

Baylor threatens blowout; A&M's late rally falls short

By CHAREAN WILLIAMS
Assistant Sports Editor

Quicker than you can say, "Here we go again," the Texas A&M women's basketball team was on the verge of a dramatic second half comeback against the Baylor Bears last night.

Down by 19 points at halftime, the Aggies put on a second half surge. Over an 11 minute span, the Aggs outscored the Bears 23-2.

Then, with just 3:22 left in the game, the Aggies had the ball trailing 55-54.

That was as close as the Aggs got.

A&M forward Jenni Edgar was called for an offensive charge. Baylor forward Terri Moore took advantage of A&M's mistake by driving the lane and scoring an easy lay-up.

The Bears stole the inbound pass after the bucket and that was all she wrote. Baylor left G. Rollie White with a 67-65 win.

For the Aggs (10-10, 3-7 in SWC), the story was the same. The Aggs fell behind early by turning the ball over and just not executing. Then in the second half, A&M rallied and played inspired basketball.

That's been the Aggies' routine the last few games.

"It's the same old story," A&M Coach Lynn Hickey said. "We had a great comeback in the second half. All I can do is praise them for their second half play. But, all I can do is be negative about the first half."

"It is frustrating for this to keep happening. We know we can beat these people."

For senior center Ann Trinka each close loss seems to hurt a little more.

"It seems like we come so close," said Trinka. "We just can't seem to get over the hump. We came back pretty good considering we were down by 20 at one point."

"I guess the whole team isn't ready to play. We go in spurts and that just won't work."

Hickey said falling behind early and then having to play catch-up is getting old.

"We have done it so much," Hickey said. "The first time it's a nice thing to see. When you do it three or four times, it gets frustrating."

Aggie starting center Michell Tatum, who had 27 points and 21 rebounds, said the team talked about

execution at halftime, and then went out and executed.

"We knew we could comeback in the second half," Tatum said. "At halftime, we talked about execution. We just weren't ready in the first half. We've got to be ready at the start, so we don't have to catch-up in the second half."

In the first half, the Bears' press forced the Aggs to turn the ball over nine times. The quicker Baylor team dominated the Aggs from the outside and the inside.

"Our backcourt is so much quicker," Baylor Head Coach Pam Davis said. "We just handle the ball a lot better than they do."

Tatum said the Bear's ferocious press did hinder the Aggs in the first half.

"We just weren't in the game in the first half," Tatum said. "We just kind of panicked and threw the ball away. In the second half we got the ball down the court."

Davis said several things were involved in A&M's second half surge.

"We started celebrating a little early," Davis said. "We lost our intensity in the second half. Plus, A&M handled the press a lot better."

"This A&M group can really play. They try hard and have some good athletes. They aren't given the credit for being as good a team as I think they are."

Hickey said beating the press and the first half blahs are a matter of desire.

"They just decided they wanted to go after them," Hickey said. "We can't keep waiting. We have got to get mad and go out and get these people."

A&M's bench played a total of 48 minutes, but came up with only six points and four rebounds although Romy Gandy led the team in assists with seven.

Trinka, who had six points and three rebounds coming off the bench, has been an integral part of the Aggs lately.

"I'm just doing my job," Trinka

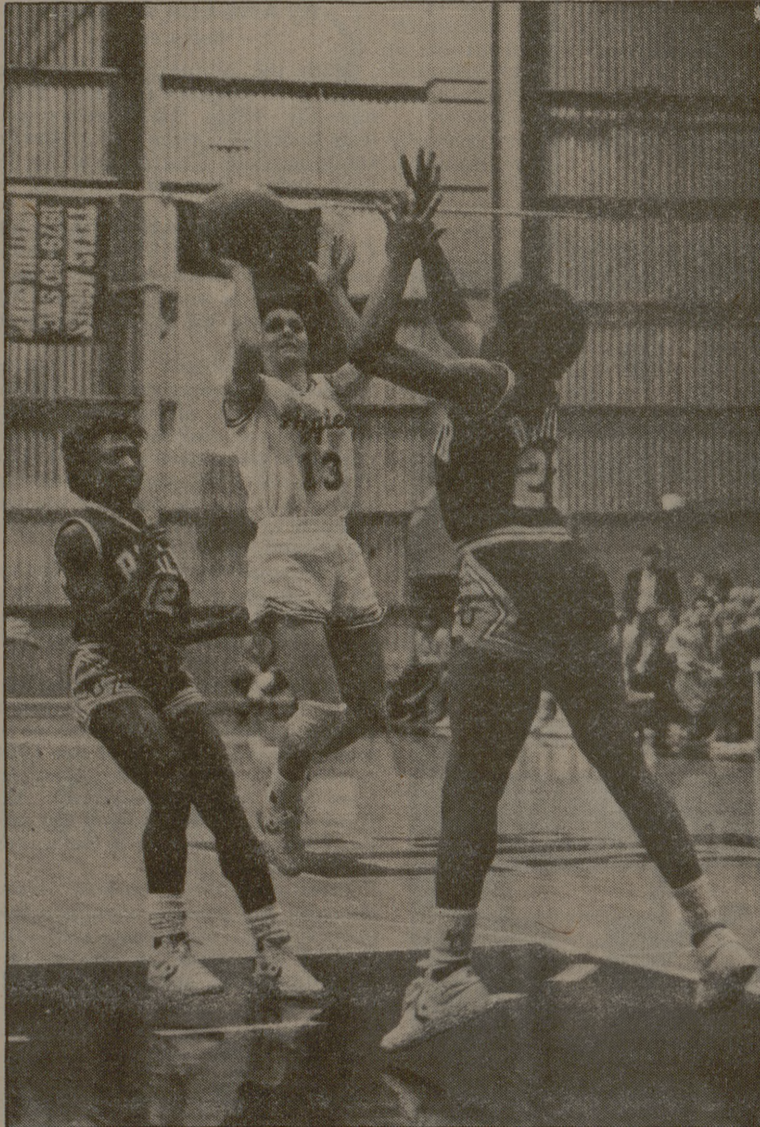


Photo by ANTHONY S. CASPER

Texas A&M guard Beth Young (13) drives through the lane for a short jump shot between two Baylor defender during the Aggies' 67-65 loss to the Bears Wednesday night in G. Rollie White Coliseum. A&M hosts Miami (Fla.) Saturday.

said. "I'm glad I'm getting the chance to play. It's not like I'm fighting for a starting position or anything. I just want to help out. Being the oldest one on the team, I feel like I can be a leader on the court." Just

as she does on the court, Tatum feels the Aggs will rebound from the loss.

When asked about Saturday night's contest with the University of Miami, Tatum was quick to respond, "We're going to win."

SWC Roundup

Sutton's Razorbacks upset Bliss' No. 4 Mustangs

Associated Press

Arkansas 69, SMU 66

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. — Arkansas Coach Eddie Sutton said he was glad Byron Irvin's jump shot had returned to help the Razorbacks to a 69-66 victory over Southern Methodist University in a Southwest Conference basketball game Wednesday night.

"It's been on vacation," Sutton said of Irvin's jump shot. "(Byron Irvin) hit some big shots over their zone. At halftime, I told our team Byron was shooting so well, we needed to get the ball in his hands."

Irvin had 18 points and made nine of 12 from the floor, only one of those inside. Arkansas' Charles Balentine, who had a career-high 29 points in a 63-60 overtime loss to SMU earlier, scored 17 points, including 13 in the second half.

"I've been dreaming for a day like this," Irvin said. "To play this well against one of the best teams in the nation is special. I guess you could say that about our whole team."

SMU Coach Dave Bliss said the game was hard fought, and praised Irvin's performance. "And Arkansas is, of course, a great team at home," Bliss said. The fourth-ranked Mustangs have not won in Barnhill Arena since 1976.

Freshman Kenny Hutchinson calmly made two free throws with 16 seconds remaining to ice the Razorbacks' victory over SMU.

"When I came back in the game late, Coach Sutton told me they would foul me," Hutchinson said. "I knew I had to hit two clutch foul shots and I was ready to hit them."

"While I was on the line, Carl Wright spit at me. The refs didn't see it, but I didn't let it bother me. I just shot the ball."

Hutchinson, hitting less than 50 percent from the free-throw line during the year, gave Arkansas a 67-64 lead. SMU's Jon Koncack made a rebound basket with seven seconds remaining, but the Mustangs didn't foul for five seconds and then Arkansas center Joe Kleine made two free throws.

The Arkansas victory tightened the SWC race. SMU is 8-2 in the league and 18-3 for the season. Arkansas, 16-8 on the year, is 7-3 in the conference, along with Texas A&M.



Arkansas' Eddie Sutton



SMU's Dave Bliss

"It's been on vacation. (Byron Irvin) hit some big shots over their zone. At halftime, I told our team Byron was shooting so well, we needed to get the ball in his hands."
— Arkansas Coach Eddie Sutton

Houston 94, Texas 80

Rice 62, TCU 61

HOUSTON — Greg Anderson scored 20 points to lead five Houston players in double figures and the Cougars used a baseline-to-baseline pressing defense to wilt the Texas Longhorns 94-80 in a Southwest Conference basketball game Wednesday night.

The Cougars ended a four-game losing streak and improved their record to 14-8 for the season and 6-4 in SWC play. The Longhorns fell to 11-9 and 4-6.

Houston opened the game in a full court pressing defense and stuck with the strategy throughout the game, forcing the Longhorns into 23 turnovers in the game.

Texas, which defeated the Cougars 61-58 in their first meeting this season, led twice in the opening minutes but trailed 48-37 at halftime and never made a second half charge.

Mike Wacker scored a game-high 22 points to lead the Longhorns followed by Alex Broadway with 13 and John Brownlee with 12.

Alvin Franklin and Eric Dickens each scored 18 points for Houston, followed by Rickie Winslow with 16 and Braxton Clark with 10.

FORT WORTH — Senior forward Tony Barnett scored a career-high 32 points Wednesday night in leading Rice to a 62-61 Southwest Conference victory over Texas Christian.

The win broke a 7-game Owl losing streak and upped their record to 9-11 overall, 2-8 in SWC play. TCU fell to 12-9 and 4-6.

The Horned Frogs jumped out to a quick 8-0 lead at the start, but Rice rallied to take a 31-28 lead at halftime. The Owls pushed their advantage to 11 points, 44-33, with 13 minutes remaining on a Barnett jumper.

TCU closed in the later stages and led by three, 61-58, with 2:48 to go. But Rice moved back into the lead and Norman Anderson's jumper with three seconds left fell short and TCU's three-game win streak was broken.

Dennis Nutt led Frogs' scorers with 17 points.

Rice Coach Tommy Suits said, "I guess we might say that we got it in the hole just often enough to win. I was really proud of the way our team hung in there and fought back."

"Rice has always played us tough," TCU Coach Jim Killingsworth said.

Lewis' life not good as LA gold

Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — Life for Carl Lewis after the Olympics hasn't always been as bright as the gold medals he won in Los Angeles last summer.

Other American Olympic heroes have signed lucrative endorsement contracts in their home country. Lewis has not. Some reporters, bothered by Lewis' lack of availability before and during the Olympics, have portrayed him as arrogant and aloof.

Damaging rumors have circulated that he has used cocaine and steroids, and that he is a homosexual.

Deserved or not, Lewis, who claimed gold medals in the 100- and 200-meter dashes, the 400-meter relay and long jump, has a tainted public image.

"I just don't understand it," he told The Oregonian on Monday. "I haven't said anything to make a person hate me. These people are entitled to their opinion, I guess, whether right or wrong. I feel they're wrong."

He has competed twice in the 1985 U.S. indoor circuit, winning the long jump with a leap of 27 feet, 10 1/4 inches in the Millrose Games at New York, and winning the 60 in 6.1 seconds at Saturday's Dallas Times Herald Invitational.

After winning at Dallas, Lewis issued a terse statement to reporters and walked away. The statement said "I am continually appalled and flabbergasted by the media's treatment of me, I am going to continue to give interviews. I'll keep trucking. That's who I am and that's what I will stay. That's all I've got to say."

Lewis was in Portland to accept the Prefontaine Award at the Hayward Banquet of Champions, given to the world's top track and field athlete through a vote of athletes in a poll conducted by Track & Field News. During the banquet, he watched a film of his Olympic heroics.

"Looking back at the films brings back the same feelings I had during the Olympics," he said. "It brings a frog to my throat."

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