

Sports

SMU drops A&M from atop SWC

Free throws determine 58-56 game

By CHAREAN WILLIAMS
Assistant Sports Editor

The Texas A&M basketball team had everything going its way Saturday night against SMU — a three-game win streak, a 9-0 record at home, the largest home crowd all year, sole possession of first place in the Southwest Conference and a couple of SMU mistakes.

For most of the 40-minute game, it looked like the Aggies would walk off the court winners.

But in only 1:51 the Ags turned from winners to losers and fell from their throne above the SWC to second place.

The Mustangs 58-56 win over the Ags in front of 7,464 vocal fans at G. Rollie White Coliseum left TCU and Texas tied for first at 9-2 while A&M slipped a half-game off the pace at 8-2.

The Aggies gave the Ponies three chances to win the game and the third one was a charm.

With 1:51 remaining, SMU had the ball with the game tied 56-56.

Mustang guard Scott Johnson tried to force a shot up and missed. But SMU forward Terry Thomas was there for the rebound with 1:10 showing on the clock.

Then Pony forward Kevin Lewis missed, only to have Johnson grab the rebound with 20 seconds left.

"There at the end, I couldn't believe we got two offensive rebounds in a row," SMU Coach Dave Bliss said. "We haven't done that all season."

With the clock winding down, the Mustangs were playing for the last shot. But A&M guard Gary Lewis fouled Kevin Lewis, who calmly sank both for a 58-56 SMU lead.

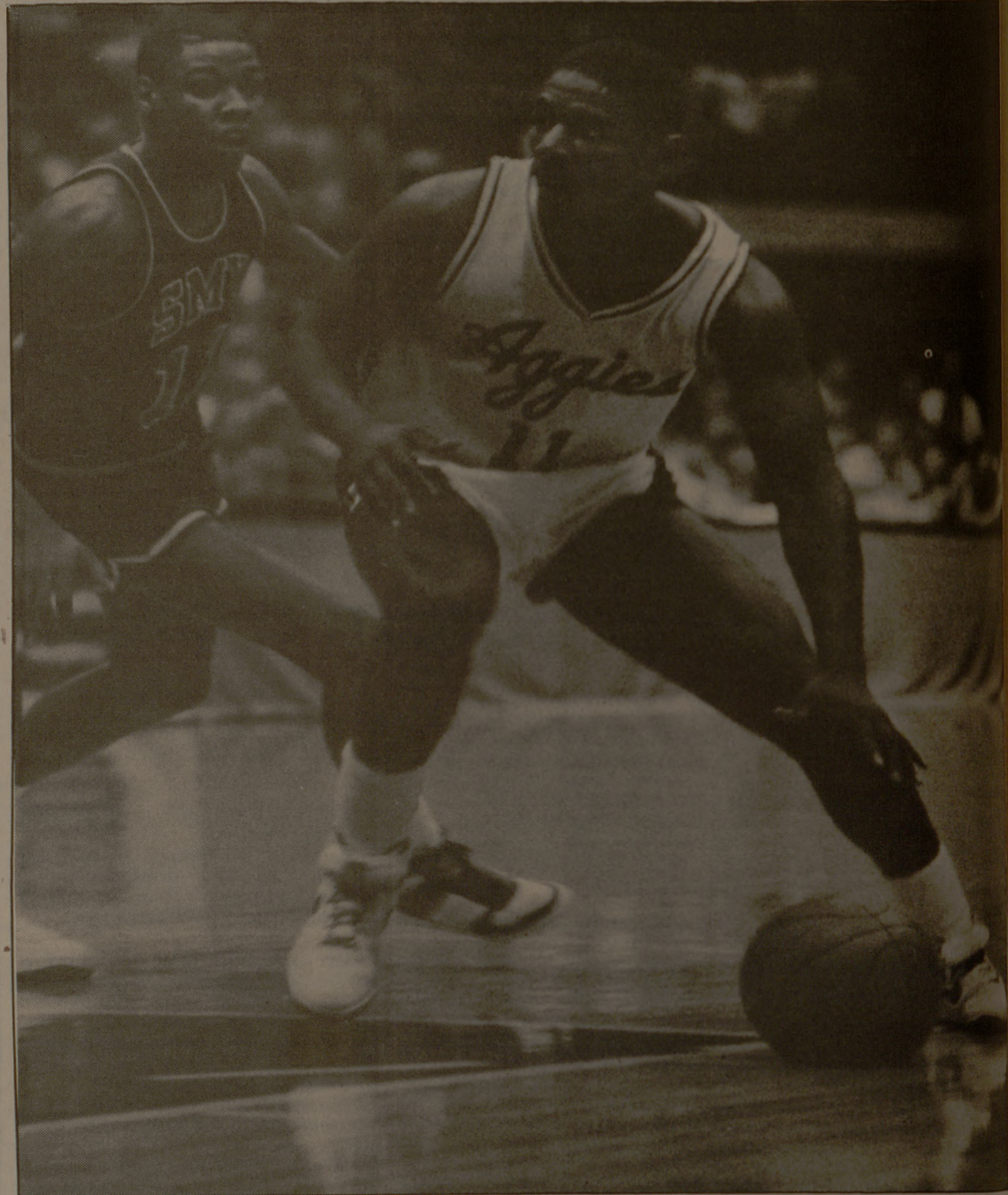
"You'll have to ask Gary (if he intended to foul Kevin Lewis)," A&M Coach Shelby Metcalf said. "When we lost the ball game was when we had two chances to get the rebound. The first time the clock was still on and we didn't get (the rebound). If we do, it's us playing for the last shot."

After inboundng the ball, A&M guard Todd Holloway drove the length of the floor and made a great move to draw the foul from Johnny Fuller.

But Holloway, who won the Texas game with a couple of last-second free throws earlier in the season, missed the front-end of a one-and-one and the game was history.

"It was a great play that Todd made at the end and gave us a chance to tie it," Metcalf said. "He just missed the free throw. He didn't choke, he just missed it."

But the fact is, A&M should never have been in a position to win or lose



A&M guard Todd Holloway (right) drives past SMU's Johnny Fuller Saturday night. The Ag-

gies' 58-56 loss dropped them into second place in the SWC standings behind TCU and Texas.

Photo by GREG B...

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BODY DYNAMICS

696-BODY

Ag doubles teams fall from national tourney

By KEN SURY
Assistant Sports Editor

HOUSTON — Texas A&M's Vanne Akagi and Gaye Lynn Gensler lost their consolation doubles match final Sunday at the Intercollegiate Tennis Coaches Association (ITCA) Indoor Nationals.

The A&M men's duo of Mark Smith and Russ Simmons, which knocked off Clemson's No. 4-seeded team Thursday, dropped from competition Friday.

Akagi and Gensler were defeated by Cathy Vigna and Erica Smith of Harvard 3-6, 7-5, 6-2, after downing Houston's Kathy Foxworth and

Stina Almgren 6-3, 6-2 in the consolation semifinals.

The Aggie women earned that semifinal berth when UCLA's Jennifer Fuchs and Jane Thomas defaulted due to an illness.

The UCLA duo was ranked No. 7 in the nation and A&M Women's Tennis Coach Bobby Kleinecke said even though the match was defaulted, it still counts as a win for Akagi and Gensler.

Also on Friday, A&M's Kim Labuschagne and Karen Marshall were eliminated from the tournament when they lost to Brigham Young's Susanna Lee and Leslie Hakala, 6-2, 6-4.

But despite the losses, Kleinecke said there were positive aspects about playing in the ITCA tournament.

"For one thing, this is the first time the A&M women have even been invited to the tourney," Kleinecke said. "And any time you win a match here in the national tourney, it's a big plus for you."

Houston's Jeff Rolquin and Earl Zinn defeated Smith and Simmons in Friday's quarterfinals 6-3, 6-4.

"(UH's Rolquin and Zinn) simply outplayed us," A&M Men's Tennis Coach David Kent said. "We just couldn't return their serves and that

was a large part of the reason for our loss."

The loss enabled Smith and Simmons to move from the warm-up confines of the Chancellors Club in Houston to A&M's club windy Omar Smith Tennis Center for Saturday's matches against Southwest Texas State. The men's matches with SWTSU were scheduled for Feb. 27.

The Aggie men won all six matches before the doubles matches were cancelled due to the inclement weather. The A&M men's hosts Stephen F. Austin today at Omar Smith Tennis Center at 1 p.m., weather permitting.

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