

Aggies take on 1-point Mustangs

By DAVE SCOTT
Sports writer

The Aggie basketball team will be out to play the spoiler role when they travel to Dallas tonight to take on the SMU Mustangs.

But the underdog Aggies will be up against a vastly improved Mustang team which has already come within a point of beating Houston and Arkansas.

Against SMU, A&M will be faced with many of the same problems they had with Houston. The Mustangs have more height and more experience.

And also like Houston who has Akeem Olajuwon, SMU has 7-foot center Jon Koncak who will probably be the Aggies' biggest nemesis.

Olajuwon destroyed the Aggies and 6-9 center Jimmie Gibert pulling down 13 rebounds and blocking 10 shots. And when the Mustangs and Cougars played earlier this year, Koncak outrebounded Olajuwon.

Texas A&M head coach Shelby Metcalf said the Aggies will pay extra attention to Koncak.

"We've gotta get Jimmie some help underneath," he said. But Metcalf said that the 240-pound Koncak isn't only dangerous under the basket.

"He's a great shooter," he said, "he's not going to overpower you."

However, the Mustangs are by no means a one-man team. They also feature leading scorer 6-7 Larry Davis and 6-5 Carl Wright, who many feel is the

best athlete in the Southwest Conference.

Rounding out SMU's starting line up will be guard Butch Moore and 6-7 forward Larry Davis.

Recently Metcalf has been starting Todd Holloway, who was hobbled by a sore knee against Texas Wesleyan Monday night, Darnell Williams, Winston Crite, Mike Clifford and Gilbert.

The first men off the bench for the Aggies have been guard Kenny Brown and forward Al Pulliam.

Through 15 games, A&M is out rebounding its opposition 576-463. Gilbert leads the Aggies in that category, averaging over eight per game.

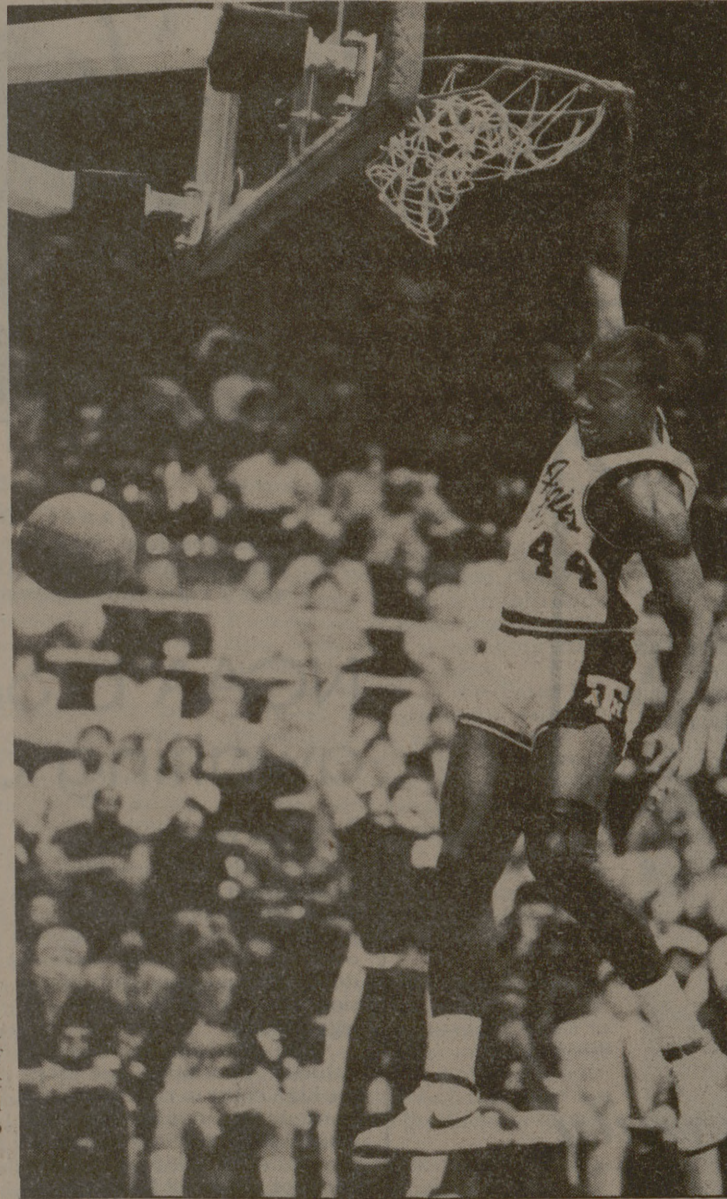


Photo by John Makely

Al Pulliam slams one through after a Texas Wesleyan turnover in the game Monday.

Mahre falls in World Cup

United Press International

PARPAN, Switzerland — Swedish slalom king Ingemar Stenmark notched his 76th World Cup victory Tuesday with a typical second heat charge but bad luck continued to plague American Steve Mahre, who fell in the second heat and lost his chance at an apparent victory.

Stenmark, third behind Austria's Robert Zoller and Steve Mahre after the 64-gate first course, put in the fastest run on the second leg through 62 gates to clock a total time of one minute, 47.36 seconds.

He won by 0.27 seconds over Luxembourg's Marc Girardelli, with Franz Gruber of Austria taking third place almost a second further behind with 1:48.58.

It was Stenmark's 37th World Cup slalom victory and his third in the discipline this season.

Steve Mahre, denied a victory Monday when he was disqualified for swapping starting numbers with his twin brother Phil, appeared headed for victory Tuesday when misfortune struck again. A fifth of a second quicker than Stenmark in Tuesday's first run, he was even faster than the Swede at the intermediate point on the second heat.

Mahre, of White Pass, Wash.,

appeared well on his way to victory when the binding was ripped off one ski and he fell.

"I did not even put pressure on the ski at the time, it must have been something that happened a few gates earlier," he said.

Defending overall World Cup champion Phil Mahre, who has scored points in only two races this season, was disqualified for the second consecutive day — this time for not rounding a gate properly in the first heat.

Stenmark continued his long-expected push toward the top of the World Cup standings now led by Liechtenstein's Andreas Wenzel. Wenzel was 11th Tuesday but is ahead in the combined standings computed from the slalom and Sunday's downhill at Wengen.

Wenzel now has 130 points against 122 for second-placed Swiss Pirmin Zurbriggen. Stenmark is third with 109. Stenmark tops the slalom standings with 75 points and Gruber is second with 57.

"It was bad luck for Steve: first the numbers salad, then the binding torn off," Stenmark said. "I would enjoy my victory more if I had beaten him and some other top skiers who dropped out."

NBA All-Star teams set

Sampson, Aguirre picked

United Press International
NEW YORK — Rookie 7-4 center Ralph Sampson of the Houston Rockets and three-year veteran forward Mark Aguirre of the Dallas Mavericks were among seven players chosen Tuesday to complete the West team for the Jan. 29 NBA All-Star game at Denver's McNichols Arena.

Aguirre, who is right behind Adrian Dantley for the NBA scoring lead, will be making his first trip to the All-Star game.

Selected with Sampson and

Aguirre by the coaches in the Western Conference were Kiki Vandeweghe of the host Denver Nuggets, Walter Davis of Phoenix, Rickey Green of Utah, Jim Paxson of Portland and Jack Sikma of Seattle.

Named as reserves by the Eastern Conference coaches were Otis Birdsong of New Jersey, Bernard King of New York, Kevin McHale and Robert Parish of Boston, Jeff Ruland of Washington, Andrew Toney of Philadelphia and Kelly Tripucka of Detroit.

The starting teams were

announced earlier in the week.

The West's starting five will be Alex English of Denver and Adrian Dantley of Utah at forward, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar of Los Angeles at center and Magic Johnson of Los Angeles and George Gervin of San Antonio at the guard positions.

The East's starters are forwards Larry Bird of Boston and Julius Erving of Philadelphia, center Moses Malone of Philadelphia, and guards Sidney Moncrief of Milwaukee and Isiah Thomas of Detroit.

All-Star Sampson scores 27 leads Rockets past Nuggets

United Press International
HOUSTON — Ralph Sampson scored with 27 points, including 21 in the second half, to lead the Houston Rockets to a 124-115 victory over the Denver Nuggets Tuesday night.

Lewis Lloyd scored 10 points as the Rockets grabbed a 34-30 first quarter lead. Houston led 82-55 at the half without much help from Sampson, who sat out all but seven minutes of the action due to foul trouble.

The Nuggets yielded 21 points on 16 turnovers to the Rockets in the first half.

The Nuggets ran off 10 straight points to grab a 67-66 lead with 7:55 left in the third quarter, but the Rockets rallied behind Sampson's 8 points to lead 90-85 at the end of the third quarter.

The Rockets grabbed a 10-point lead in the fourth at the 6:46 mark as Sampson scored 8 quick points. The Nuggets ral-

lied to within 3 points at the 2:32 mark, but Lloyd scored on a drive down the lane and made a free throw and Caldwell Jones hit a layup to give the Rockets an 8-point lead with 1:56 left.

Lloyd ended the night with 23 points for the Rockets.

Dan Issel and Alex English scored 30 points each for the Nuggets to lead all scorers.

The Rockets improved their record to 15-25 in the Midwest Division, while Denver fell to 16-23.

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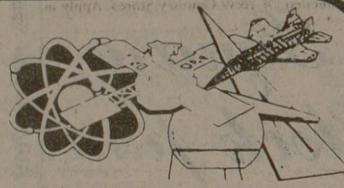
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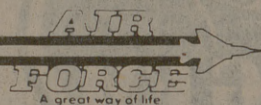
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