

Sports

Aggs need to stop inconsistency tonight against Texas Southern

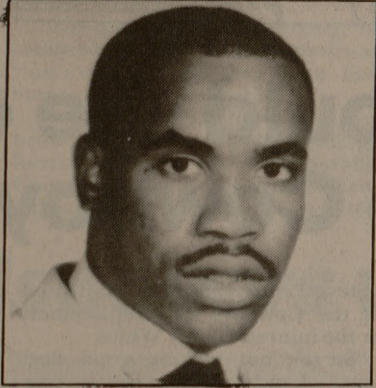
By Ken Sury
Sports Editor

When the Texas A&M men's basketball team plays Texas Southern University tonight at 7:30 p.m. in G. Willie White Coliseum, it hopes to employ something new into the offense — consistency.

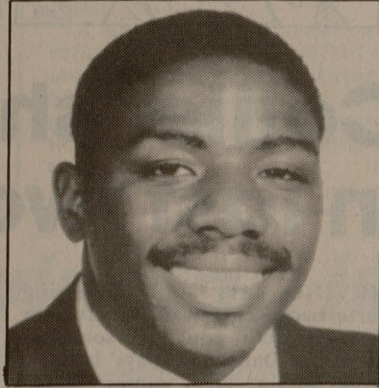
Although A&M brings a 2-1 record into the game, it has yet to play well together for an entire game. In its first two games, senior point guard Todd Holloway was brilliant, with 21 points against 11th-ranked Oklahoma and 18 against Southwest Texas State. However, Holloway went cold Monday night versus Oral Roberts and missed all nine shots from the field.

But when Holloway couldn't find the basket, senior forward Winston Crite took up the slack as he hammered away inside en route to a 24-point performance against ORU.

The rest of the team has played well in spots, including hitting crucial baskets during the Aggies' 12-5 run to pull away from Oral Roberts, but hasn't been able to do so for 40 minutes. A&M easily could have lost Monday's game if ORU had been



Winston Crite



Todd Holloway

able to shoot better than the 21.9 percent it had.

The play at the center position for the Aggies has not only been inconsistent, it's been nearly nonexistent. Jessie Spinner, the 6-10 junior college transfer from Los Angeles, hasn't provided the needed strength at the spot yet. Spinner only scored nine points and pulled down four rebounds in the last two games. Seven-footer Eric Bethea hasn't even seen action in the last two contests.

The lack of consistency could pose problems if it continues against Texas Southern tonight. Although TSU doesn't look like much of a threat with its 1-5 record, assistant coach Jim Feeney warned that the team is probably better than its record indicates.

"Overall, they're a very streaky team," Feeney said. "They can be down by 20 points and then five minutes later be right back in the

game. They shoot the ball with no conscience at all."

Feeney scouted TSU in preparation for tonight's meeting and said the game should be exciting to watch because both sides will use a full-court press and there should be a lot of movement up and down the court.

The players A&M will have to watch for are point guard Robert Gatlin, forward Gary Robinson, center Melvin Stewart and forward Eric West.

Gatlin is TSU's outside specialist, making 15 of 30 attempts this season from three-point range. Robinson and Stewart provide experience as the two seniors on the team.

"Robinson has a really nice touch on short jump shots," Feeney said, "and Stewart is a big (6-8), physical center. He's the anchor of their defense (averaging nine rebounds a game)."

A&M also will need to contain West, the team's leading scorer with a 17.2 average.

Ag swimmers perform well in U.S. Open

The final results may not be all that impressive, but the past weekend is already considered a success for Texas A&M swimmers in the U.S. Open at Orlando, Fla.

A&M Swimming Coach Mel Nash said some tabulations weren't completed after the weekend's competition, but he expects the women's team to finish in sixth or seventh place when the results are mailed later in the week.

The Aggies performed well individually as two freshman women qualified for NCAA competition and two men made the qualifying times for United States Swimming action.

Michelle Chow finished eighth in the 50-meter freestyle with a time of 26.71 seconds, one-half second off her previous best time. Susan Habermas qualified for two events as she took fourth in the 200 freestyle consolation swim in 2:04.84 and third in the consolation heat of the 200 individual medley with a 2:21.49.

Both men produced career bests in qualifying for the USS meet. Junior David Kohel finished seventh with a time of 1:53.70 in the 200 freestyle consolation, while junior Jeff Garry posted a 1:06.32 for seventh in the consolation heat for the 200 breaststroke.

The U.S. Open is the most prestigious international long-course meet of the winter. Long-course swims are held in 50-meter-long pools for international and NCAA meets, while high schools and colleges generally swim in the 25-yard short-course pools.

Nash said he was pleased with the success the Aggies had because it's often difficult to make the adaption to swimming long course, especially after you've been training all winter in a short-course pool.

Tech assistants bound for UT to stay through bowl game

LUBBOCK (AP) — Five Texas Tech assistant football coaches who are following Head Coach David McWilliams to Texas will stay at Tech through the Independence Bowl, Tech Athletic Director T. Jones said Tuesday.

McWilliams, who accepted the Texas job last week after one year at Tech, had planned to coach the Red Raiders in the Dec. 20 bowl game against Mississippi, but Jones said that would not be proper.

"He's headed to Austin today. All of his efforts will be for the university there," Jones said of his decision against allowing McWilliams to coach in the Independence Bowl.

New Tech Coach Spike Dykes, who was promoted Saturday from defensive coordinator, will be in charge of the Red Raiders against Mississippi.

Jones said the five assistants who are heading for Texas can coach Tech in the bowl game because their responsibilities with the Longhorns are not as broad as McWilliams'.

The five Tech assistants who are going to Texas are Johnny Mize, offensive coordinator; Steve Brickey, quarterback coach; Clovis Hale, line coach; Clarence James, wide receiver coach; and Jack Kiser, tight end coach.

Jones said he was not surprised by the assistants' decisions.

"I think this is something that is a normal procedure in coaching changes," he said. "We would have liked to have had our people stay."

Jones, who was upset that Texas recruited McWilliams, expressed relief that the McWilliams episode had ended.

"It was a very difficult thing for all

of us to go through. I have worlds of respect for David. I hated to see him leave," Jones said. "I'm just ready for us to get back on what I call a normal day's activity."

McWilliams, a former Texas player, was a longtime assistant coach for the Longhorns before moving to Tech this season. He had four years remaining on his Tech contract when he left.

Jones, a former associate athletic director at Texas, said McWilliams' departure has placed some heat on him from Red Raider backers.

"I'd be foolish to say I wasn't suffering some of the backlash of all this," Jones said. "It's not unexpected. They're hurt," he said of Tech supporters. "They hated to lose their coach."

Flutie may be 'bigger' than Perry

CHICAGO (AP) — Doug Flutie's No. 2 Chicago Bears' jersey has become the hottest-selling item in some stores since William "The Refrigerator" Perry's No. 72 last season.

Flutie's performance Sunday, in which he had a hand in three touchdowns, has triggered a buying frenzy.

"After Sunday's game, it seemed like everyone who walked into the store wanted a Flutie jersey or something related to Flutie," said Dawn K. Cottini, retail buyer of Bears' paraphernalia for Morrie Mages Sports store in Chicago.

Perry, the beefy defensive lineman who weighs at least 325 pounds, was a sports-marketing phenomenon last year. But he is playing less offense this year and his popularity has cooled.

"I think if (Flutie) continues to play well and they give him more time, I think you'll see it snowball," said Robert Tangen, regional manager for Merle Harmon's Fan Fair,

an Illinois chain of sports paraphernalia stores.

"A lot of women want Flutie jerseys because he's cute," Cottini said. "He's a very likeable player. He's cute and he's a good football player. There's also the controversy over his size."

Flutie suggests his relatively small stature, — 5-foot-9 — may help his appeal with some fans.

"The average fan can identify with me and say to himself, 'If he can make it, maybe I can make it, too,'" the 1984 Heisman Trophy winner said Monday.

The former Boston College star caused a stir in Chicago when he was signed Oct. 21 by the Bears after his U.S. Football League suspended operations.

Critics said Flutie was too small to play in the pros, although he passed for 10,579 yards from 1981-84 to become one of the top five career passers in college history.

And the Super Bowl champions

already had three quarterbacks. Starter Jim McMahon said he didn't think they needed a fourth.

On Sunday, with McMahon out for the season with a shoulder injury, Flutie threw for his first NFL touchdown pass. Replacing starter Mike Tomczak for nearly two quarters, Flutie ran for a second touchdown and handed off for a third in the Bears' 48-14 thrashing of Tampa Bay.

On Monday and Tuesday, fans swamped many Chicago area stores looking for No. 2 jerseys, managers said.

Morrie Mages sold nearly 100 jerseys in two days at about \$80 each, Cottini said.

Flutie paraphernalia has been popular since he joined the Bears, she said, noting the store has sold about 500 No. 2 jerseys since late October.

"As soon as he was signed, we had a flood of requests for Flutie jerseys from all over the country," she said.

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