

Sports

Aggies overpower Tigers 75-60

By Danny Myers
Assistant Sports Editor

It wasn't really a close game, but it wasn't really a sound thrashing either as the Texas A&M basketball team downed Texas Southern University 75-60 Wednesday night in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

The Aggies, 3-1, were led by forward Winston Crite with 16 points and guard Todd Holloway with 15 points. Center Jessie Spinner and forward John Trezvant dumped in 14 apiece. The top rebounder for A&M was forward Mike Clifford with 11 to round out a solid team performance.

Fred West and Marvin Harvey were the high-point men for the Tigers, now 1-6, with 10 points each.

The Aggies exploded right off the bat to take a 16-0 lead five minutes into the game before TSU Head Coach Robert Moreland called a timeout.

It proved to be a wise decision for Moreland because A&M immediately cooled off, and the Tigers managed to pull within 11 points at 38-27 by halftime.

The Aggies led most of the second half by six to 10 points, but they put together a spurt with about five minutes left in the game that eventually would lead to their 15 point margin of victory.

"The first 12 minutes, our defense was real good," A&M Head Coach Shelby Metcalf said.

"I substituted and killed our momentum, but we played well defensively the first twelve minutes. Then with eight to three minutes left in the game we looked pretty good again.

"We haven't put 40 minutes together but I doubt if anyone has. There are some people ahead of us right now, like TCU, Houston and Arkansas . . . but we're notorious slow starters anyway."

The Aggies shot only 48.3 percent from the floor, but held TSU to 34.7 percent.

A bright spot for A&M was the surfacing of Spinner who did a formidable job at center, a position that has been rather lackluster thus far in the season.

"I wanted to show people I do exist," Spinner said. "I knew I could do it."

Forward Darryl McDonald also was impressive in limited action with a couple of steals and Magic Johnson-like passing that brought cheers from the crowd, even though his teammates were having problems hanging on to the passes.

"Maybe they weren't looking," McDonald said. "If I've got the ball, they better be looking for it."

The Aggies' next game is Sunday night at 7:30 in G. Rollie White Coliseum where they will host the University of Nebraska Cornhuskers.

Metcalf said it will be a good opportunity for students to take out their frustrations of studying for finals. This will be the Aggies' last home game before a six game road excursion beginning against Boston University in the Kentucky Invitational in Lexington, Ky.

A&M won't have its normal court in G. Rollie White Coliseum for practice until Sunday, however, due to graduation.

"We tried to get the high school gym but they have things going," Metcalf said, "and we tried to get DeWare and they're refinishing it. So we have to go upstairs to a mini-gym. We need to work, but we probably won't get as much as we need."



Photo by Tom Ownbey

A&M's Paul Crawford eyes the basket as teammate Tadd Thomas (43) looks on during Wednesday night's 75-60 victory over the Texas Southern Tigers.

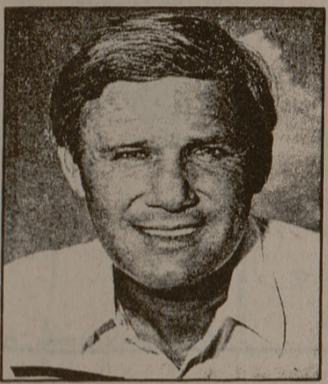
Akers lands job as Purdue coach

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. (AP) — Former Texas football coach Fred Akers was hired at Purdue Wednesday, five weeks after Leon Burnett resigned under pressure amid the Boilermakers' worst record in 44 years.

Akers, 48, signed a five-year contract with a starting base salary of \$100,000, about \$10,000 more than Burnett received, officials said.

Akers was fired two weeks ago after the Longhorns finished 5-6, their worst mark in 30 years. He is the 31st head coach at Purdue.

Burnett compiled a 21-34-1 record in five years.



Fred Akers

Big Ten Conference coach of the year.

Akers coached the past 10 years at Texas, where his teams compiled an 86-31-2 record and appeared in nine straight bowl games before this past season. Former Texas Tech Coach David McWilliams was hired last Friday as Akers' successor.

Akers played defensive back, quarterback and placekicker at the University of Arkansas from 1957-59.

The Boilermakers, hurt by injuries and inexperience all season, were 2-8 when Burnett announced his resignation a week before the final game against Indiana. Purdue won that game, but the 3-8 finish matched Burnett's first season as the worst since the Boilermakers went 1-8 in 1942.

Purdue had only one winning season under Burnett — 1984 — when the Boilermakers were 7-5 with a Peach Bowl loss to Virginia, and Burnett was named

Bears to pay Shearer

AUSTIN (AP) — The Chicago Bears will pay \$350,000 to former player Brad Shearer in settlement of his lawsuit alleging that the NFL team failed to give him adequate care for an injured knee, attorneys said Wednesday.

The federal court trial of Shearer's lawsuit had been scheduled to begin Monday. Attorneys for both sides said the settlement agreement was negotiated over the weekend.

Shearer, a University of Texas graduate who won the 1977 Outland Trophy as the nation's standing lineman, was a Bears' defensive lineman from 1978 through 1981, when he was cut.

Attorney Gil Gillam of Marshall,

representing Shearer, said the lawsuit claimed Shearer's career was cut short by the team's improper care of a 1978 knee injury.

The lawsuit also raised anti-trust questions about the way NFL teams negotiate contracts with players. Shearer, who is now involved in Austin real estate, suffers 85 percent disability in the knee, Gillam said.

Austin lawyer Gary Zausmer, representing the Bears, said under the settlement the anti-trust claims made by Shearer would be dismissed for lack of evidence.

In agreeing to the settlement, the Bears did not concede that Shearer's injury was improperly treated, he said.

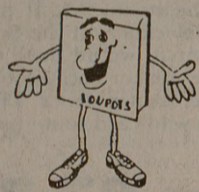


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