

Texas A&M

The Battalion Sports

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Aggies hope to upset seventh-ranked Tigers

by John Wagner

Battalion Staff
Todd Holloway was the first to admit he was a little disappointed, and he pulled a reporter aside to ask a small favor. The Texas Aggies had just defeated Prairie View A&M Tuesday night before a measly crowd of 2,397, and Holloway was wondering where everybody was.

Is there any way, the freshman asked in a whisper, you could put something in the paper asking people to come to our games?

Simple enough. All Holloway wants for Christmas is a few warm bodies in the stands. After all, it's tough to get fired up to play Division I basketball when you know you've been outdrawn by the fifth floor of Sterling C. Evans Library.

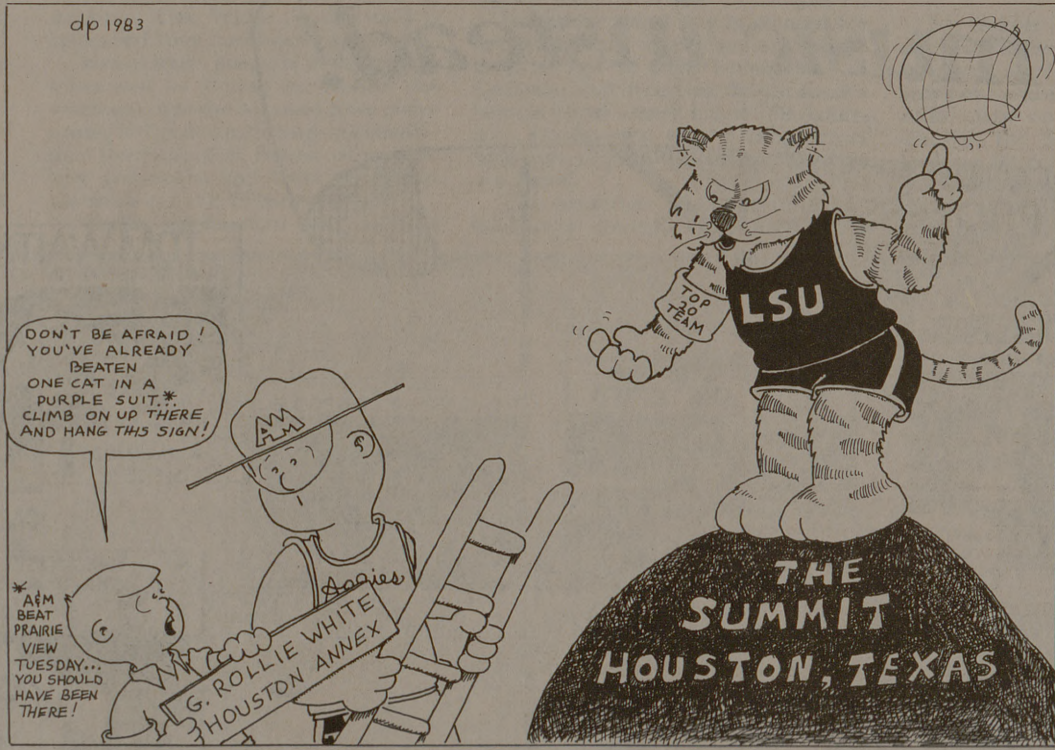
"Tell the people to bring us a packed house," Holloway said, "and we'll play a lot better."

In Holloway's case, it may be tough to play much better than he did Tuesday. The 6-0 freshman from Albany, N.Y., scored 23 points and dished out six assists in leading the Aggies to their second victory against no losses.

True, both wins have come against wimpy competition (Texas Lutheran and Prairie View), but the Aggies get a chance to prove themselves Saturday when they host the seventh-ranked LSU Tigers in the Summit in Houston. Game time is 8 p.m.

For the Aggies, this is the first real test in what could be a long, hard season. The Tigers are short on height but long on experience, and the Aggies have neither. Against TLC, A&M coach Shelby Metcalf started three freshmen and two sophomores, and against Prairie View it was just the opposite.

The Tigers are 2-0, with wins over University of New Orleans and North Carolina



Wilmington and a game pending with Washington late Thursday night. Led by seniors Leonard Mitchell and John Tudor, the Tigers have folks in Louisiana thinking Final Four again (they made the NCAA quarterfinals in 1980). In fact, Metcalf said the Tigers may be nothing short of awesome.

"We talked to the coach who had to play 'em last night," Metcalf said, referring to NC-Wilmington's head coach, "and he said LSU had the best material ever assembled on a college team."

Quite a switch from A&M. In the Aggies' case, you really can't tell the players without a scorecard. Freshman and sophomores fill the roster.

Claude, Tyren and Roy have been replaced by Winston, Todd and Phil.

Reserve Rob Kirshner — a junior — has the most seniority on the team. That's because the Aggies don't have any seniors. Sophomore center Jimmie Gilbert is the lone returning starter.

But A&M's who's who syndrome is only temporary. The Aggies are a scrappy little team, and four of the five starting positions are pretty much up for grabs — which leads to some interesting basketball.

"It doesn't make any difference who plays," sophomore Doug Lee says, "because we're all about equal."

And Metcalf says the fans

will eventually come around. He's even given his players a little hint on how to speed up the process.

"Coach told us we have to win our fans back again," Holloway said, "and that's what we're going to do."

But Holloway may have to wait to see a packed house. The 15,600-seat Summit is expected to be only half-full when the Aggies and Tigers tip off, and only 50 student tickets had been sold by late Thursday.

Tickets are available at all Ticketron or Ticketmaster outlets in Houston, or at the A&M ticket office at G. Rollie White Coliseum. Student tickets are \$6.

Trouble

LSU football coach Jerry Stovall on the hot seat after 4-7 season

United Press International
BATON ROUGE, La. — Students protested on campus and sports commentators cringed, but the Louisiana State University Board of Supervisors seemed poised Thursday to fire fourth-year head football coach Jerry Stovall.

Twelve months ago, Stovall could do no wrong. He was preparing his 8-3-1 team for a trip to the Orange Bowl where the Tigers posted a respectable 21-20 loss to Nebraska.

Early season ratings in 1983 picked LSU in the Top 10 and its rushing offense was expected to be among the best in the nation.

But Stovall's team finished the demoralizing season 4-7 and — for the first time in its history — LSU failed to win a Southeast Conference game.

Rumors the board would try to buy out the remaining year of Stovall's contract began surfacing towards the end of the season.

Two weeks ago, the board refused to give the embattled coach a vote of confidence and asked Chancellor James Wharton and Athletic Director Bob Brodhead to make their recommendations at a meeting scheduled for early this morning.

Students and fans fought the firing rumors with a rally in front of the athletic department office Thursday afternoon and a Stovall pep rally in the stadium later in the evening.

Brodhead has declined to discuss what he will recommend to the board Friday, but he has admitted talking to Bill Arnsperger, assistant head

coach for the Miami Dolphins.

LSU sources indicate a coach from the pro ranks with no Louisiana background may have trouble being hired by the board unless he came in a package deal with an assistant to whom the state's high school coaches, alumni and fans could identify.

To meet that criteria, the name of Clemson offensive coordinator Nelson Stokely has surfaced.

Stokely, who coached freshmen and the offensive backfield at LSU from 1968 to 1973, earned three letters as Tiger quarterback from 1965-1967. He was offensive coordinator at Virginia Tech before joining Clemson in 1980 as quarterback coach and chief recruiter.

Men's swim team sweeps three straight dual meets

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. — The Texas A&M men's swim team went on a three-meet tear of the East Thursday, defeating Penn State, West Virginia and North Carolina in separate dual meets to run its season record to 4-2.

The men snuck past Penn State 59-54, defeated West Virginia 70-43 and beat defending Atlantic Coast Conference champion North Carolina 65-48.

The Aggie women split their double dual meet, defeating West Virginia 90-50 and losing to Penn State 50-89.

Aggie swimmer Kevin Londrigan set a school record in the 200-yard backstroke with a time of 1:53.78, breaking the old record of 1:54.32, set in 1978. The men also swam to nine season bests.

The women captured nine of the 16 scheduled events from the West Virginia team, but only five from Penn State.

The women recorded nine season best times and broke two school records. The 200-yard medley relay, comprised of Jody Tanner, Vicki Moir, Melanie Schmauch and Sandra Goecking, swam a 1:49.28, breaking the old record of 1:49.82. Schmauch also set a school record in an individual event, swimming the 100-yard butterfly in 58.05, .15 seconds faster than the previous school record.

The 400-yard freestyle relay team, made up of Schmauch, Susan Marks, Goecking and Tanner, became this year's first Texas A&M qualifier for the NCAA championships by swim-

ming the cut-off time of 3:30.42. Both the men and the women will swim in the Penn State Relays today and Saturday. Nine teams are entered in the women's meet, 10 in the men's.

TCU slips past ETSU, 35-26

United Press International
FORT WORTH — Tracy Mitchell broke loose for 20 points despite an East Texas State slowdown game and led the TCU Horned Frogs to a 35-26 win over the the Lions Thursday.

Though the game was tied 16-16 at halftime, East Texas State held small leads throughout most of the first and second halves and the Lions were up 26-25 with only 5:40 left in the game. However, at the 1:10

mark, Mitchell scored on a three-point play to give the Horned Frogs a 29-26 lead they never lost.

UTSA 72, RICE 56
HOUSTON — Derrick Gervin tossed in a game-high 21 points Thursday night to lead UT-San Antonio to a 72-56 win over the Rice Owls.

Gervin also pulled down 14 rebounds as the Roadrunners, now 1-1, eased to a 31-26 halftime lead and were never headed.

Mike Cunningham paced the Owls with 13 points and 10 rebounds.

The loss dropped Rice to 1-2.

TEXAS TECH 64, USD 53
LUBBOCK — Senior guard Bubba Jennings scored 14 points and teammates Quentin Anderson and David Reynolds

chipped in with 13 and 10 points respectively to spark Texas Tech to a 64-53 win over the University of San Diego

Thursday.

The Red Raiders fell behind 4-0 on a pair of layups by Anthony Reuss, but responded with seven straight points to take the lead for good with five minutes gone in the opening half.

Tech opened up a 29-23 halftime lead. The Raiders went up by as many as 16 points in the second half and never were threatened.

Mike Whitmarsh led the Toreros with a game-high 17 points.

The Magic of Mexico.

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