

Sports

Lady Ags upset 9th-ranked LSU

By Jerry Bolz
Assistant Sports Editor

It took persistence to overcome the ninth-ranked team in the nation — and persistence caught up with Louisiana State Tuesday as the Texas A&M Lady Aggies beat the Lady Tigers 67-64.

The Lady Tigers came in with a 7-2 record and ranked four positions above the University of Texas in the AP Top 20. A&M was not ranked but carried a 9-3 mark into the game.

A&M Coach Lynn Hickey said the game was the biggest win of her career here.

"It was a tremendous win," Hickey said. "I'm very proud of our kids. We were really frustrated about three-fourths of the way through the game, but our composure improved at the end. We saw the light and kept going."

LaTanya Irving, who scored 12 points for the Lady Aggies, said the team feels they can beat anyone now. "I was determined to beat them,"

said Irving. "Everything got clicking and we won."

April Delley, LSU's leading scorer and rebounder, did not make the trip because of personal reasons. Lady Tiger Coach Sue Gunter said the absence of Delley wasn't a factor in the game.

"We've got the people," Gunter said. "We had the opportunity to win and we didn't. Somebody's got to step up."

The game heated up at the 15:25 mark of the second half when guard Lisa Herner drove the right baseline and tossed in an underhand layup to give A&M their first tie of the game 39-39.

"My job off the bench is to be a spark plug," Herner said. "I'm more comfortable off the bench."

Diane DeCree gave A&M their first lead 41-39 the next time down the court with her only two points of the game on a layup.

The Lady Tigers didn't give any ground as they began to go inside to 6-5 center Dee Dee Franklin.

After a slow first half with only

four points, she took off in the second half to finish with a game high 19 points.

A&M's defense had a hard time covering Franklin without fouling her. Louise Madison, one of the A&M defenders, along with Nette Garrett and Lisa Jordan, said it was a difficult task.

"It seemed like we were standing straight up and kept getting fouls," Madison said. "We said 'Man, what can we do?' We finally just stood straight up."

After a tie at 43-43, near the 12:00 point, the Lady Tigers pulled ahead and would not let the Lady Aggies get hot, although A&M did keep the pressure on. Dena Russo came in from the bench and hit two in a row from just inside the three-point line to make it 50-47 LSU.

Jordan, recovering from a broken thumb, hit her only points of the game on two free throws to again pull A&M within three at 52-49.

Senior guard Donna Roper, the leading Lady Aggie scorer, got hot from the free throw line down the

stretch to keep it close. She had only five points in the first half but came on to lead A&M with 16 points, eight were free throws.

Madison, who said she missed free throws all week in practice, got four of her six points from the line, all of them coming in the game's final three minutes and 30 seconds. Her last shot tied the game at 62-62.

LSU responded by getting the ball down court and Franklin put it in on a layup for the Lady Tigers' final points to give them a 64-62 lead with 1:38 to go.

The next trip down, A&M lost the ball but Irving came out of the scramble and put in a short jumper and was fouled. She made the free throw to put the Lady Aggies ahead for good 65-64 with 46 seconds left.

LSU's next trip down court failed and they fouled Roper coming back up court. Roper made both ends of the one-and-one to give A&M the three-point edge.

A late three-point attempt by LSU failed with three seconds left and time expired.

Astros make deal for Yanks' Rhoden

NEW YORK (AP) — The New York Yankees traded veteran right-hander Rick Rhoden Tuesday to the Houston Astros for three minor leaguers.

In exchange for the 35-year-old Rhoden, the Yankees acquired outfielder John Fishel, right-hander Pedro DeLeon and left-hander Mike Hook.

Rhoden was 12-12 in 30 starts with the Yankees in 1988 with a 4.20 earned-run average. He led the Yankees in starts and innings pitched, and finished second on the team in complete games and strikeouts.

He has a lifetime record of 149-119.

Rhoden was acquired by the Yankees from Pittsburgh in November 1986.

"This move is consistent with our intention of improving our pitching quality and depth," Astros General Manager Bill Wood said. "Rhoden is a competitive and successful pitcher who will

not only improve our chances in 1989, but also put us in a position to continue discussions with other clubs about trades, particularly from a run production standpoint."

In 1988, Fishel led Tucson with 18 homers in his first season on the Class AAA level. Fishel has been assigned to the Yankees' 40-man roster while DeLeon and Hook have been assigned to the Yankees' Class AA Albany roster. In 19 games with the Astros in 1988, Fishel, had six hits in 19 at-bats with one home run.

DeLeon pitched in 23 games at Class A Osceola in 1988 with a 14-5 record and a 2.44 earned-run average.

Hook was 7-6 in 25 starts at Class A Asheville with a 4.04 ERA.

Rhoden, who made \$900,000 last season, has also pitched for Los Angeles before being traded to the Pirates in April 1979 for Jerry Reuss.

Super Bowl means second chance against 49ers for Bengal veterans

CINCINNATI (AP) — The Super Bowl is more than just a second NFL championship game for a handful of Cincinnati Bengals. It's a sweet second chance.

Seven Bengals are particularly thankful as they pack their bags this week for Miami and a Super Bowl appearance against the San Francisco 49ers.

They're all that remain from the 1981 team that lost to San Francisco 26-21 in Super Bowl XVI in Pontiac, Mich.

Receiver Cris Collinsworth, kicker Jim Breech, guard Max Montoya, tackle Anthony Munoz, defensive end Eddie Edwards, linebacker Reggie Williams and backup quarterback Turk Schonert have learned in the last seven years how elusive Super Bowl glory can be.

The disappointment over the Super Bowl XVI loss was tempered by expectations that it was the first of many title-game trips for the Bengals.

The intervening years have made the loss harder for the seven veterans to accept, and made the chance at another Super Bowl appearance feel like a godsend.

"There are so many variables involved in reaching this point that it's unbelievable," Montoya said. "Just to get another shot at it, that's indescribable. I look at other guys who played 12 years, 14 years and never even got a shot at going to the Super Bowl, and here I am fortunate to be going to my second one."

The seven veterans didn't quite realize how high a mountain they'd climbed in 1981, when the team set a club record with 14 victories and beat San Diego in the AFC Championship game to earn the only other Super Bowl appearance in the franchise's history.

Receiver Cris Collinsworth was a rookie star that year whose youthful innocence wasn't shattered when the Bengals' second-half rally fell short

in the Pontiac Silverdome.

"I remember coming off the field saying, 'I'm so disappointed.' But I remember looking at some of the older guys, the Jim LeClairs and the Glenn Camerons and some of the guys that I knew, and I remember thinking this may be their last chance and feeling worse than I did for anyone else," Collinsworth said.

"I said, 'Shoot, I'll probably play in another four or five Super Bowls before I'm finished with this team.' And here it is seven years later," Collinsworth said. "I'm probably the happiest of anybody to be going and get that second chance."

Collinsworth and Munoz were among four Bengals voted to the Pro Bowl after the 1981 season. Munoz has earned return trips to the Pro Bowl every year since.

"It's been a long dry spell, seven years," Munoz said. "It's nice to be going back."

Mavs suffer minus Tarpley

DALLAS (AP) — The Dallas Mavericks have been on a downhill slide since rebounding ace Roy Tarpley was suspended on Jan. 5 by NBA drug counselors for non-compliance with his personalized aftercare program.

They suffered a humiliating 121-103 loss at home to the Philadelphia 76ers on Monday night.

It was their worst loss in Reunion Arena since a 133-115 defeat to the Los Angeles Lakers on Oct. 29, 1985.

Dallas has lost four consecutive games, three without Tarpley. Their 17-13 record is eighth best in the Western Conference.

They trail Houston and Denver by a game and a half and Utah by a half-game in the Midwest Division.

Tarpley, the NBA's most valuable sixth man, is in California undergoing treatment for substance abuse.

It's not known when the NBA will allow Tarpley, who was suspended without pay, to return to the Mavericks.

Meanwhile, they miss his 18

points and 12 rebounds per game off the bench.

Mavs owner Donald Carter said the team is still numb from losing Tarpley.

"You lose a key member of your family, it's hard to get over," Carter said. "I'm going through an adjustment. I know they are, too."

Mavs coach John MacLeod said the team needs to learn to play without Tarpley.

"We've got to realize Roy isn't going to be with us awhile and adjust," said MacLeod. "I'm not happy about the way we are playing but I don't intend to go out and shoot myself."

Dallas' 0-4 start in January is its worst start for a month since going 0-5 in February, 1984.

Guard Derek Harper had a career-high 38 points against the 76ers but scoring star Mark Aguirre has been hurting the Mavericks.

He only scored 10 points on 5-of-14 shots Monday night.

Aguirre has shot 50 percent or

better in only four of his last 19 games.

For the year, Aguirre is right at 40 percent from the field and scoring an average of 20 points per game.

He has been under 20 points in 14 games. Last year he was only under 20 points 17 times for all 82 games.

Harper said the Mavericks have lost their spark.

"We just aren't being aggressive enough," Harper said. "Every one of us needs to turn it up a notch. We can't use losing Roy as a crutch."

Dallas left Tuesday for a three-game road swing at Golden State, Seattle and Houston before coming back to Reunion Arena on Sunday night.

Charles Barkley, who led the 76ers with 26 points and 15 rebounds on Monday night, said the Mavericks aren't the same team without Tarpley.

"Dallas is struggling without a guy like Roy Tarpley," Barkley said. "We're lucky we caught them when we did."

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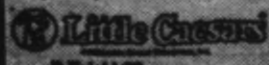
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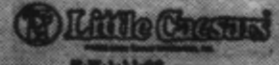
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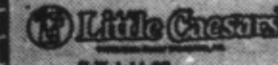
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