

Ag seniors walk off winners

After four years of heartbreak and disappointment, the seniors on the Texas A&M women's basketball team finally walked off the court winners Saturday night.

For three years, the women's team lost — and lost consistently. In fact, not since 1980 had the women even finished over .500.

With Saturday night's 78-67 win over Rice, the Aggies finished the season 14-13 in Head Coach Lynn Hickey's first season at A&M. For the six seniors — Janet Dunkham, Jenn Edgar, Romy Gandy, Mary Ann Swerngin, Michell Tatum and Ann Trinka — the game in G. Rollie White Coliseum was a first and a last.

It was the first time they had walked off as season winners, but it was their last in a maroon uniform.

"There's nothing like waiting until your last game of your last year to do something," Edgar said.

The last time across G. Rollie White was the sweetest.

"It feels great," Tatum said. "It wasn't very pretty, but we got the job done. Our slow start had to do with being our last game. I was kind of shaky at the start. The dedication before the ball game got me real emotional."

For Dunkham, the realization that this was her last game came on Friday, but the aftershock hasn't been felt yet.

"(Friday) in practice it hit me," Dunkham said. "I started having tears in my eyes. All our goals were on the line tonight. This would be my first season over .500. The reality that this is my last season won't hit until the season's over."

"I was pretty pumped up before the game. It's been a long four years."

Hickey said she was pleased the

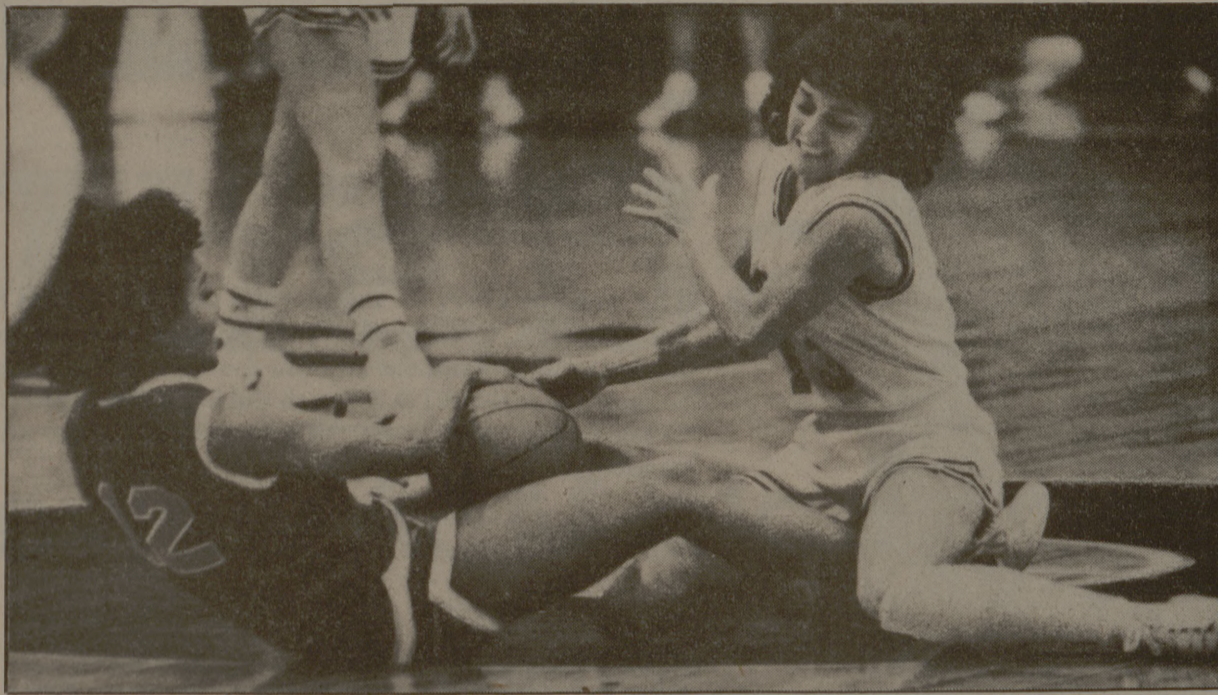


Photo by DEAN SAITO

Texas A&M's Beth Young (13) tries to take the ball from Rice's Angie Phea (12). The Aggies defeated the Owls 78-67 Saturday

night to record their first winning season in five years. A&M will play its first SWC tournament game Tuesday against Houston.

seniors had one moment to remember, but hoped it wouldn't be their last memorable game of the season.

"I am very pleased for them," Hickey said. "They worked hard. They put a lot of effort into practice."

"We have a lot to look forward to now. We have a trip to Dallas we can work on now. I hope it's not over. We'll just take things one step at a time. We have to be patient."

Not only did the win assure the Ags of a winning season, but it tied the Ags for fifth in the Southwest Conference with Baylor.

The Aggies will play Houston in the first round of the post-season tournament Tuesday night at 7 p.m. in Hofheinz Pavilion. If they win, it will send them to Dallas for the final rounds of the SWC tournament this weekend.

A&M's seniors contributed 49 of the Aggies' 78 points and 30 of its 41 rebounds against Rice. Tatum had 17 points, second on the team behind junior Lisa Langston's 24, and had a game-high 13 rebounds.

For Tatum and the rest of the seniors, at least one game remains, but they've at least gone out winners — finally.

SMU sinks further into pack

Associated Press

Houston 79, SMU 76

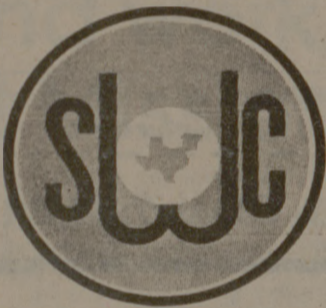
HOUSTON — Alvin Franklin hit four crucial free throws in the final minute and Eric Dickens scored 24 points to lead the Houston Cougars to a 79-76 victory over No. 13 Southern Methodist University Sunday.

SMU held a 54-45 advantage early in the fourth quarter when Dickens scored six straight points and helped the Cougars run off a 19-6 streak to take a 64-62 lead with 8:50 remaining in the game.

Franklin, who finished the game with 16 points, was fouled twice in the final minute and put the game away for the Cougars with four free throws.

Greg Anderson added 19 points for Houston, which finished the regular season with a 16-12 record overall and 8-8 in the conference.

The Mustangs, 21-8 overall and 10-6 in SWC play, were paced by Jon



Koncak, who poured in 24 points. Carl Wright had 22 and Larry Davis added 18.

Houston will meet SMU again Friday in the conference tournament.

Texas 71, USC 70

AUSTIN — Mike Wacker tipped in a missed jump shot with nine seconds left to give Texas a 71-70 victory over Southern California Sunday.

Slocum gets Ag football promotion

Ron Holmes, Southern California's high scorer with 20 points, missed only his second shot in 12 attempts when his 15-footer fell short at the buzzer.

The Trojans are 18-8 and tied for first in the Pacific Athletic Conference 10 with a 12-4 record. Texas is 15-12 and ranked seventh in the Southwest Conference with a 7-9 record.

The Longhorns' John Brownlee scored a season-high 31 points and Wacker finished with 24.

Wayne Carlander, who hit seven of 11 shots from the field, finished with 16 points to move into first place on USC's all-time leading scorer list with 1,485 points.

Texas took its biggest lead of the game, 57-50, with 8:27 left to play, but saw it dwindle to one point, 69-68, at 1:25. Troy LaMar put the Trojans ahead on a layup with 27 seconds left, setting up Wacker's heroics after Brownlee and Karl Willock were both off the mark.

R.C. Slocum, Texas A&M's defensive coordinator for the past three years, was named the Aggies' assistant head football coach over the weekend.

Slocum will also continue his role as defensive coordinator and linebacker coach for the Aggies.

"R.C.'s loyalty to Texas A&M is unmatched and he does a very good job in all phases of the game of football," A&M Coach Jackie Sherrill said. "I'm proud to have him accept this new assignment and I'm positive he will do an outstanding job."

Slocum said, "Naturally, I'm delighted. Anytime you get a promotion and recognition for the job you have been doing by the person you're working for, it is very meaningful...."

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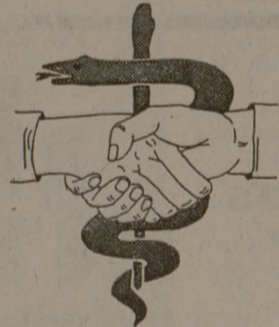
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