

Sports

A&M holds off TCU for win

By Hal L. Hammons
Assistant Sports Editor

The Texas A&M Aggies held off a late charge by Texas Christian for a 73-67 win to end a three-game losing streak.

The win, combined with Texas' victory over Baylor, gave the Aggies sole possession of third place in the Southwest Conference with a 5-3 record, 13-9 overall. TCU fell to 1-7 and 7-12.

A&M led 30-26 at half, but saw the game tied at 38 with 13:17 remaining on two Todd Willis free throws.

But A&M followed with five consecutive possessions that resulted in two points between the 6:53 and 3:57 marks for a 60-51 lead, its biggest of the game.

TCU hit four three-point attempts in a row in the last 3:07, including three by Rod Jacques, to pull to within three with 45 seconds remaining. But John Lewis missed the second of two free throws with 22 seconds remaining, and Willis missed a tip-in that would have brought the Frogs to within two.

Two free throws by Chris Cokinos with 18 seconds left clinched the victory for A&M, and a transition dunk by Doug Dennis sealed it.

Jacques led all scorers with a season-high 25 points, and Lewis added 17 for the Frogs. Darryl McDonald led A&M with 22.

The Frogs, last in the SWC in rebounding, consistently were able to get off second and third shots against the A&M defense. They led A&M 34-27 in rebounding, including a 16-7 edge in offensive boards.

McDonald was coming off a 4-for-12 shooting performance in A&M's loss to Texas Sunday, and his improvement was critical to the Aggies.

McDonald said, "I haven't played well the last three or four games. Coach (Shelby Metcalf) got on me and I told him I wouldn't let him down anymore."

The Aggies had been reluctant to shoot from outside in their losses. They came out firing against TCU, with Freddie Ricks hitting two of three three-pointers in the opening six minutes to help A&M to an early 16-7 lead they would never lose. McDonald said, "A lot of the guys



Photo by Mike C. Mulvey

Texas A&M's Darryl McDonald powers past TCU's Todd Willis for a layup during Wednesday's game in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

weren't looking to score (during the losing streak.) This game, if we got the shot we were going to shoot it."

TCU's only lead was on the opening bucket, when Lewis stole the ball from McDonald and took it in for a layup for the game's first points.

Metcalf said, "I thought we got a better effort. I thought we didn't play with the intensity we had against Baylor and Arkansas, but it

was better than against (Texas) Tech and Texas."

The win over Texas Christian puts the Aggies at 14-7 versus the Frogs in the 1980s, 79-67 overall.

A&M's next game is in Dallas against the Mustangs of Southern Methodist Saturday at Moody Coliseum. If the Aggies beat the Mustangs they would tie the 70 year-old A&M-SMU series at 79 games a piece.

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