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## Ags try again to end losing ways tonight

**By Hal L. Hammons**  
*Sports Writer*

Wednesday's matchup in Austin between Texas A&M and Texas features two teams on the move: the Longhorns on the way up and the Aggies on the way down.

Texas, now 5-6 in conference, is coming off a big win over second-place Baylor and has moved into a tie for fifth in the SWC. A&M, 4-6, has dropped five straight conference games and has plummeted from second place to seventh in well under a month.

A&M Head Coach Shelby Metcalf says Texas and SMU are teams in the conference that are playing the best ball at this time.

He says the Longhorns are a team that "does everything well."

Metcalf says Texas is especially dangerous in the final stages of a game because of its free-throw shooting. Texas is the only team in the conference to shoot better than 70 percent from the line.

Metcalf also says Texas guard Travis Mays is one of the two best freshmen in the SWC.

Metcalf says one of the problems that has plagued the Aggies over the past few games is their lack of rebounding. Some hope can be had for the Aggies in that they beat the Horns soundly on the boards in the Aggie victory in College Station earlier this year.

"I just want to win a ballgame," Metcalf says.

## Mavericks' stars shine in win over Trail Blazers

DALLAS (AP) — Mark Aguirre and Rolando Blackman had a great time over the weekend in Seattle, where they were members of the victorious West team in the NBA All-Star Game at the Kingdome.

But Aguirre said his main concern was getting back home and concentrating on Tuesday night's game against the Portland Trail Blazers at Reunion Arena.

Aguirre did just that, scoring 34 points to lead the Mavericks to a 135-115 victory.

"Believe it or not, my mind wasn't really into the All-Star Game," Aguirre said. "It was a great weekend, and I had a lot of fun. But my main concern is the Dallas Mavericks."

"I think we're a pretty good basketball team. We have to be pumped up and play aggressively every night."

Aguirre said he talked with Blackman on the way back home about what the club has to do to keep on top of the Midwest Division. Blackman responded Tuesday night with 28 points against the Trail Blazers.

"It was an important win for us," Blackman said. "We've wanted to improve our record at home this year, and we've done that. We are getting a lot of help in different areas."

Forward Sam Perkins had 21 for Dallas, 31-16. The Trail Blazers, 30-20, were led by Steve Johnson with 27 points and Kiki Vandeweghe had 23.

## Smith aims for 600th win

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — North Carolina basketball Coach Dean Smith is willing to leave it to others to determine the significance of approaching the 600-victory mark.

As he sees it: "It just means that I've coached for a long time."

The Tar Heels held off Virginia last Sunday for Smith's 599th triumph. Wake Forest comes into the Dean E. Smith Center tonight with the possibility of becoming a part of history.

Bill Guthridge, Smith's top assistant for 20 years, says it is his boss' style to avoid all the attention he draws.

"He doesn't like to talk about himself," Guthridge said. "He would rather the credit go to the players."

Smith, 55, will add one more entry to his list of achievements with a victory in the building named last February in his honor. No. 600 will move him past former Oregon State coach Amory Gill as the 10th winningest Division I coach of all time.

Starting the year, Smith's record of 579-171 gave him a winning percentage of .772, fourth on the all-time list. With a 20-2 record through Sunday's action, he now has captured 20 victories or more in 17 straight seasons. His only losing season in 25 years was his first, an 8-9 mark in 1961.

After that first season, Smith was hung in effigy for failing to produce a winner. Now, in the eyes of his fans, he could coach forever.

"This is a great university and he likes to represent it," Guthridge said. "He is probably the biggest reason I have stayed... I really enjoy my job because of him."

It took UCLA coach John Wooden 29 seasons to capture his 667 victories and DePaul's Ray Meyer coached for 42 to reach 724. If Smith stays on the job through the 1990s, he will even have a shot at Kentucky's Adolph Rupp, who has 875 victories.

Only Rupp and Wooden have managed to win as many as 600 games while averaging 20 victories per season.

## Rockets pound Spurs to grab 115-92 victory

HOUSTON (AP) — Houston's Akeem Olajuwon scored 25 points and sat out the fourth quarter as the Rockets snapped San Antonio's seven-game winning streak with a 115-92 NBA victory Tuesday night.

The Rockets, playing their second game without injured forward Ralph Sampson, took the lead for good late in the first quarter and pulled away from the Spurs.

Despite the loss, San Antonio still has won nine of its last 11 games.

Olajuwon blocked six shots and grabbed seven rebounds. Rodney McCray scored 23 points and passed out eight assists, and Jim Petersen, subbing in the lineup for Sampson, added 19 points and 12 rebounds.

Sampson suffered a knee injury Feb. 3 and will be out at least six weeks after undergoing arthroscopic surgery.

Jon Sundvold, Walter Berry and Johnny Dawkins each scored 16 points for the Spurs.

McCray hit a layup with 3:56 to go in the first quarter for a 17-16 lead, and the Rockets never trailed again. He and Olajuwon helped the Rockets pad their first-half charge with 15 points each by intermission, when the Rockets were ahead 60-44.

Olajuwon added 10 more in the third quarter when the Rockets

sprinted ahead for an 89-82 going into the final quarter.

The victory was Houston's 11th. Bill Fitch's 699th career win. Fitch could become the fifth NBA coach to win 700 games.

Thursday night against New York, Berry had only four points in the second half, and the Rockets shut down Artis Gilmore with points for the entire game.

"They had trouble getting into Artis, and Walter Berry couldn't get untracked tonight," Fitch said. "I thought Berry's key for them, but we did a good job on him."

Houston's Robert Reid sat out a victory after the All-Star game was important.

"You've got to establish quickly after the All-Star game," Reid said. "Now we've got to establish it."

San Antonio Coach Bob MacKinnon said his team may have suffered from jet lag.

"We were flat," he said. "We're two guys on an overnight flight to Seattle. Houston has been off, but they looked like they were off than we were."

Sundvold said Olajuwon and Petersen gave Houston the advantage.

"They just out-played us," he said. "They pounded us and pushed the ball up the floor."

## A&M slightly ahead of UT in duel for top recruiting

(AP) — Texas A&M stands on the verge of making its biggest school-year recruiting haul since Jackie Sherrill became head coach five years ago.

The Aggies are expected to skim off the cream of the recruiting crop during national signing day today.

Should Sherrill win his one-on-one tussle with Texas Coach David McWilliams over blue chip running back Randy Simmons of McKinney, the Aggies could pull off one of the best signing days in SWC history.

Simmons, who decided against going to Oklahoma, said he would likely sign his letter today.

The Aggies, who also had a verbal commitment from bluechip running back Darren Lewis of Dallas Carter, grabbed the inside track on Simmons, although the Longhorns had Heisman Trophy winner Earl Campbell doing some heavy-duty recruiting.

Simmons, who broke the Class 4A rushing record for a season with 2,557 yards and scored 44 touchdowns last year, has a powerful running style similar to Campbell.

The Aggies got a late commitment from Lufkin offensive lineman Matt McCall, considered the best in the state, after a duel with the Baylor Bears. McCall also is a Parade Magazine All-American.

Under McWilliams, who coached at Texas Tech last year, the Longhorns had a verbal agreement from bluechip receiver Johnny Walker of San Antonio Holmes, who caught 57 passes for 1,018 yards and 12 touch-

downs as a senior.

The Longhorns suffered a painful blow when Holmes' counterpart Wilbur Odum chose Texas over Texas Tech. But they were back by getting a verbal agreement from Beaumont Central linemen Mical Padgett, considered the best in the state.

Oklahoma State said Dallas lineman Dwayne Phorne, a chipper, had decided to join Cowboy. Oklahoma had a verbal commitment from top Texas school footballers, including Arthur Austin running back, Ford, Perryton running back, McKinley and Houston State offensive back Cedric Davenport.

Duncanville running back Foster, who gained 1,550 yards last season, has decided on Arkansas.

Texas Christian will only be able to give 10 scholarships because of probation.

Southern Methodist, while the NCAA decides whether to give the Mustangs a two-year suspension for additional probation, will not give out any of its 15 scholarships.

This will be the first signing for head coaches Jack Parker of Houston, Spike Dykes of Tech, and McWilliams at Texas Tech.

For the second year, head coaches will be barred from traveling signing day and will direct operations from their offices.

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