

USFL rule violates anti-trust law

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Holloway reflects on first year

By **BOB CASTER**
Senior Sports Writer

Todd Holloway walked onto the Texas A&M campus for the first time in September, fresh out of Christian Brothers Academy high school in Albany, N.Y. At the time, he was just another basketball recruit. But times change and so do freshman basketball players. Some never pan out — others are thrust almost immediately into the public's eye.

In December, Holloway made headlines — with rumors of possible recruiting violations surrounding his mysterious departure from Wagner College in his New York hometown, and his subsequent emergence as the Aggies' latest freshman sensation.

But soon after the rumors began, they died out and Holloway could concentrate on what he came to A&M to do — play basketball. And that he did.

No longer is his name associated in headlines with Wagner College, NCAA investigators and recruiting violations. He is now better known as the Aggies' high-scoring and a very likely candidate for the Southwest Conference Newcomer-of-the-Year.

Holloway has racked up 316 total points this season for an average of 12.6 per game, making him the SWC's 12th leading scorer. He is also eighth in the conference in assists, with 85, and sixth in free throws, hitting 72.2 percent. Coming back from a foot injury in mid-season, he has scored in double-digits in every game.

But in spite of his effort and that of his young teammates, the Aggies are struggling to break even at the end of the season. Not overly-impressive — but Holloway feels things could be a lot worse.

"When we first started, we were ranked eighth in the conference," he said. "I felt we would finish higher because we

had better talent. We've improved a lot over the season; early we were making foolish, foolish mistakes but now we're just making some foolish mistakes. When we quit making those mistakes, that's when we'll be the kind of team Coach (Shelby) Metcalf wants us to be."

Holloway, who has yet to play before a full house at G. Rollie White Coliseum, says that an important part of the Aggies' limited success has been the fans that do show up for the games — especially the home games.

"My first thought when I saw G. Rollie was, 'Oh no, I'm playing in this?'" Holloway said. "But I know now that it's really a great place to play. It's like a team can't just come in here and blow us out, you're playing for the crowd — 100 percent."

"In G. Rollie we play real hard. You just have some places where you can't lose — like saying, 'You can't come in my house and beat me up.'"

Holloway knows what it's like to be a new kid on the block. He and another freshman teammate, Winston Crite, have issued a challenge to the other Aggie freshmen.

"I want everybody to come to the game Thursday night, especially my classmates," he said. "I think the freshmen at Texas A&M can relate to this basketball team. We play hard and we've had some hard knocks, but we keep getting better. We need them to come out for the game with Texas Tech and show everybody what it's like to be a freshman at A&M — because this is probably going to be one of the biggest games of the season for us."

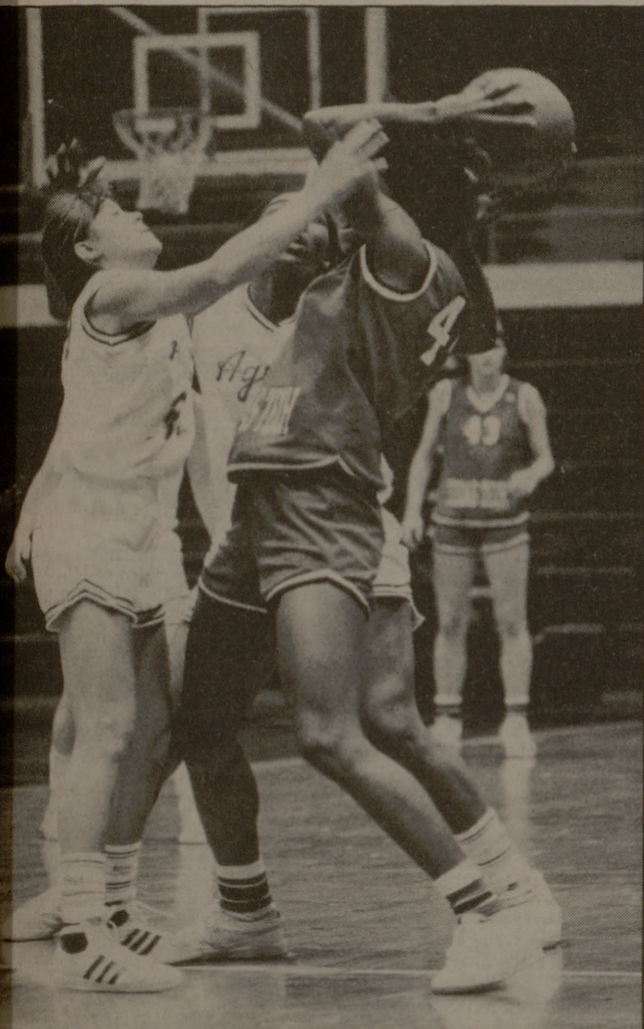


Photo by JOHN RYAN

Mary Ann Swearngin tries to steal the ball from Texas Tech's Carolyn Thompson. Thompson scored 36 points as Tech beat the Aggies 76-55 Wednesday in G. Rollie White.

Aggie women close to T-Tech

By **DONN FRIEDMAN**
Sports editor

You could say it was a result of the week-long layoff. Or you could blame it on the tiny crowd that turned out for the game, but you'd be wrong.

The only things that beat the Texas A&M women's basketball team Wednesday night were the Red Raiders of Texas Tech. Behind Carolyn Thompson's 36 points Tech whipped the Aggies 76-55.

Thompson, a 6-1 center from Hobbs, New Mexico, dominated the game. She hit 14 of 19 from the field, and 8 of 10 from the free throw line.

Coach Cherri Rapp said the Aggies did a poor job defending Thompson.

"We tried to back off of Thompson and front her," Rapp said. "But we were giving her the ball too easy. We were trying to front her, but we didn't get there."

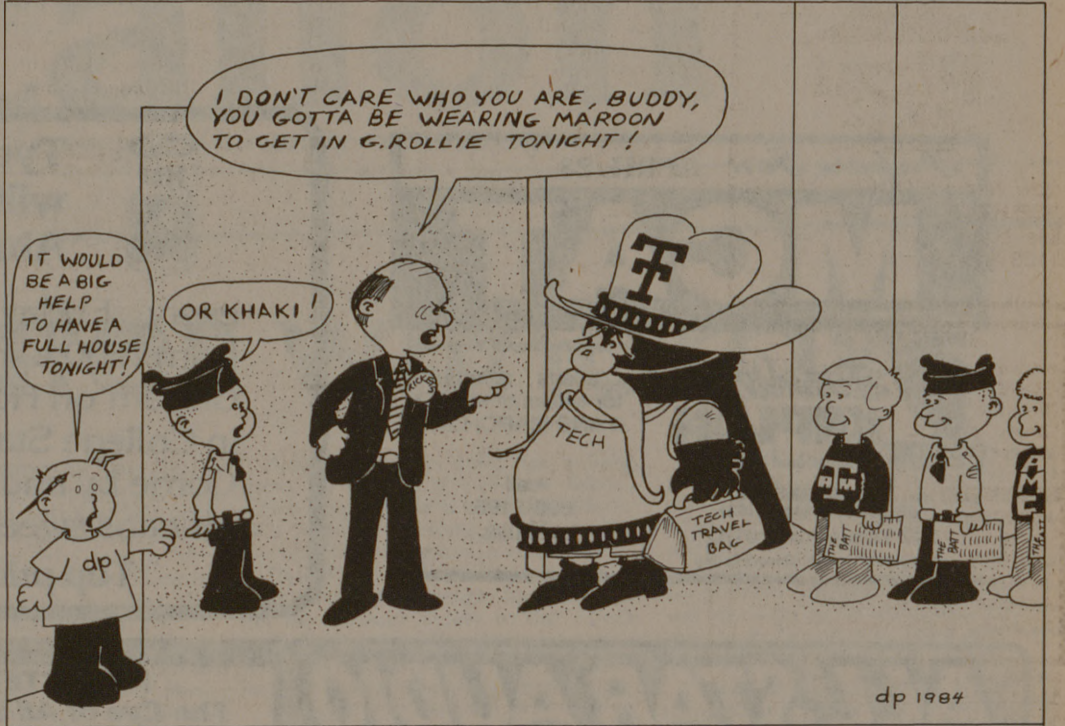
The 21-point loss, is an improvement over the Aggies earlier match-up with Tech where the Red Raiders galloped away 82-59.

A&M will most likely end the season in sixth place and have to travel to Arkansas in the first

round of the tournament.

Tech will then meet the winner of that game in Houston.

The Aggies play their final home game of the season Saturday at 7 p.m.



Aggies ready for Red Raiders

By **DAVE SCOTT**
Sports Writer

Texas Tech comes to G. Rollie White Coliseum tonight, battling SMU for third place in the final Southwest Conference standings.

The Aggies are playing for things that are a little less tangible — pride and momentum.

A win tonight in their season finale would put the Aggies at .500 in conference play with an

8-8 record. Defeating Tech would give A&M important momentum going into tournament play.

Aggie coach Shelby Metcalf added another reason for wanting to win. He feels the team owes something to the fans.

"I want to give our fans something," Metcalf said. "There have been some hard core fans that have stayed with us, I want to win it for them."

And because Metcalf feels

this game is especially important for the team, Metcalf is hoping for good attendance.

"We'd like to get a good crowd out for this game," he said. "The crowds at G. Rollie White are legendary in this conference."

Guard Todd Holloway added revenge to the list of incentives for winning tonight's game. The Aggies were soundly beaten Lubbock earlier this year, 74-49.

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