

Texas A&M The Battalion Sports

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Aggies host Bears in must-win game

by Dave Scott

Battalion Staff
Texas A&M and Baylor face an early elimination from the Southwest Conference basketball race when they square off tonight in G. Rollic White Coliseum at 7:30.

Both teams suffered their first conference loss at the hands of Arkansas last week and need a win to stay in the race. The Aggies bounced back to defeat Angelo State 77-67 Monday.

The Aggies played sloppily against ASU but pulled a victory out with some sharp shooting from the free throw line. Center Jimmie Gilbert, who had been shooting 43.7 percent from the line, sunk 11 in 13 attempts.

Head coach Shelby Metcalf said the team has to execute better against the Bears.

"We'll have to just play better

than we did (against ASU) to beat Baylor," Metcalf said. "We have to take better care of the ball."

"They'll be bigger than we are, but we'll probably have a little quickness on them."

The Aggies will have their work cut out for them on the boards. Baylor is expected to start 6-11 Paul Kuiper at center, with 6-8 Mike Heller and 6-7 David Glover at the forward positions.

This matches with 6-9 Gilbert at center, 6-7 Winston Crite and 6-6 Mike Clifford at forward.

Clifford is still recovering from a stomach virus which kept him out of the Arkansas game. The freshman from Round Rock was ineffective in limited action against ASU. The virus is hitting the Aggies hard. Forward Al Pulliam said after the ASU game that he was "sick as a

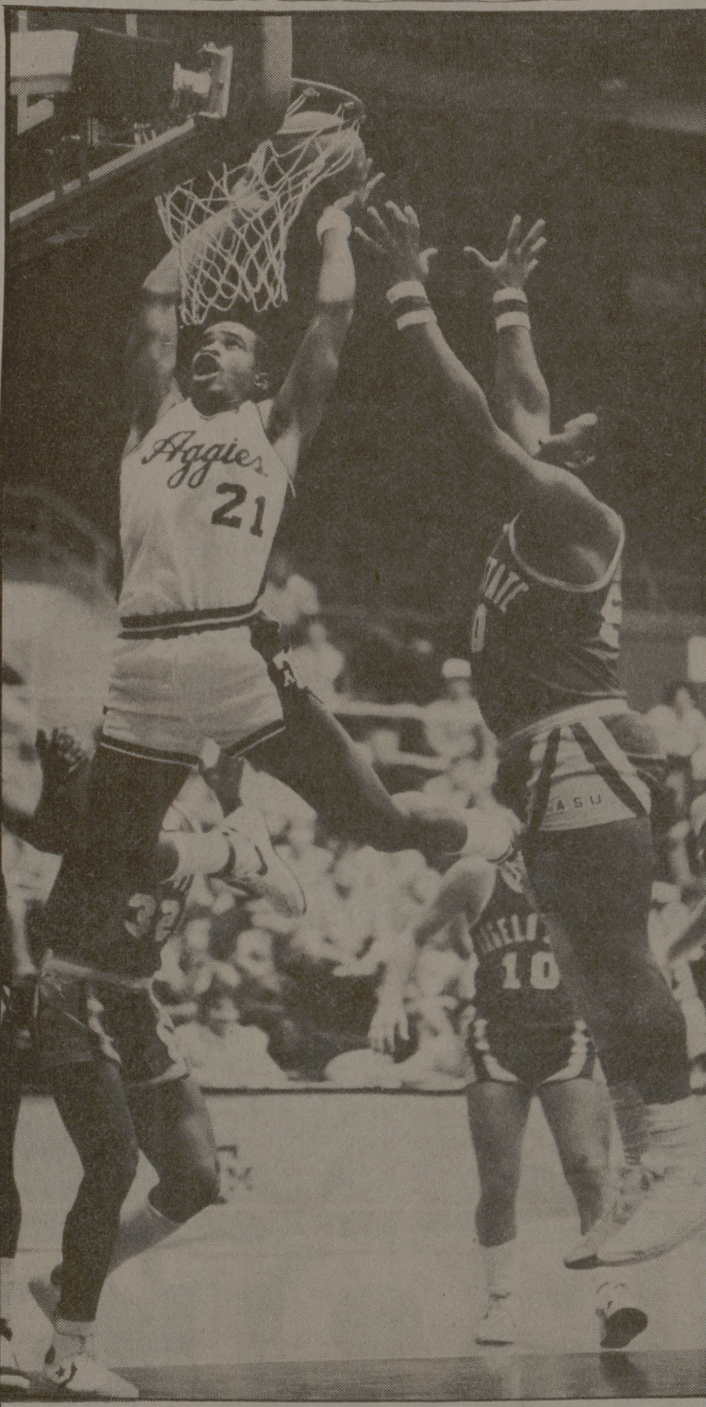
dog" despite being the leading scorer with 18 points on eight of ten shooting in Monday's contest.

Metcalf also said Todd Holloway wasn't feeling 100 percent. Darnell Williams started in place of Holloway against Angelo State.

Sophomore guard Doug Lee returned to action Monday after being out since Dec. 10 when he severely sprained an ankle against Oral Roberts. Lee said the ankle didn't bother him too much even though he only scored two points in 13 minutes.

"It hurt me driving to the hoop, that's about it," he said. "The doctor told me I'd be playing with quite a bit of pain."

The Aggies' leading scorer is guard Kenny Brown at 11.4 points per game. The Bears are paced by 5-11 guard James Stern.



Dean Saito, Battalion staff

Winston Crite drives in for the dunk in the Aggies' 77-67 win over Angelo State Monday. A&M looks for its second straight victory tonight against Baylor at 7:30 p.m.

Fate kept Theismann at Washington helm

United Press International
WASHINGTON — But for a few swats from the hands of fate, Joe Theismann could be playing racquetball, golf or tennis this week as the off-season quarterback of the Detroit Lions.

But fate, and on Oct. 4, 1981, meeting with Coach Joe Gibbs, determined that Theismann would remain the quarterback of the Washington Redskins. Since that meeting, the Redskins are 36-6 and have a shot in two weeks at winning their second straight Super Bowl.

With Theismann playing poorly, the Redskins lost their

first five games under Gibbs. The fifth setback was a 30-17 decision to San Francisco in which the Redskins trailed 30-3 before scoring two meaningless touchdowns.

"I didn't feel good and I know Joe Gibbs didn't," Theismann said Monday, enjoying some time off before beginning preparations for the Jan. 22 Super Bowl meeting with the Los Angeles Raiders. "I drove to Joe's house — we lived only about a mile apart then — and Pat (Gibbs' wife) had to wake him."

"We talked for about two hours about . . . the Redskins,

me, him and what had to be done. I wanted him to know that he had a quarterback who was willing to do anything to help the Redskins win."

From that meeting came an understanding between the two and the cancellation of trade talks with several NFL clubs, including the Lions.

"There's no way I wanted to leave Washington. I don't now, either," said Theismann, referring to his upcoming contract renegotiation talks with Redskins' owner Jack Kent Cooke.

"I want to stay in Washington, but we'll see what happens."

Cougars unimpressive in victory over Texas

United Press International
HOUSTON — Guard Reid Gettys scored 12 points to lead the sluggish Houston Cougars to a 69-58 Southwest Conference win over Texas Tuesday night.

Houston won its 27th consecutive SWC game — the third this season — on a night that 7-foot center Akeem Olajuwon was held to 9 points and high-scoring forward Michael Young was held to less than 20 points for the first time in 10 games.

The Cougars pushed their record overall to 13-2, while Texas fell to 4-9.

Texas guard Marcus Bolden led all scorers with 13 points and two other Longhorns, George

Davis and Carlton Cooper, chipped in 12 points apiece.

Gettys, starting only his third game, led his team with six field goals, but was not in the game during the critical moments when Houston coach Guy Lewis

used his "smother brothers" guard trio of senior Derek Giles, junior Eric Dickens and sophomore Renaldo Thomas.

Those three combined to score 14 points.

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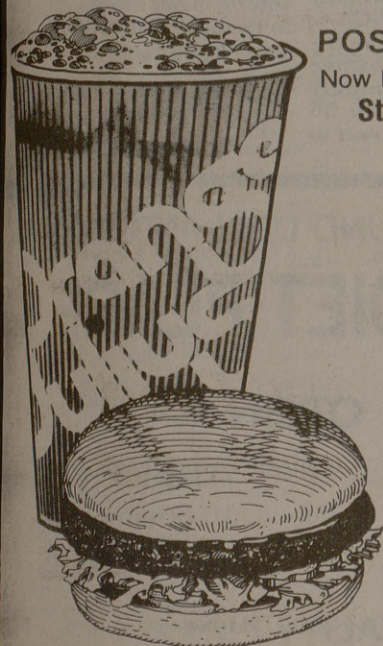
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Raiders' Long says Super Bowl is just a game

United Press International
LOS ANGELES — Los Angeles defensive lineman Howie Long says the cannons can stay home. So can the nuclear weapons.

"It's not like Russia is fighting America for Florida," he said of his team's Super Bowl matchup against the Washington Redskins Jan. 22 at Tampa, Fla. "It's just a football game."

Just a football game. Not if it's anything like last Sunday's 30-14 victory over the Seattle Seahawks in the AFC championship game.

"People said the Raiders beat them (the Seahawks) up, knocked them down, slashed their tires," Long, a Pro-Footer at end, said. "It was just a football game."

The Raiders lost two regular-season games to the Seahawks and Long said comments from Seattle players fired up Los Angeles.

"We heard some things they were saying in newspapers and on talk shows in Seattle," said Long. "They said they handled Lyle (Alzado) twice and they were going to handle him again."

"Chuck Knox (Seattle's coach) heard about it and by the middle of the week he was saying his players didn't mean it. But we said, 'It's too late, Chuck.'"

Long, a 6-foot-5, 270-pound second-round draft selection in 1981, said the Raiders have been given a bum-rap by being called a dirty football team.

"We play power football," he said. "I'm a hungry individual, but I'm not mean."

The Raiders, 12-4 during the regular season, lost to Washington 37-35 on Oct. 2. Los Angeles played without Marcus Allen, last season's Rookie of the Year, and Alzado was playing on a bad knee.

Long doesn't think either

team will try to finesse the other. "It'll be power football against power football," he said. "It'll be an old-fashioned game. I'm only 24, but I think that's the way the game was played in the past."

Long said the Redskins are more than one-dimensional.

"They definitely have a lot more versatility than giving it to (John) Riggins," he said. "Joe Washington killed us last time."

Though he'll be out to throttle him, Long said he respects Riggins.

"I like John Riggins," he said. "He's one of the guys I look up to. He doesn't try to change hisct to suit his profession. He just gets the ball and tries to ram it down your throat. I respect that."

And Long said he knows where the Redskins get their "Hogs."

"They grow these people in Lubbock, Texas, and get them to block," he said.

Long credits Alzado with teaching him how to prepare to play football. Asked if he's ever seen another side of his teammate, Long laughed.

"Lyle doesn't listen to Pavarotti, he doesn't quote Thoreau," said Long.

The Pro Bowl selection was a thrill for Long.

"I don't have an uncle on the committee, so I must have impressed somebody," he kidded.

Long said the Raiders realize what it means to win an NFL championship.

"It's an opportunity for us to make a niche in history," he said. "We feel very fortunate to get to this point."

The Raiders, given two days off by Coach Tom Flores, resume practice Thursday. The coaching staff leaves Sunday for Tampa with the players flying east the following day.

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