

Sports

Seniors leave A&M with victory

Aggies beat Tech 68-66 in final home game

By Hal L. Hammons
Assistant Sports Editor

Darryl McDonald made the most out of his last game at home Texas A&M by leading the Aggies to a 68-66 victory over Texas Tech Saturday night at G. Rollie White Coliseum.

McDonald led the team in scoring with 17 points by shooting 8-11 from the field. Donald Thompson, Doug Dennis and Aaron Graves — also a senior — scored 14 apiece.

The Aggies improved their record to 13-13 for the year and 7-7 Southwest Conference play. The Red Raiders are 9-16 and 4-10.

Thompson scored on a basket interference call on Tech's James Johnson to give A&M a 68-64 lead with 13 seconds left. Sean Gay tipped in a three-point attempt by Todd Duncan, but McDonald was able to run out the clock.

Raider guard Jerry Mason, overshadowed most of the year by Gay, led the team with a career-high 32 points, shooting 12-21 from the field, including 4-10 from three-point territory.

A&M Head Coach Shelby Metcalf said, "We tried to recruit Mason." It looked like he came here to show us that he should have been an Aggie. He not only got up the board, he hit some difficult shots."

Gay, an All-SWC candidate, had 16 points and 11 rebounds, but he committed seven turnovers, including four walking violations.

A&M was able to score consistently inside, especially in the second half. Nine shots under the basket, all converted, helped A&M to a 66.7 percent shooting clip in the half. Most of it was resulting from McDonald penetrations or passes to Thompson and Dennis.

Dennis was the real hero for the Aggies with a great game on both ends of the court. He held Tech center Wes Lowe to 6 points

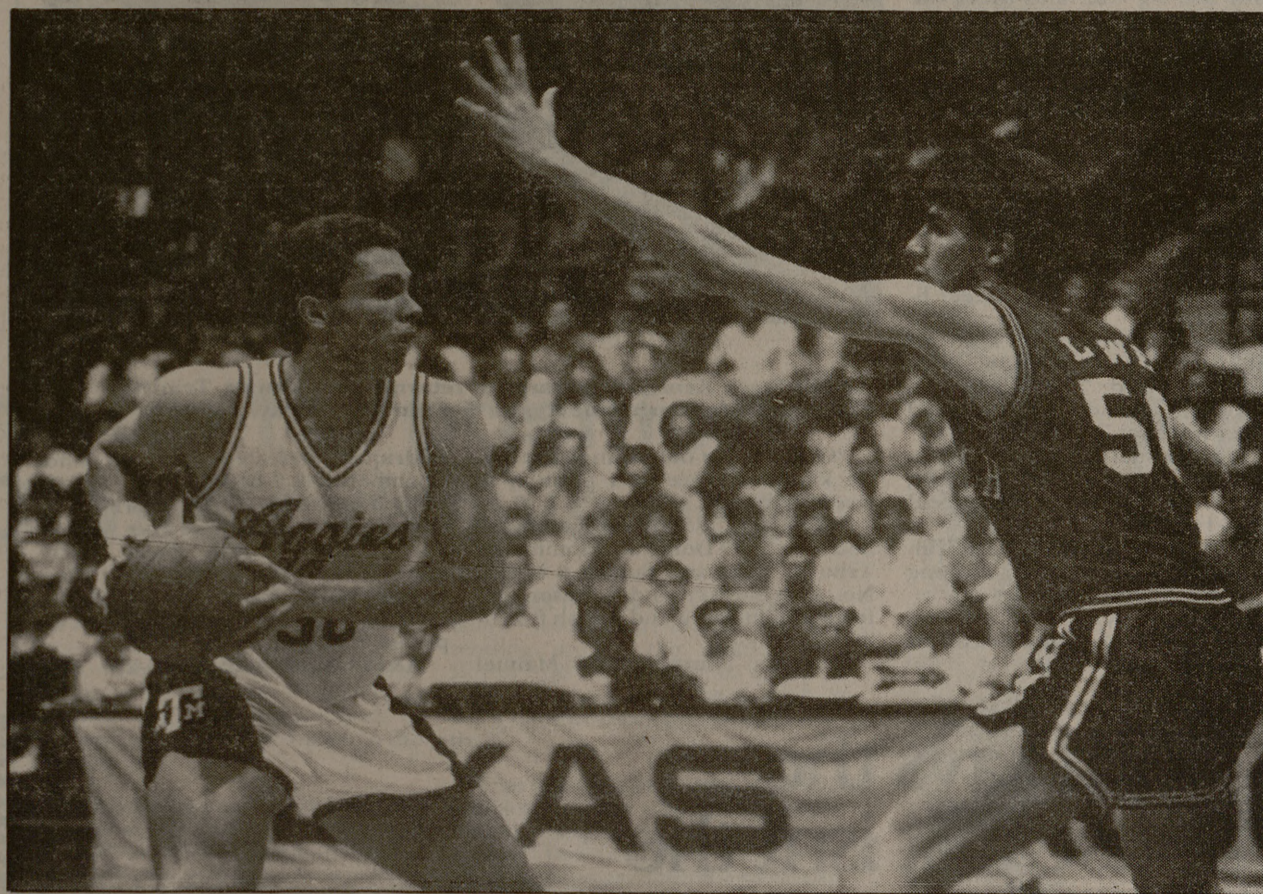


Photo by Jay Janner

A&M's Doug Dennis looks for an opening against Texas Tech center Wes Lowe during the Aggies' 68-66 win over the Raiders Saturday night in G. Rollie White Coliseum. The game was A&M's last home game for the year.

and a 2-of-7 shooting performance. Lowe had 28 points in the teams' previous showdown in Lubbock this year.

Dennis said, "We played him a lot different this game than last time. We tried to play behind him like we've played everybody else the last few weeks."

Metcalf said, "I think Lowe wasn't playing with the same confidence he did out there in Lubbock, but I think the way Doug played had a lot to do with that."

After close losses to Baylor and Houston, this win was especially

sweet for the A&M coaches and team.

McDonald said, "We needed this win bad. We lost the last game (against UH) that we thought we should have won. The (SWC) tournament is coming up, and we need all the wins we can get."

Graves said, "We played hard. Nobody let up. We made up our minds we were going to play hard, win or lose."

Metcalf said, "I can't remember a game in a long time that totally wrung us out like this one

did. This league is something else."

Tech Head Coach Gerald Myers said, "We really gave it all we had physically tonight. I can't complain about the physical effort. We just don't seem to have what it takes emotionally to win the games."

McDonald had three steals, giving him 84 for the season. That breaks his own team record he set last year.

McDonald hit a 23-foot three-pointer to give the Aggies a 36-34 halftime lead.

Injured Lady Ags beat Raiders 72-60

By Anthony Wilson
Sports Writer

The Lady Aggies limped into G. Rollie White Coliseum Saturday afternoon and ran Texas Tech out of the building in a 72-60 win, A&M's first victory over the Red Raiders in eight years.

Several of A&M's key players were suffering from injuries or illness but still managed to contribute to the win.

Guard Donna Roper missed Thursday's practice with a bad ankle. Reserve guard Wendy Jennings has serious blisters on the bottoms of her feet. Reserve forwards Nette Garrett and Mindy Neal had been ill for two days before the game.

Senior forward Evelyn Sanders, A&M's leading rebounder and second leading scorer, missed the last home game of her career with a knee injury she suffered in A&M's Jan. 30 game against Texas.

"We've got a lot of invalids out there," A&M Head Coach Lynn Hickey said. "We've got a lot of people who are really hurt. They came through and played like troopers."

The Lady Aggies played their best basketball of the season in the first half, shooting a blistering 58.6 percent. Lisa Jordon scored eight points, including two three-point plays, as A&M went on a 14-3 tear at 16:41 to take a 20-7 lead. The Lady Aggies' biggest lead of the game came at 2:21 when Lisa Herner drove into the lane and hit a 10-foot jumper to give A&M a 41-21 advantage.

The half ended with A&M leading 43-28.

However, the Red Raiders weren't ready to roll over and play dead. A&M's shooting percentage dropped to 40 percent in the second half. Meanwhile, Tech improved its shooting from 33.3 percent in the first half to 46.4 percent.

Tech came roaring back, cut the Lady Aggies' lead to eight points at 4:57 as A&M looked to be succumbing to the pressure. But that's when Jordon took control of the game.

Jordon scored on a rebound follow, a follow of a blocked shot, and two free throws within a 2:38 period to secure the game for A&M.

"I thought Jordon did an excellent job all day long on the boards," Tech Head Coach Marsha Sharp said. "I think she was the key to the game. Those two rebounds she got in that stretch of time and scored when we were making that run were definitely the thing that stopped us."

Hickey said, "I thought the first half we played about the best we have all year. In the second half, we really had a dry spell offensively. But we kept our heads in the game and held onto the lead."

Jordon finished with 20 points on 7-of-9 shooting and 13 rebounds. Roper led the Lady Aggies with 23 points and dished out six assists.

The win improved A&M's record to 13-11 and 7-7 in the Southwest Conference. It also assured A&M a spot in the SWC post-season tournament.

A&M finishes the regular season this week with two road games. The Lady Aggies will face league-leading Texas Tuesday and Texas Christian Saturday.

A&M softball team wins 2 to take Louisiana Classic

The Texas A&M softball team got good pitching from senior Julie Carpenter in winning the Louisiana Classic tourney over the weekend in Lafayette, La.

The fourth-ranked Lady Aggies downed host Southwestern Louisiana 3-1 in the championship game. A&M, 4-1 on the year, beat the University of Southern Mississippi 3-0 in the tournament opener.

Carpenter got the wins in both games, throwing a 3-hitter against

USM and a 2-hitter in the finals against USL. Carpenter struck out eight against USM.

In the USL game, A&M's Erika Eriksson hit a double in the bottom of the sixth to knock in Catherine Stedman and Erin Newkirk and power the Lady Aggies to the win.

Newkirk knocked home the winning run against USL when she singled to score Julie Smith in the first inning.

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