

Sports

SMU slams Aggs for 1st place tie

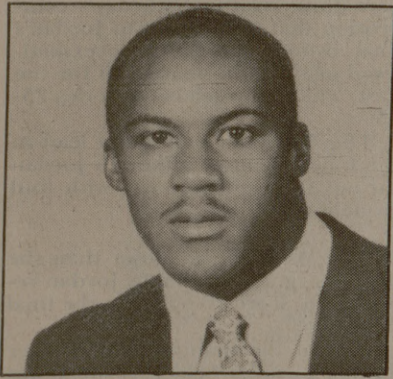
Aggies, plagued by poor first half, lose 94-71

DALLAS (AP) — Southern Methodist took first-half leads of up to 23 points on the shooting of Carlton McKinney and Kato Armstrong, coasting to a 94-71 victory over Texas A&M Saturday night and a first-place Southwest Conference tie with Arkansas.

McKinney finished with 26 points and Armstrong had 21 as SMU improved its records to 18-4 for the season and 7-2 in the SWC. Texas A&M fell to 13-10 for the season and 5-4 in the SWC.

The Mustangs capitalized on Texas' 79-72 upset of Arkansas earlier Saturday and own a share of the top spot in the conference for the first time this season.

Keron Graves led the Aggies with 15 points and Doug Dennis added 14. The Aggies remain in third place, tied with Texas.



Keron Graves

A&M was only able to work the first-half deficit to 12 points with 6:30 left in the second half. McKinney scored SMU's next seven points and the Mustangs were able to build their lead back to 16 over the next three minutes.

SMU used a 14-2 run, including seven straight points from McKinney, to improve an early 12-8 lead to 26-10 with 9:06 left until halftime. The Mustangs were on top at halftime, 46-29.

A&M leading scorer Darryl McDonald didn't hit his first basket until 4:10 remained in the first half, and the Aggies missed nine of their first 12 shots. McDonald missed six of nine shots and finished with 12 points, five under his season average.

The victory was SMU's second over A&M this season, but the Aggies had beaten the Mustangs in their last meeting, 58-53. The teams had a non-conference meeting in the consolation of the Rainbow Classic last December in Hawaii, with the Mustangs emerging 89-66 winners.

"We got good all-around play from everyone tonight, but we have to keep our heads down and

keep going," SMU Coach Dave Bliss said. "We played very good defense when the tempo was going in our direction."

The Mustangs face two tough road games next week: Baylor Wednesday night and Arkansas Saturday afternoon.

"This is a tough conference," Bliss said. "It was a very big win for us. Arkansas is still in the best position (having beaten SMU in Dallas on Jan. 13). We have to remember some of the things we did tonight. We have two of the toughest places for us to play this week."

Texas A&M coach Shelby Metcalf saw the first half as an almost total disaster for his team.

"I didn't see anything positive in the first half," Metcalf said. "We did a better job in the second half. We competed a little better and made a little run at them. SMU has some great shooters who can really fill it up."

Ags going down; Horns moving up

I saw a couple of basketball games Sunday. The live one was great — the one on television left something to be desired.

I saw an undertalented team take on the team picked by everyone to win the Southwest Conference. They played hard defense, got consistent offense from the frontcourt, got strong outings from the guards, and basically just dominated the game.



Hal L. Hammons
Sports viewpoint

I also saw an undertalented team take on another SWC leader and get shown up. The guards and leadership were questionable, the inside game left everything to be desired, and stupid turnovers constantly thwarted any attempt by the team to get back into the game.

The Aggie in me wants the first description to be about Texas A&M knocking off Southern Methodist. The journalist and realist in me knows better.

The truth of the matter is the Aggies played in, and lost, the second game. The first of the two describes Texas' upset of league-leader Arkansas in Austin.

Texas and A&M are remarkably similar teams. Both have had runs of wins over high-rated opponents: A&M beat conference favorites SMU, Arkansas and Baylor to open the season; UT is currently riding a string of upsets that include Arkansas, A&M and Baylor.

The teams are tied for third place in the SWC behind co-leaders SMU and Arkansas at 5-3. Neither was expected to be as successful as they have been.

There are a couple of very important differences, however, and A&M fans may not like to hear about them.

• Texas appears to be on the way up. After early embarrassments at home against Rice and on the road against Arkansas, the team has begun to hit its stride. It shows signs of improving, and the team has a strong possibility of improving before the SWC tournament.

• A&M's wins look more like accidents in retrospect. It took a last-second shot to beat Baylor. Everyone knows what an atrocious road team the Razorbacks are. They deserved the reputation in College Station. And every Mustang that stepped onto G. Rollie White last month had a bad day. I mean every one.

A&M really didn't look that impressive in any of the three. They made dumb mistakes in each of them and barely eked out wins.

A win's a win, though, right? Well, luck runs out eventually. The Aggies are finding that out now.

SMU decided to play well Saturday. Unfortunately for the Aggies, they happened to be in the wrong place. The result wasn't in doubt after the first six or seven minutes.

Texas, on the other hand, is on a roll. They looked absolutely terrible when they came to College Station, but they still were able to get the win on the road. They bounced back and absolutely destroyed Baylor. Arkansas really didn't play that badly — the Hogs were much better in Austin than in College Station — and they were just beaten by a team that was, at least for the day, considerably better.

So what does A&M do? Obviously they have to find some consistency.

The Aggie guard play was poor in Dallas Saturday. They couldn't shut down the SMU sharpshooters Carlton McKinney, Kato Armstrong or Todd Alexander.

Former Ag track star

5th best shotputter

DALLAS (AP) — Former Texas A&M star Randy Barnes became the holder of the fifth longest shotput throw in American history and second best indoors with an effort of 71 feet, 3 inches Saturday night in the Dallas Morning News Indoor Games.

George Woods set the indoor record of 72-3 in 1974; the meet record was 69-9/8, set by Kevin Atkins in 1983.

In other action, former Southwest Conference champion Cletus Clark upset a tired world champion Greg Foster Saturday night in the 55-meter hurdles.

Clark, who had never defeated Foster in a finals event, clocked 7.13 seconds to 7.14 for the de-

fending champion, who had easily won the Millrose Games on Friday night in 7.07.

The renewal of the Foster-Nehemiah duel was dashed in the trials when Nehemiah finished fourth in his heat in a slow 7.38, well off his world best of 6.82.

"Somebody spiked my hand and I bumped two hurdles," Nehemiah said. "That was it for me."

Clark was jubilant in his first finals victory over Foster.

"It shows me that all the hard work I've been doing has finally paid off," said Clark, a former University of Houston star.

Lady Ags involved in collision before game

The Texas A&M women's basketball team was involved in a multi-vehicle collision Friday night during a road trip to Dallas where they were to face the Southern Methodist.

Despite efforts to reschedule, Head Coach Lynn Hickey and three other players, who were taken for X-rays and released from a Dallas hospital, suited up with the rest of the team Saturday night for a collision with the Lady Mustangs that ended in a heartbreaking 63-61 loss.

Down 37-24 at halftime, the Lady Aggies came back strong in the second half tying the game at 61 with 20 seconds left on the clock only to watch victory slip away when the Lady Mustangs sank two free throws

with four seconds left.

A&M drops to 4-5 in the Southwest conference and 10-8 overall, while SMU improves to 5-4 in conference play and matches the Lady Ags overall record at 10-8.

Starting guard Traci Thomas and reserve center Louise Madison, two of the three released from the hospital, played in the game and combined for eight points, while backup guard Tracey Fewell sat the game with a sore neck.

A&M battled back from the early deficit, and finally took the lead 57-56 after Lisa Jordan sank two free throws with 2:38 remaining.

SMU missed a shot with game locked at 61, but SMU's Felicia Butt was fouled on the rebound.



Class of '88

Voting for Senior Class Gift

Class Gift Proposals

Please cast one vote for your choice of senior class gift.

- Audobon Collection - "Birds of America"** The collection will consist of 435 Audobon prints divided into four leather-bound volumes. These prints will be limited to 350 sets for worldwide distribution, therefore, making these prints a valuable rarity. The volumes will be displayed in a very visible location in Sterling C. Evans Library enclosed in glass. If this gift is purchased by our class, it will be the largest and most notable gift given to the library by a class. The class will be recognized as "Major Donor" of the library.
- Aerobics Track Warm-Up Area** The warm-up area will be located on the corner of Houston Street and Rudder parking lot across from G. Rollie White. This landscaped corner will enable students to exercise and stretch before jogging. A bulletin board will post sports and aerobic information including different routes and mileage. This area will enhance and beautify the track for students and visitors.
- Lettering for Kyle Field** Four feet maroon letters spelling "Welcome to Aggieland" and "Home of the 12th Man" will be placed on the 2nd and 3rd deck of the students side of Kyle Field. This will be an expression of the student body's spirit behind their team as defined by the 12th man tradition. It would also show A&M's friendliness and hospitality to any visiting teams. Being in Kyle Field, this will be an everlasting gift.
- Visitors Information Center** Located at the main entrance of campus this drive through area will enable visitors to park their car and view a graphic map of the entire campus. This map will be provided along with brochures and other helpful information that will assist visitors in inquiring about particular points of interest. Because of the growth of our campus this information center is much needed.

Please bring this ballot and your I.D. to the table located in the MSC flag room.

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