

Mustangs dominate Lady Ags; A&M drops conference opener

By Anthony Wilson
Sports Writer

When the Southern Methodist Lady Mustangs weren't bludgeoning the Lady Aggies on the boards Tuesday night at G. Rollie White Coliseum, they were harassing them in the open court.

The results were an overabundance of A&M turnovers, a ton of SMU rebounds and a 71-58 loss for the Lady Aggies.

SMU snatched 10 more rebounds than A&M in each half for a 43-23 advantage on the boards. SMU's leading rebounder, Felicia Bluiitt, grabbed 16 caroms. Reserve forward Nette Garrett led A&M with five rebounds.

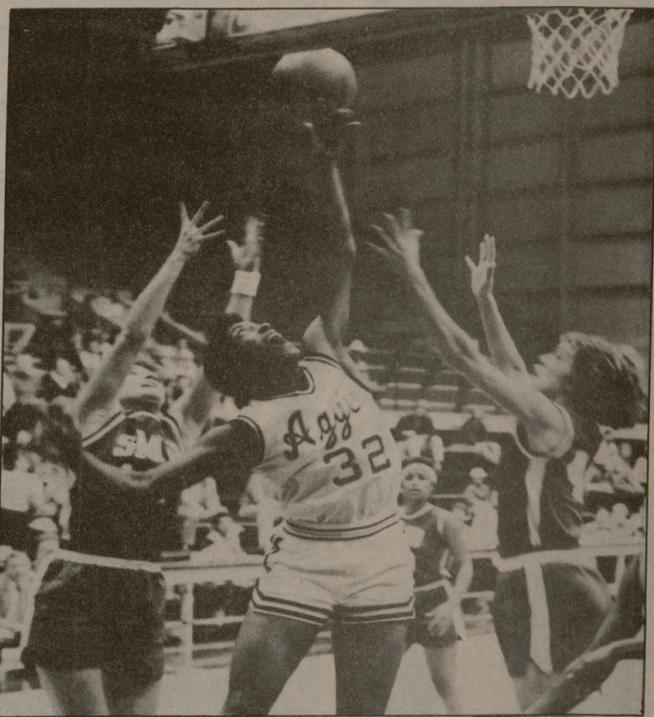
In the second half A&M committed 13 turnovers compared to SMU's five. The Lady Aggies finished the game with 27.

SMU jumped out to an early lead by scoring the first eight points of the game. A&M didn't score until 16:35 in the first half when Traci Thomas nailed a 16-foot jumper.

The Lady Aggies garnered their first lead at 10:40 in the half when Thomas hit an 18-foot jumper. The lead rocked between the two teams for the remainder of the half with SMU taking a 28-25 advantage into the locker room at the intermission.

A&M's first lead of the second half came at 13:07 when Tracey Fewell hit a 25-foot high-arching bomb far behind the three-point line for a 43-41 advantage. Once again the lead shifted back and forth with the Lady Aggies leading 57-56 with 4:50 remaining when Donna Roper fed Evelyn Sanders with a perfect fast-break assist for a layup.

But A&M only scored two points



A&M's Donna Roper jumps for the rebound during Tuesday night's game against SMU. The Lady Aggies lost their SWC opener 71-59.

Photo by Jay Janner

in the final 4:49. SMU scored 15 points in the same amount of time. Roper and Lisa Jordan led the Lady Aggies in scoring with 14 points apiece. Thomas chipped in 12 points, 10 of them in the first half.

Sooners must ditch the wishbone to capture national championship

By Hal L. Hammons
Assistant Sports Editor

Mark your calendars. Friday, Jan. 1, 1988.

The day Oklahoma football died. It was the day football fans never expected to see,

and a day few people recognize for the landmark occasion.

That's happened exactly three times in the past three years. All against the University of Miami. All were Sooner losses, the only losses in those three years.

Miami is a great team, an honor which goes only to them and Florida State this year. Only great teams can beat great teams. Oklahoma is not immune.

Other teams see it's possible to beat the hulking monster from Norman. And the worst part about it for the Sooner faithful is that it doesn't take a great team to do it. It just takes the right team.

Any team with a powerful front seven can hold Oklahoma to 20 points or fewer. Nebraska proved that. The Cornhusker defense held the Sooners as well as Miami did. The offense wasn't good enough to score enough points.

If a team has an offense complicated enough to mix up the run-based Sooner defenses, as well as a strong run defense, that spells doom for OU.

This year that team wouldn't have to be either Miami or Florida State. It could be Auburn, Louisiana State or South Carolina. Or even Texas A&M.

Yes, I'm serious. Texas A&M. With the Aggie offense back on the upward trend, A&M has to be considered one of the best teams in the country. And the team that thrashed Notre Dame Friday probably would

have challenged the Sooners, even beaten them.

Do you seriously think the Sooners would have escaped their regular season unscathed if they had belonged to the Southeastern Conference? I'm not sure at all they would have won the conference championship.

Playing teams like Auburn, LSU, as well as Alabama, Tennessee, Georgia and Florida every year why more SEC teams don't win national championships. It's too bad to go undefeated.

If Oklahoma doesn't come out of the dark ages soon, even its own conference might start catching up. Oklahoma already has started turning the pass into its offense.

But the signs don't look promising. The Sooners have had one good passing quarterback, well, forever. He sat on the bench, so he decided to transfer to UCLA. You've seen him, no doubt on all the All-America lists. Heard of Troy Aikman?

Jamelle Hollieway? Well, there's a difference between an arm and a passer. Why do you think he's recruited as a defensive back?

With Aikman and a legitimate wide receiver, OU probably would have beaten Miami. Provided, of course, the Sooner offensive scheme was altered to accommodate the passing game.

As it stands, what standout school receiver is going to want to go to OU when he can go to Miami and have a chance of catching a pass from time to time? And what star armed quarterback will be willing to ride the bench for four years just because he can't run a 40-yard dash in 4.4 seconds?

It's generally enough to beat anybody else.

But when they run across the right team, a team which can slow down or even stop the ground game and mount an effective and versatile attack of its own, the Sooners wind up on the short end of the rope.

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