

SPORTS

A&M to host Phi Slama Jama

Aggies try to tame UH's wild' Lamb

By CHAREAN WILLIAMS
Assistant Sports Editor

Having only two days to reflect on an impressive but disappointing game against No. 14 Texas Tech, the Texas A&M women hoopsters face a tough Houston Cougar club Saturday night at 7:30 in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

It took Tech until the final minute of the game to fend off the pestilent Ags, 81-74.

The heartbreaker against Tech, however, must quickly be forgotten by A&M if it expects to beat the likes of Monica Lamb and the "cat-quick" Cougars, who are currently third in the Southwest Conference with a 3-2 mark.

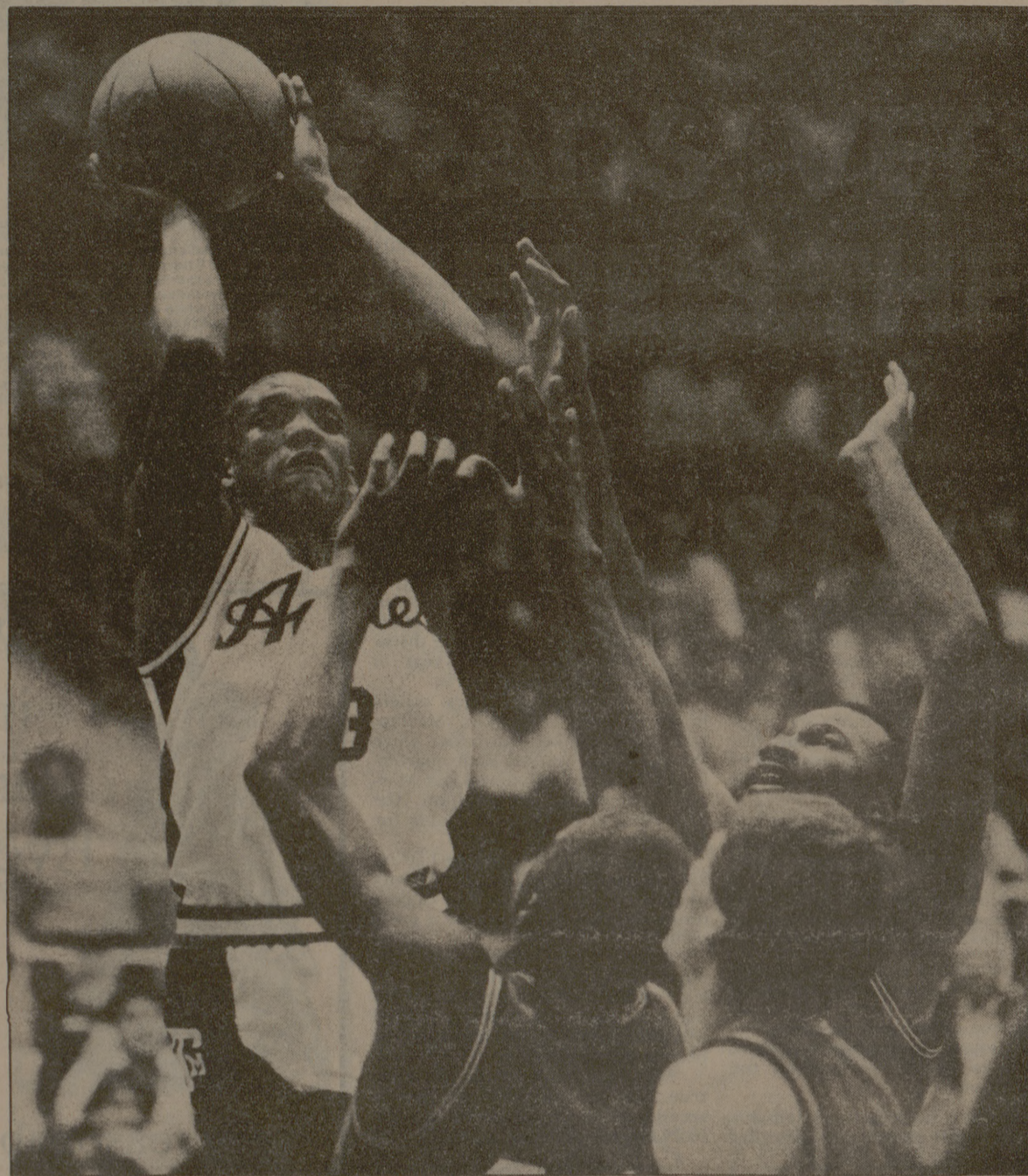
Lamb's name may sound tame, but that's the only thing that's tame with this Cougar. The All-American candidate has been Houston's leading scorer eight of 14 games and has led the team in rebounding nine times. Lamb, a 6-foot-5 sophomore, is third in the nation in field goal percentage at 66.1 percent.

Lamb will give the Aggies a severe test on the boards which of course is nothing new. The Texas Longhorns and Texas Tech Red Raiders found that height isn't everything.

The Aggies have already passed two rebounding contests, outrebounding Texas 48-39 and Tech 39-37. However, the Cougars don't count on having to rebound missed shots unless it's the other team that misses. Houston is shooting 52.2 from the field.

The Ags will rely on Lisa Langston, Jenni Edgar and Beth Young hitting some outside bombers and hope that Michell Tatum and Janet Dunkham can get their share of rebounds.

A&M Head Coach Lynn Hickey said earlier in the week that one of the team's goals was to beat either Tech or Houston at home this week. Saturday night that opportunity will arrive and the Ags have a chance to blossom into a legitimate contender.



Texas A&M guard Don Marbury (3) out-jumps Texas Tech's Vince Taylor (44),

Dwight Phillips and Bubba Jennings (4) to get off a jumper in the 50-47 Tech win.

Photo by DEAN SAITO

Metcalf's Aggies concerned with Coogs' Franklin, Gettys

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The "Akeem-less" Houston Cougars make a house call to Texas A&M Sunday at 12:38 p.m.

Phi Slama Jama, the nation's most renowned cage fraternity, lost stars Akeem Olajuwon and guard Michael Young to the first round of the '84 NBA draft. However, Houston always seems to field a quality team and this year is no exception.

The Cougars have posted a 12-4 overall record and are in sole possession of second place in the Southwest Conference, behind SMU, with a 4-1 mark.

A&M Head Coach Shelby Metcalf said the Cougars can always be counted on to contend for the SWC title.

"I started playing Houston in December of '63," Metcalf said. "I've never seen them when they haven't had good talent. They just keep putting good talent out on the floor."

"They get just about anybody they want in Houston and they don't do too bad in Nigeria."

Metcalf said although the Cougars are playing reasonably well, Olajuwon's departure hurt.

"They haven't changed their style (since losing Akeem), but there aren't many Akeem's around," Metcalf said. "The Houston Rockets would hurt, if they lost Akeem."

Metcalf said Cougar guard Alvin Franklin's outside shooting and forward Rickie Winslow's inside play are the Aggies biggest concerns. But, three-year starter Reid Gettys, the Coogs' play-maker, could give the Ags trouble.

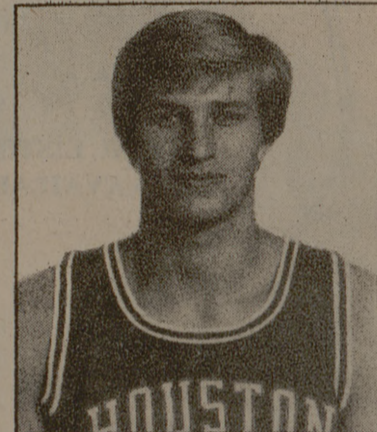
Metcalf gave the Aggie players Thursday off to relax from an exhausting game Wednesday night against Texas Tech.

The Ags played a terrible first half in their 50-47 win over the Red Raiders. Metcalf said the team just wasn't prepared to play.

"Mentally we just weren't ready to play," Metcalf said. "We won the game with defense. Our offense was as poor as I've seen it."



Houston's Alvin Franklin

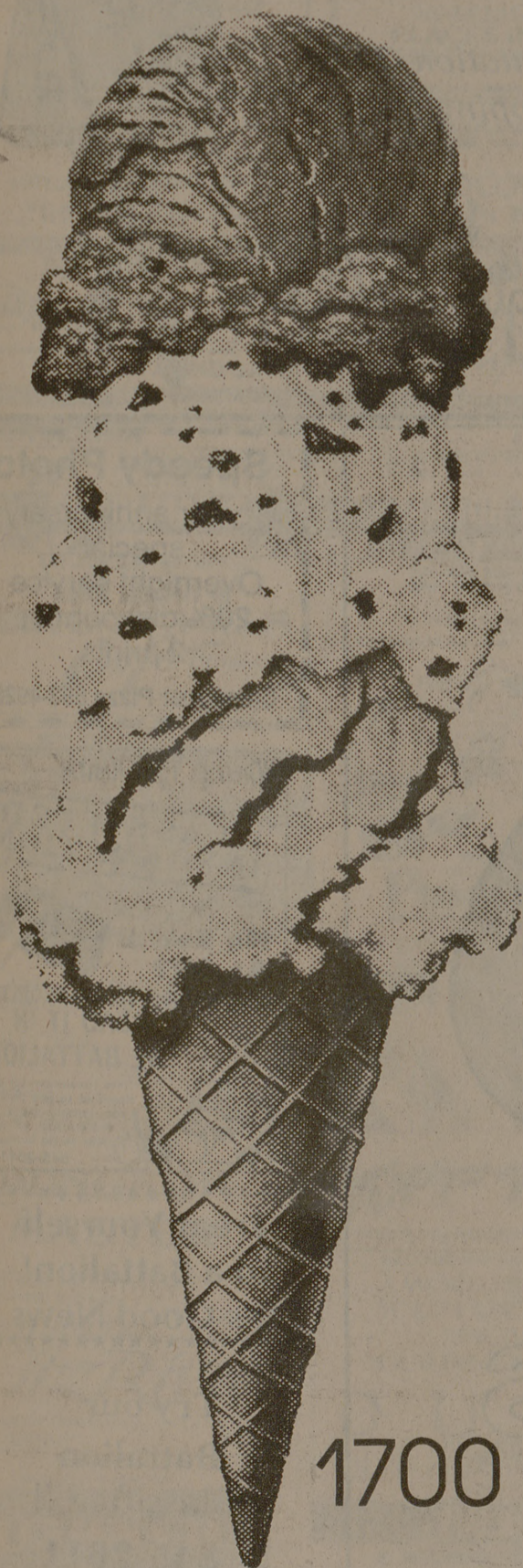


Houston's Reid Gettys

"It was ugly, but it's a 'W.' I wouldn't mind playing it again, if I knew the outcome before hand."

A&M guard Don Marbury is still suffering from a Jan. 13 knee injury. Despite lack of practice since the injury, Marbury has racked up considerable playing time.

"His knee is better," Metcalf said. "He's having whirlpool treatments which is a good sign. Not working out has hurt his preparation."



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