

SPORTS

Easy victory over Frogs ties Ags, Raiders in SWC

By **TRAVIS TINGLE**
Sports Editor

The game wasn't supposed to be easy.

Texas Christian came into G. Rollie White Coliseum Saturday night with all the credentials to back up its "Killer Frog" image. In their last six outings, the Horned Frogs had won five and lost only one, including three victories on the road.

TCU defeated Baylor in Waco, just two nights after the Bears upset SMU; downed Arkansas in Fort Worth; lost to Rice in Fort Worth; beat Houston in Hoffenz Pavilion; routed Texas Tech in Lubbock; and zapped Texas at home.

So, needless to say, the Horned Frogs had it all figured out. They'd make Texas A&M just another big road victory, get on the bus back to Fort Worth and then ask TCU Football Coach Jim Wacker to pump them up for an "unbelievable" showdown with SMU Wednesday night in Fort Worth.

Simple plan, but apparently no one informed A&M, much less Wacker, of TCU's intentions. TCU should have known better. In the Southwest Conference, nothing is ever as simple as it seems.

TCU, usually a purple thorn in Aggie Coach Shelby Metcalf's side, finally met its Waterloo on the road, losing to A&M, 67-60.

The victory moved A&M (16-7, 8-4 in the Southwest Conference) into a second-place tie with

Texas Tech, one full game behind first-place Southern Methodist, 9-3 and ranked No. 9 in the nation.

Both A&M and Tech are within striking distance of SMU, but both the Aggies and Red Raiders have grueling schedules remaining to be played.

The Aggies host the Texas Longhorns Wednesday night and Baylor visits Tech in Lubbock. Easy games, right? Right. But look who's next.

Should the Aggies and Red Raiders both win, they'll find themselves staring at each other's benches in Municipal Coliseum in Lubbock this Saturday. That game will decide the fate of second place in the SWC. Still not too bad, right? Wrong.

How's this for a great way to finish up the season: A&M visits Houston the following Wednesday and Tech travels to Dallas to play the team that has led the conference from start to finish — SMU.

A&M forward Winston Crite, who came out of what he called a slump in the TCU game with 16 points, five rebounds and six blockedshots, said the importance of these last three games can't be emphasized enough.

"The Tech game is going to be a big one," Crite said. "There's no question it will be the biggest game we've played all year. We know we can't afford to lose any more games if we want to contend for the title."



Photo by **DEAN SAITO**
A&M's Don Marbury (3) glides through the lane and past TCU's Tony Papa during the Ags' 67-60 win over the Frogs.

Ag Ladies' bench sparks rout of TCU

By **CHAREAN WILLIAMS**
Assistant Sports Editor

Basketball is supposed to be a team game. That's why five players are on the floor at a time.

Sometimes the players don't play as a team, which usually means a loss. And sometimes they play as a family, which usually means a win.

Saturday night in G. Rollie White Coliseum, the Texas A&M women incorporated the best of both worlds in a 75-60 blowout of TCU.

The Aggie Ladies shot only 37.9 percent in the first half and played as five individuals. The result was a 26-25 halftime deficit against the worst team in the Southwest Conference.

"I was very displeased with the first half," said A&M Head Coach Lynn Hickey. "I knew it would be difficult to get up for TCU."

In the second half, Hickey tried a new approach and got results.

"Our bench really came in and supported us in the second half," Hickey said. "It's nice to know you have players who can come off the bench and play like that."

"We played as a team the second half. There were no individuals. In practice, it's about 50-50. The starters don't beat the second team that bad. It was really fun to get (the substitutes) out there."

Early in the second half, little used Rochelle Bennett and Mary Ann Swearingin got their chance to come off the bench and contribute.

In 14 minutes, Bennett had seven points, three rebounds, one assist

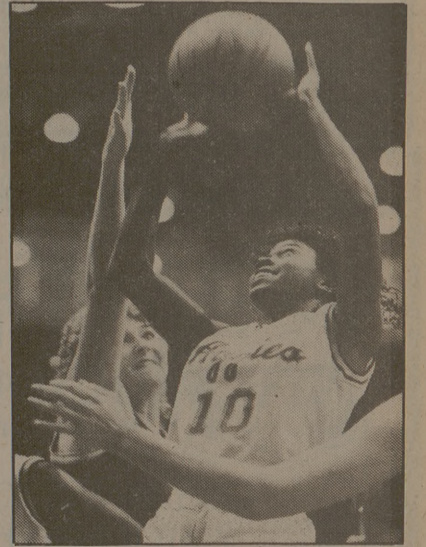


Photo by **JOHN MAKELY**

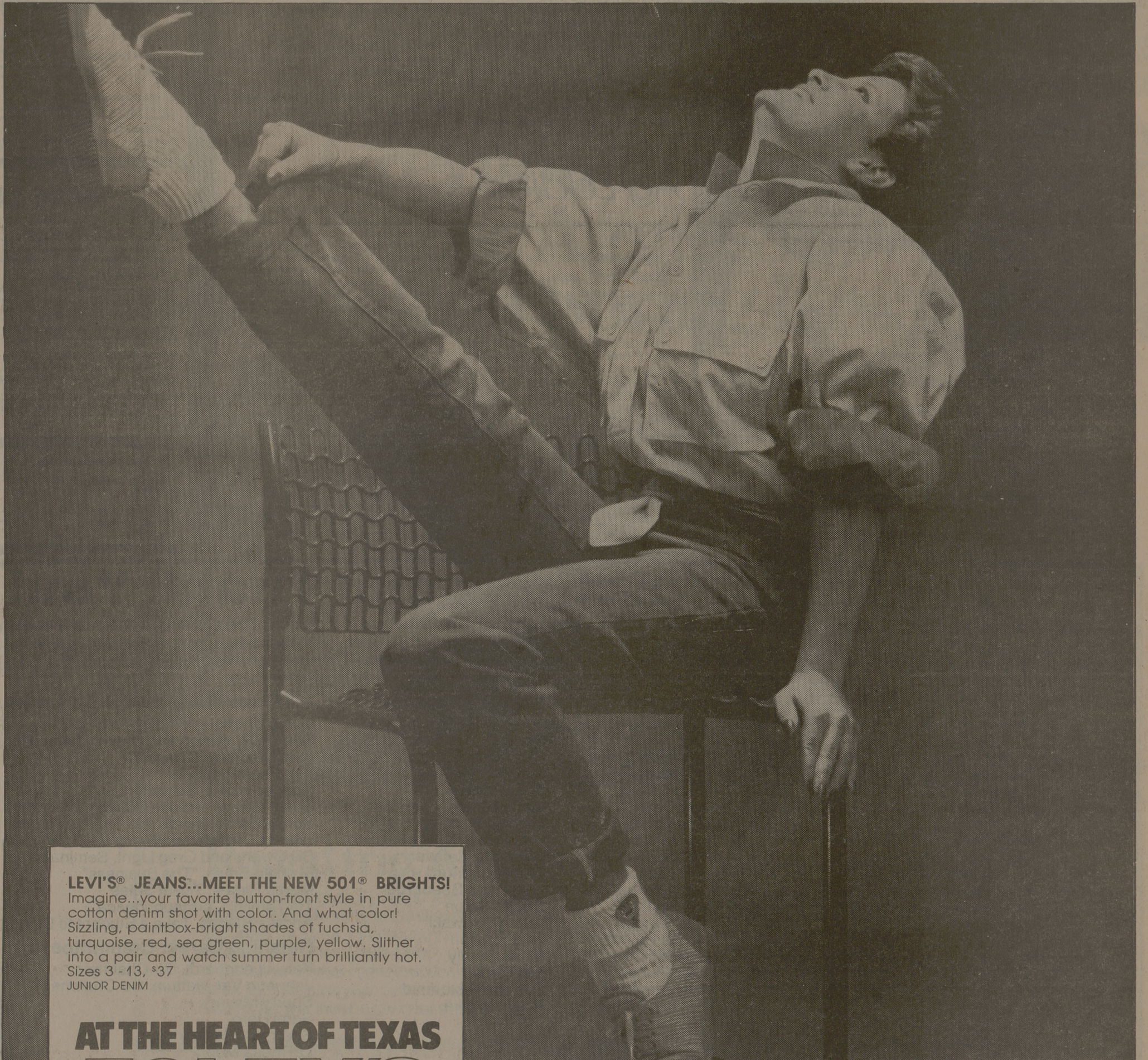
A&M reserve guard Rochelle Bennett comes up strong for an inside jumper during the Aggie Ladies' 75-60 blowout of TCU over the weekend.

and one blocked shot. A much busier night than the Houston sophomore was used to.

"I was ready to come off the bench and play," Bennett said. "It felt great to go out there and con-

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