

Aggies get snakebit by St. Mary's

By JEFF GRAUNKE
Sports Writer

The Rattlers coiled and struck a deadly blow to Shelby Metcalf's Aggies.

A&M staggered and fell hard last night to the Rattlers of St. Mary's University 70-66.

"I'm disappointed in our performance," Metcalf said after the game, pointing out the team's bad rebounding performance. St. Mary's out-rebounded A&M 36-22.

"I'm real disgusted in our rebounding," Metcalf said. "We're not getting the job done on the boards."

St. Mary's dominated the whole game with the exception of a short burst by A&M near the end of the first half. The Ags took the lead with 6:52 left in the first half, 22-20. The Rattlers tied the score four times, until they pulled ahead with :14 left before the half. A&M had a chance to take the lead, but guard Don Marbury missed the front end of a one-and-one. The Rattlers led 37-36 at the half.

The Ags came out hot for a while in the second half, but St. Mary's quickly took control of the tempo once again. Although the lead changed twice in the second half, the Rattlers regained it 2:00 into the second half and kept it the rest of the game.

"They (St. Mary's) shot the lights out," Metcalf said. "They shot all good shots. St. Mary's played a heck of a ball game."

The statistics prove it. St. Mary's shot 64.4 percent from the field compared to A&M's 49.2 percent. From the foul line neither team did very well — the Ags shot 54.5 percent and the Rattlers shot 58.3 percent.

Senior guard Mike Speight led the Rattlers in scoring with 27 points. He also pulled down six rebounds. Senior forward Kenneth Cook scored 19 points and led the Rattlers in rebounds with nine. Also hitting the boards hard for St. Mary's was center James Douglas

with six rebounds.

Todd Holloway led the Ags in scoring with 22 points. Holloway was one of the few things that worked well for A&M.

"Todd had a heck of a ball game," Metcalf said. "He was outstanding."

"We didn't get a real good performance out of anybody. It's got to be my problem. I'm not upset with (the players). I'm upset with me."

At the end of the game, A&M had a slight chance to tie the score. With :52 left in the game, A&M forward Winston Crite missed the front end of a one-and-one, but center Jimmy Gilbert tipped it in to make the score 68-66 — St. Mary's by 2.

St. Mary's took the ball out and played four corners to use up the remaining time on the clock. A&M tried desperately to get the ball. Usually in a situation like that, the defensive players foul. A&M waited too long — way too long. With :03 left, Holloway finally fouled Speight.

Speight hit both ends of a one-and-one, making the score 70-66.

If the Ags had fouled earlier, they might have had more time to get the ball down court after the freethrows.

"You need to foul somebody going for the ball," Metcalf said. "Maybe I assumed too much, but that's not what beat us."

"I thought they (St. Mary's) played with more intensity." He was disappointed when he got word of A&M's poor rebounding stats.

"That's ridiculous," he said. "Thirteen offensive rebounds is too many."

Metcalf was impressed with St. Mary's play. They gave Houston all they could handle Monday night in Hoeffinz Pavilion, losing 69-53. They then drove home to San Antonio, got on the bus today to College Station and went out and played good basketball.

"You've got to take your hat off to them," Metcalf said. "(St. Mary's Head Coach Herman 'Buddy' Meyer) earned it. They beat us more than the score shows."

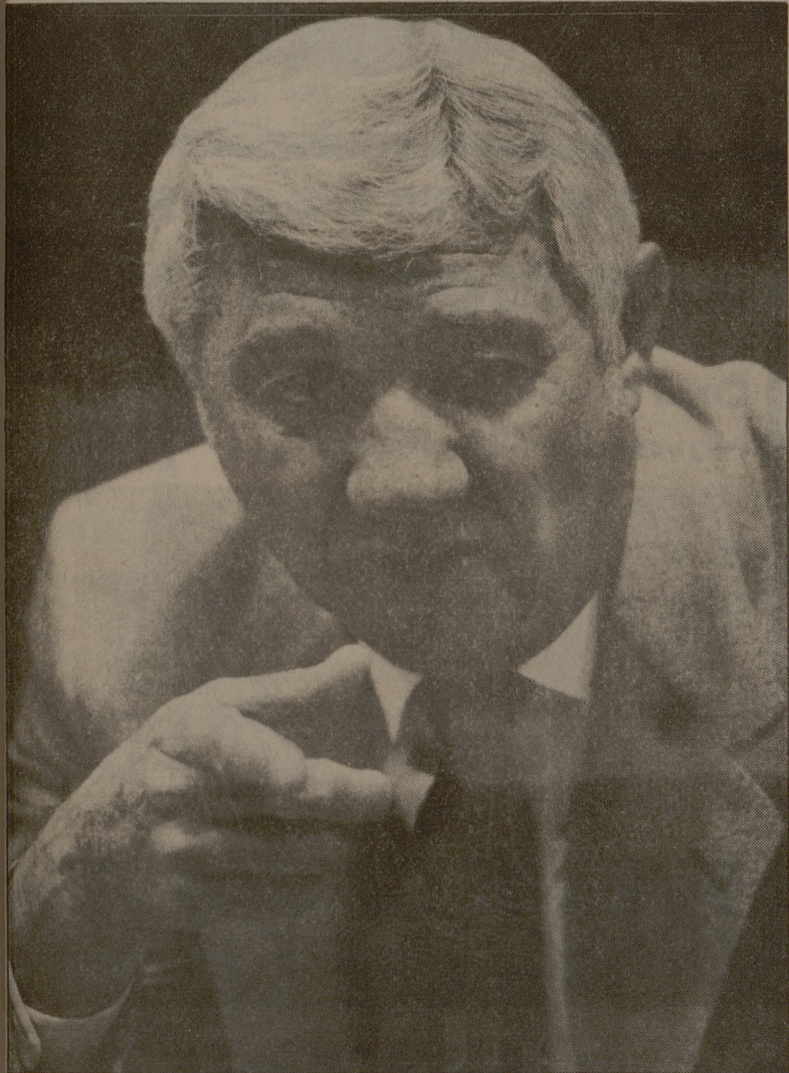


Photo by DEAN SAITO

Texas A&M Head Basketball Coach Shelby Metcalf — "We didn't get a real good performance out of anybody (in the 70-66 loss to St. Mary's Wednesday night). It's got to be my problem. I'm not upset with (the players). I'm upset with me."

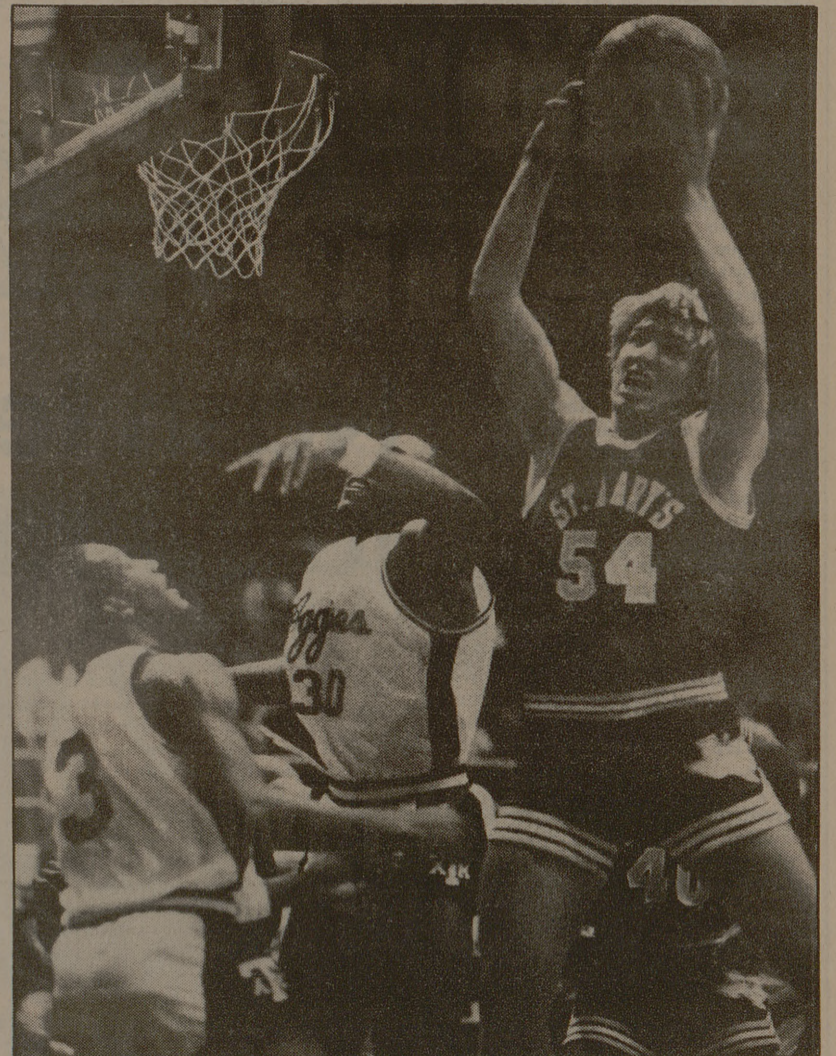


Photo by DEAN SAITO

St. Mary's Pete Hansen (54) grabs a defensive rebound from Texas A&M's Jimmie Gilbert (30) and Don Marbury (3) during the Rattlers' 70-66 upset of the Aggies Wednesday night. The Ags will host Oral Roberts next Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.



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