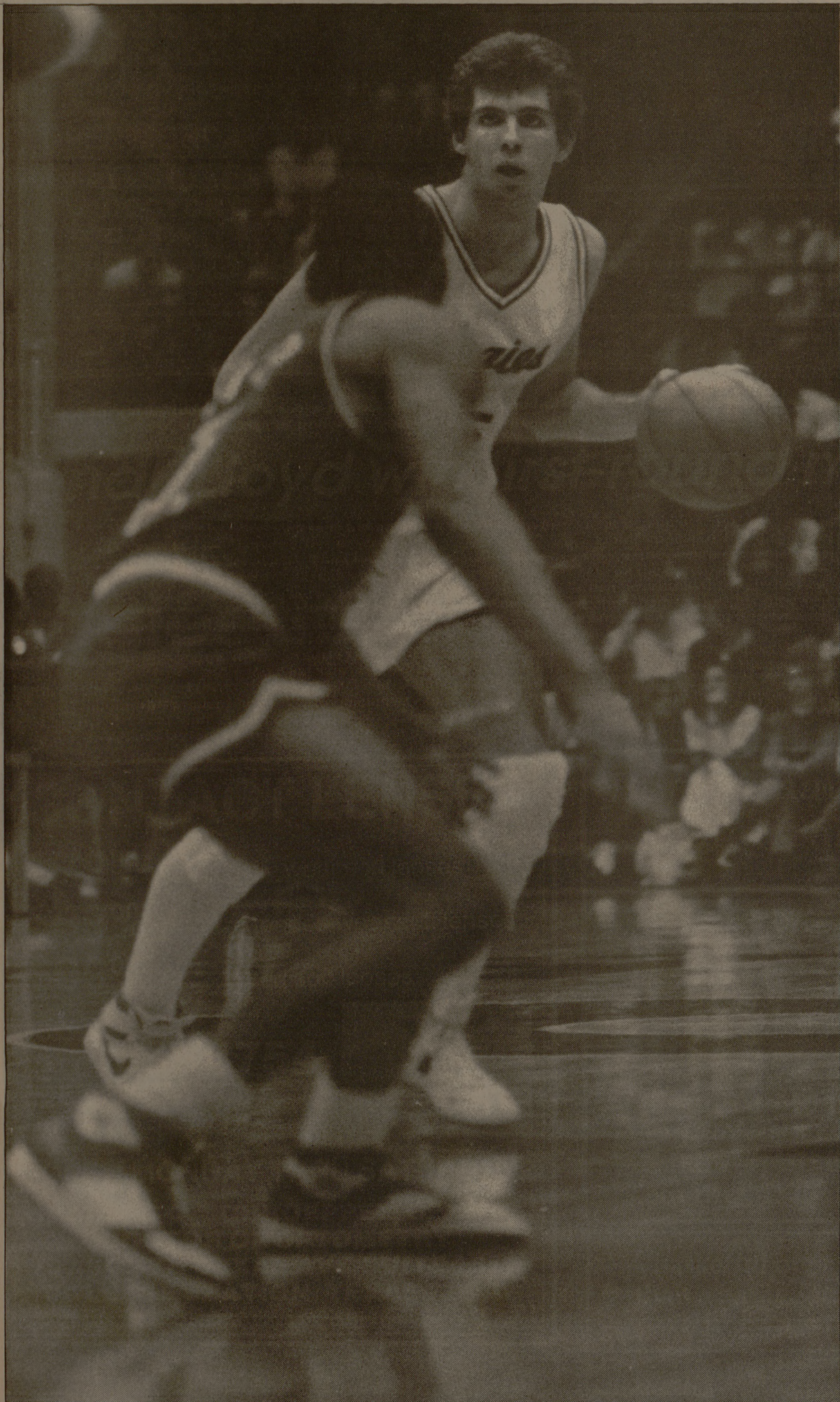


Aggies title hopes ride on road



A&M to face front-runner TCU tonight

By CHAREAN WILLIAMS
Assistant Sports Editor

Just four days ago, Texas A&M was on top of the Southwest Conference basketball standings looking down on the rest of the field. But two points and 1:51 later, the Aggies found themselves in second place, looking up at TCU and Texas.

Tonight the Aggies (8-2 in SWC, 14-8 overall) are hoping to climb back into the SWC driver's seat when they travel to Fort Worth for a 7:30 p.m. showdown with the Horned Frogs (9-2, 16-5) at Daniel-Meyer Coliseum.

"It's going to be tough," A&M Coach Shelby Metcalf said. "TCU has been playing great basketball. They looked good (in a 67-47 win over Baylor) Saturday."

While the Frogs were winning, the Aggies took it on the chin against SMU Saturday night. A&M's 58-56 setback moved TCU and Texas a half game up on the Aggies.

"We've got to bounce back," Metcalf said. "We really needed to beat SMU and we didn't get the job done."

And A&M's job doesn't get any easier.

After tonight's jaunt to Fort Worth, the Aggies travel to Austin for a meeting with the Longhorns. A&M also faces road trips to Rice and Arkansas in its final six conference games.

"We have a real tough situation right now because we have to go to TCU (Fort Worth) and to Austin," Metcalf said. "But it can be done. We just have to suck it up and go do it."

While TCU seems to have the easiest route to the title, since they host both A&M and Texas, SMU guard Butch Moore issued a warning for the Horned Frogs.

"(A&M's) still in the conference race," Moore said. "The Aggies have a very good basketball team. If I could tell TCU anything, I'd tell them not to count out the Aggies."

The Frogs will probably take Moore's advice, especially since the Aggies possess the SWC's leading scorer and one of the conference's strongest inside duos.

A&M guard Don Marbury, who leads the SWC in scoring at 22.8 points a game, is capable of instant offense anytime. Marbury scored 32 and 30 points in the two games before the SMU game. However, against the Mustangs, he could muster only 12 points.

"I just had a bad shooting night," Marbury said. "We took some tough lumps against SMU. But we're thinking about TCU now. It's a big game. We have to come back and play hard."

The Aggies' inside game continues to give opposing teams fits.

Center Jimmie Gilbert (12.6 points and 7.6 rebounds) and forward Winston Crite (12.3, 7.2) will hold the key to the Aggies' success against the Horned Frogs.

TCU will rely on forward Carven Holcombe for inside points, guard Carl Lott for assists and forward Larry Richard for rebounds.

A&M forward Mike Clifford looks to pass the ball off to one of his teammates under the goal.

The second-place Aggies travel to Fort Worth tonight for a battle with first-place TCU.

Photo by GREG BAILEY

Lendl, Lloyd win first-round matches

Associated Press

BOCA RATON, Fla. — Top-seeded Ivan Lendl escaped a serve-banging battle with John Sadri with a 6-2, 3-6, 7-6 victory Tuesday, winning the tense tiebreaker 8-6 to advance to the second round of the \$1.8 million Lipton International Players Championships tennis tournament.

Earlier, Chris Evert Lloyd, the No. 1 seed among the women, held off scrappy 15-year-old Susan Sloane 6-4, 6-4 Tuesday afternoon

despite a stopped-up nose and an ineffective serve.

The Lloyd-Sloane match followed the day's biggest upset, a 6-3, 4-6, 7-6 (7-5) victory by Chile's Ricardo Acuna over 12th-seeded American Paul Annacone.

In the other men's play, No. 15 Andres Gomez of Ecuador beat Emilio Sanchez of Spain 6-7, 6-3, 6-4; No. 19 Thierry Tulasne of France ousted Sammy Giammalva 7-5, 4-6, 6-3; and No. 25 Peter Lundgren of Sweden defeated Jeremy Bates of

Great Britain 6-3, 6-0.

Lendl appeared to be the exception to the tough first-match rule here on the hard courts at Boca West when he cruised through the first set against Sadri. But his first-round match wasn't destined to be an easy one.

Sadri, riding his big serve, began to blast his service in the second set. Lendl couldn't make a dent in Sadri's serve, and he lost his own in the eighth game to allow Sadri to even the match at one set each.

In the third set, the power serving exhibition from both players continued until Sadri broke the world's top-ranked player in the seventh game. But Lendl, the reigning U.S. Open champion, came right back in a long eighth game that went to deuce three times.

They held serve the rest of the way to force the deciding tiebreaker.

Lendl appeared in control again when he won the first five points of the tiebreaker.

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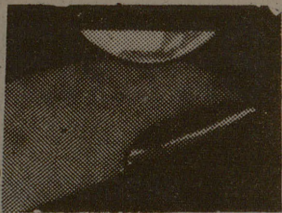
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