh-seeded A&M women's basketball team will meet No. 2-seeded SMU tonight at 6 in the first of the first Southwest Conference tournament, being held at the University Gym on the Texas campus in Austin.

The single-elimination format gives each team an opportunity to compete in the four-day tournament. The Aggie Ladies are looking for their first win over Arkansas in the CAA championship.

The Razorbacks defeated A&M 80-62 at the Southwest Conference tournament in 1982. This year in Fayetteville.

Jenni Edgar (12.3 points per game), Kelly Krauskopf (5.4 reb.), 6-3 post Ann Trepont, 3.1 reb.), 6-6 Janet Duckham (7.9 reb.) and 5-6 guard Rudy (3.1 points, 1.9 reb.).

Edgar, a sophomore, only Aggie named all-star she made the second tier this week. She was the scoring leader in eight of A&M's 26 games during the season.

If the Aggie Ladies play Friday's Texas Tech game Saturday afternoon.

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