

SPORTS

Texas Tech surrenders with towel

By **TRAVIS TINGLE**
Sports Editor

Gerald Myers didn't wave a white flag while he watched his Texas Tech Red Raiders surrender to Texas A&M Wednesday night, 50-47. Instead, Myers literally threw in the towel — and a white one at that.

With 4:09 left to play in the second half, A&M's Kenny Brown stole an errant Tech pass at midcourt and raced toward the bucket for a what appeared to be an easy slam dunk.

As Brown drove past the Tech bench, Coach Myers tossed the towel he was holding into the air, caught it and then threw it on the floor. An official saw it, whistled it and assessed Myers a technical foul for his antics.

Myers said after the game he didn't deserve the technical. Myers insisted the towel wasn't thrown on the court until after the play had passed — no malice intended.

"Our guy had the ball at mid-court and then A&M stole the ball," Myers said. "I had a towel in my hand and threw it up in the air. It was just the frustration of the play, that's all. The official saw it and gave me a technical."

"It was a very cheap call. It was just a lousy call. I mean I've had some technicals in my time that I've deserved, but that wasn't one of them. (The towel) might have been a foot on the floor, but it was close enough for me to lean over and pick it up."

Despite the poor officiating, Myers offered no excuses for his team's play. "Don't misunderstand what I'm saying though," Myers said. "We got beat and A&M deserved to win. We had our opportunities to win the game, but A&M hung in there."

"(A&M Coach) Shelby (Metcalf) was telling me before the game that the technical he got against Arkansas he didn't deserve. I told him afterward, 'You got that technical back tonight Shelby.'"

Ags content with sluggish win over Tech

By **BRANDON BERRY**
Sports Writer

"Downtown" Kenny Brown hit only three of 11 field goals and actually missed an open slam dunk.

Guard Don Marbury fouled out with nine minutes and 18 seconds left in the game.

And 6-foot-9 center Jimmie Gilbert, a 58 percent free throw shooter throughout the first 16 games of the season, was on the line for a crucial one-and-one.

No, you can't wake up now. The Texas A&M men's basketball team actually survived a nightmarish first half and rallied past the Texas Tech Red Raiders 50-47 Wednesday night in G. Rollie White Coliseum. The Aggies are now 4-2 in the Southwest Conference and tied for third place with, you guessed it, Texas Tech.

Texas A&M Head Basketball Coach Shelby Metcalf said, while the win wasn't exactly "dreamy," the Aggies could definitely learn from it.

"We really weren't ready to play when the game started," Metcalf said. "We learned a real lesson out there. We learned that if you just hang in there, something good is going to happen to you."

"It's wonderful when you learn those kinds of lessons and still get a win over a fine team like Texas Tech."

"Wonderful" could be replaced by "unbelievable". The Aggies shot a miserable 33 percent from the floor in the first half and had a grand total of six baskets.

Yes, six. In an entire half. "We played a sloppy first half — our worst ever," Marbury said.

"That was as bad a first half as I can remember," Gilbert said.

"That was the absolute worst we can play ever," Brown said. "You could put blindfolds on and we wouldn't play any worse than that. I don't know why we won."

"(A&M point guard) Todd Holloway won this game for us," Metcalf answered. "He played some kind of defense out there on (Tech point guard) Bubba (Jennings). He hasn't been playing that well and this has to help him out."

"Jimmie Gilbert's free throws at the end were just tremendous. He hit the bottom of the bucket. You just couldn't be in a more crucial situation. It shows an awful lot of what that young man's made of."

"I guess it was just our turn. This

win will mean an awful lot for us."

What last night's win meant, at least for Holloway, Gilbert and forward Winston Crite, is that the Aggies can actually win games down the stretch even when their big guns are misfiring or reloading on the bench.

Texas A&M had possession of the ball with 1:29 showing on the clock. Gilbert was fouled and went to the line. All 5,514 in attendance began praying except Gilbert's Aggie teammates, who prepared to rebound the missed shot.

Whoosh! The free throw, and the one that followed, touched nothing but cords.

A few moments later, Tech's Phil Wallace missed his two free throws and Gilbert was fouled again.

"Deadeye Jimmie," now full of confidence, calmly stepped up, dribbled twice and drilled two more charity shots.

"The game was won from the foul line," Marbury said. "It was murder not being able to be in there."

Maybe not murder, but certainly appropriate. Texas A&M, for a change, won because of the play of their "silent but deadly" inside game.

Example: Kenny Brown, the leading free throw shooter in the country, was fouled with 50 seconds left in the game. However, Brown, a guard who was expected to hit his free throws, didn't have a chance on a night in which statistics were irrelevant.

Brown promptly missed and watched as Gilbert took a charge on the other end of the court and went back to the free throw line.

10 seconds later, the Aggies were victorious.

Tech Coach Gerald Myers said the A&M defense was responsible more than anything else for derauling a "Raider-express" that had won seven of their last nine games.

"I thought both teams played really hard. They gave a lot of physical effort and played aggressive defense," Myers said. "I think that both teams played probably their worst offense of the year, but sometimes tough defense makes for rugged offense. Both teams can perform better offensively."

"The Texas A&M defense really played well and I thought ours played well, too, but it wasn't quite as good. A&M hung in there and kept the pressure on us. They never let us get in any rhythm on offense."

Despite Holloway's hounding defensive effort, Jennings still fed the



Photo by DEAN SAITO

Texas A&M's Kenny Brown (32) looks intently at the ball held by Texas Tech's Phil Wallace. Brown and the Aggies eased into a

tie for third place with the Red Raiders in the Southwest Conference standings by clipping Tech, 50-47.

Red Raiders in scoring with 17 points. No other Tech player scored in double figures.

The Aggies were led in scoring by Marbury's 13 points, followed by Crite's aggressive 11 point, eight rebound performance. Even in an off-night, Brown chipped in 10.

"Maybe we're finally getting everyone healthy," Metcalf said, "but we need to because we need to beat

Houston on Sunday. If there are any students going home this weekend, please be back by noon Sunday because we need for you (the students) to be here."

"The crowd means so much to this team. We told them that the crowd was just sitting there waiting to explode...we just had to give them something to explode over. When they did, that really helped us and

Tech was feeling the pressure a little bit."

Probably not nearly as much as that felt by Mike Clifford. After all, Gilbert actually hit his free throws and the coaching staff might start expecting the same out of the "Round Rock Rocket."

Or they could be content with one miracle at a time.

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