

SPORTS

Suitts says Owls died on boards

By CHAREAN WILLIAMS
Assistant Sports Editor

HOUSTON — At halftime of last night's A&M-Rice game, a group of students performed a dribbling, shooting and break-dancing routine.

The youngsters, from the University of St. Thomas elementary school, should have arrived earlier to help the Owls with their rebounding. Rice was out-rebounded 25-12, giving A&M a 30-24 halftime lead.

That was the difference in the game.

"Obviously, the offensive rebounds in the first half gave them the big edge," Rice Head Coach Tommy Suitts said. "The rebounds, coupled with our free throw shooting (four of 10 in the first half) gave them a big lead. Even though we were out-rebounded, we could have been even at the half if we had made our free throws."

Rice forward Tony Barnett, who led Rice with 10 rebounds, said the Aggies just push him around underneath.

"We just let them get too many offensive rebounds," Barnett said. "They went to the boards hard. They're one of the better rebounding teams we've seen."

"They were a plus eight on rebounds coming in, so we knew they had a good rebounding team. They just killed us inside."

Rice's Greg Hines agreed with Barnett.

"They were just big a strong on the inside," Hines said. "We just didn't block them out like we should have."

Suitts said having to put Hines on the bench with three fouls in the first half hindered the Owls on the boards.

"Their board domination was much more pronounced when Greg was out of the game," he said. "It really hurt us."

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Guard play helps A&M cruise past Rice

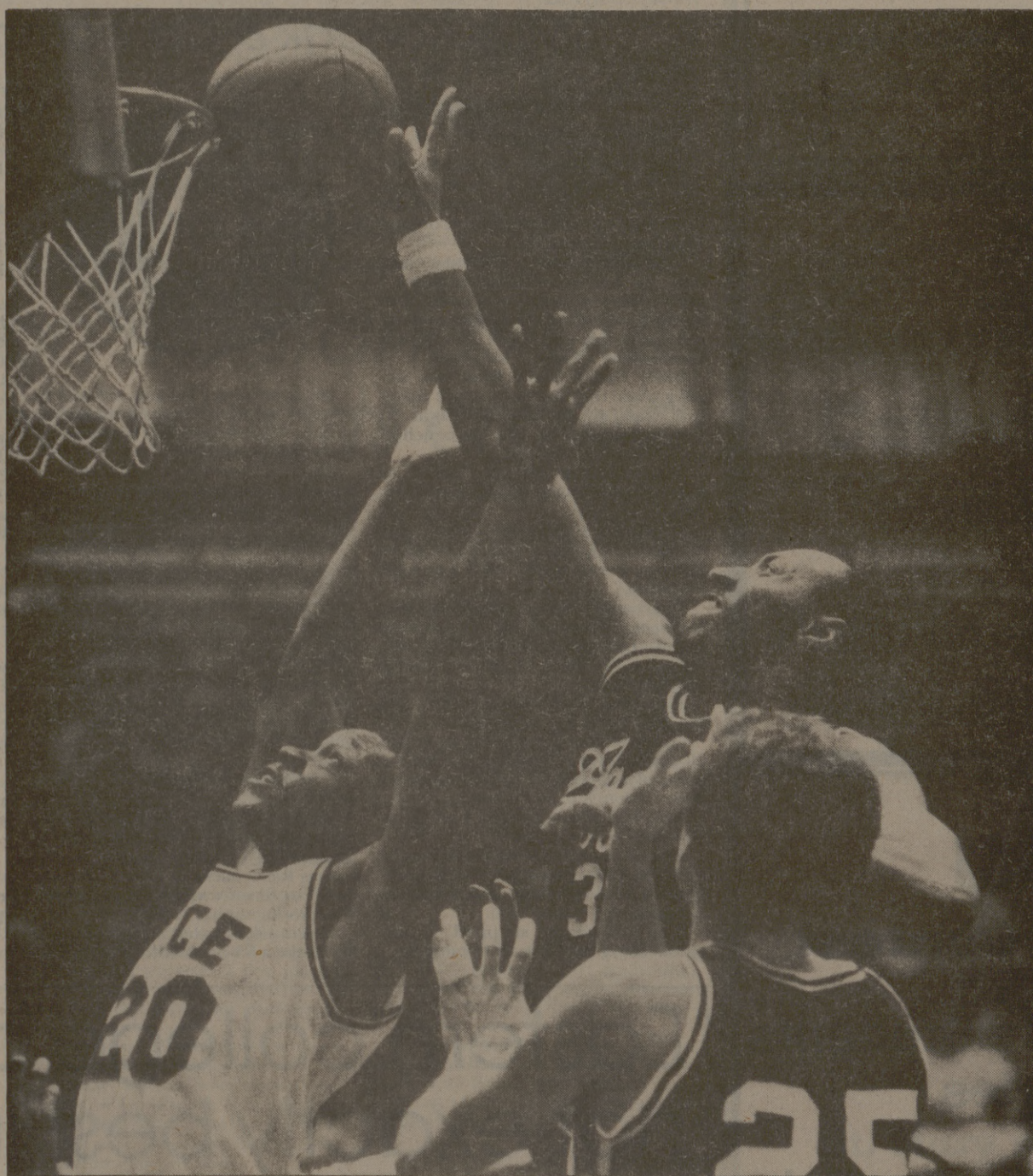


Photo by DEAN SAITO

Texas A&M center Jimmie Gilbert (top right) goes up over the back of a Rice player

for a tip-in during the Aggies' 64-52 victory over the Owls Wednesday night in Houston.

By BRANDON BERRY
Sports Writer

HOUSTON — Somewhere on Highway 6, Texas A&M guard Todd Holloway found his jump shot. After that, the rest was easy as the Aggies downed the Rice Owls 64-52 Wednesday night.

Holloway, only a 43 percent shooter through the first 18 games of the season, hit seven of 10 shots in the second half as the Aggies expanded a four-point halftime lead.

"I got my shot back tonight," Holloway, who finished with 17 points, said. "Ever since my ankle got hurt, I've been missing my jumper, but now I feel healthy again."

"He tested the waters well," A&M Head Basketball Coach Shelby Metcalf said of Holloway's shooting. "We're glad he's coming around, but Don Marbury's knee is still a day-to-day situation. He hasn't practiced in quite awhile. He overcomes it with natural ability, but he's getting a little bit rusty."

The outcome of the game was never seriously in doubt, once the Aggies began hitting their shots. A&M led 30-24 at halftime, despite hitting just 38 percent from the field.

"We stayed in the game the first half by being on the boards and some good individual moves by Marbury," Metcalf said. "In the second half we executed better and our zone bothered them some. Rice played more up-tempo than we expected."

Rice Coach Tommy Suitts said the Aggies were everything he expected.

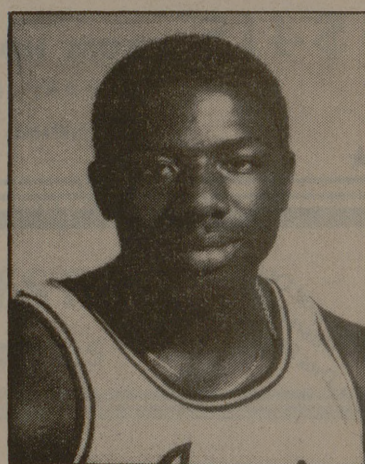
"A&M played well, but I expected them to play well," Suitts said. "They were my pre-season choice to crack the top three in the conference. As for us, we're on a roll and rolling the wrong way."

Metcalf said it was nice to leave Houston with a win, but the schedule won't get any easier.

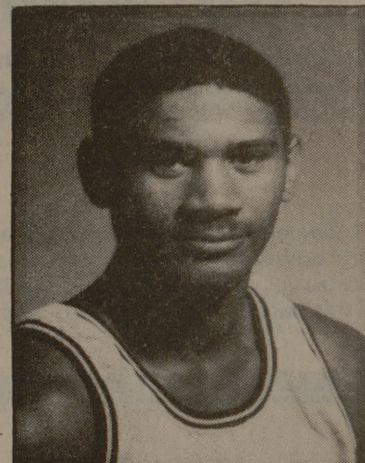
"I hope this team is getting better because we are fixin' to get tested," he said. "Now we have to go to Fayetteville, Dallas and Houston."

For the Aggies, 14-5 overall and in second place in the Southwest Conference at 6-2, the game marked the first time this season that all three guards had explosive scoring nights.

Marbury led A&M with 19 points and Kenny Brown had 15, but Hol-



Todd Holloway



Kenny Brown

loway's rejuvenated jumper was the talk of Autry Court.

"Holloway really penetrated well tonight," said Rice forward Tony Barnett.

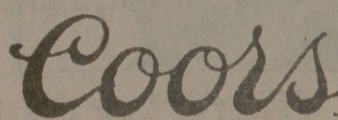
A&M next road encounter comes Friday night in Fayetteville's Barnhill Arena, where the Arkansas Razorbacks have won 17 straight games, 45 of their last 46.

"This is a good time to go to Arkansas," Metcalf said. "The weather will be nasty, their fans will be nasty and their team's going to be nasty. So it looks like its time to go."

"We've played well on the road this year, but playing well on the road and playing well in a foreign country are two different things."

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