

Thursday, February 9, 1989

Explosive Ags blast SMU, 82-58 Thompson leads hot-shooting A&M past beleaguered Ponies

By Tom Kehoe

SPORTS WRITER

Shelby Metcalf's Texas A&M team put together the best 40 minutes of basketball it's played all season to blow out the Southern Methodist University Mustangs 82-58 Wednesday.

Metcalf said the win was earned in practice this week.

"A lot of hard work went into this," he said.

The Aggies poured it on the Ponies with a tough pressure defense to force SMU into 19 turnovers.

Metcalf said the strength of the pressure was the key.

"For 40 minutes our intensity was really good," he said.

SMU's ballhandling was hampered by the loss of guards Kato Armstrong and Todd Alexander. Armstrong was declared academically ineligible at the beginning of the spring semester and Alexander quit the team Tuesday. It was the second time Alexander left the Mustangs this season citing personal reasons.

A&M forward Donald Thompson

confirmed that it was in the Aggies' gameplan to harrass the less-experienced ballhandlers from SMU.

"We put a lot of pressure on them because they lost both of their guards," Thompson said.

Thompson led A&M with 21 points, highlighted by hitting five shots in a row in the first half. He felt his shooting was coming back.

"Everyday after practice I stayed in for about 30 minutes and worked on shots around the basket," Thompson said.

Aggie Update

- Score: Texas A&M 82, SMU 58
- Record: 10-12; 3-7 in the SWC.
- Next game: Wednesday at Baylor.
- Standing: Eighth place.

Thompson hit 10 of his 12 shots from the field.

Also contributing to the blowout were Tony Milton and Freddie Ricks. Milton hit for 14 points for the Aggies while Ricks pumped in 17, hitting two three-pointers and converting two three-point plays from the line in the second half.

Ricks summed up the evening best.

"It was good luck night for the

Aggies," Ricks said.

Despite the troubles at the guard position, forward Eric Longino was able to hit for 21 to lead SMU. Longino had 14 of his points in the second half and was a perfect five of five from the free throw line.

Other contributors for SMU were forward John Colborne who had 12 points and a game-high seven rebounds, and center Glenn Puddy who chipped in 14 points. Puddy was six of seven from the field.

With help from their good pressure the Aggies shot an outstanding 62.9 percent from the field. They also hit 60 percent of their three-point shots in the game.

SMU could only manage a 44 percent average from the field but hit 80 percent of their tries from the line.

SMU never led in the game as the Aggies controlled the tip and never looked back. A&M quickly jumped out to seven point lead before a TV timeout. That was the Aggies smallest lead of the game as Mustang miscues and hot Aggie shooting allowed Metcalf's team to steadily increase the lead to 22 as A&M led at the half 48-26.

The Aggies shot over 67 percent for the first half.

Although the SMU outrebounded A&M for the half, they could hit on only 39 percent of their shots from the field.

The second half began with A&M inbounding and committing the first of their nine turnovers in the half.

SMU began an 11-2 run that would bring them within 13 (50-37) before the Aggies countered with eight unanswered points to push their lead back to 19 (56-37).

The teams traded short streaks, buckets and turnovers for the rest of the half.

The Aggies scored for the final time with 47 seconds remaining to bring their total to 82 for the night.

All 2,156 fans in attendance pulled for A&M to get off a final three-pointer to hit the magical sum of 85 points. When the Aggies score 85 or more points in a game fans may redeem their ticket stubs for a free hamburger at a local restaurant.

The Aggies will now have a week off from competition before traveling to Waco next Wednesday to face the Baylor Bears. The Bears are currently in last place in the Southwest Conference.

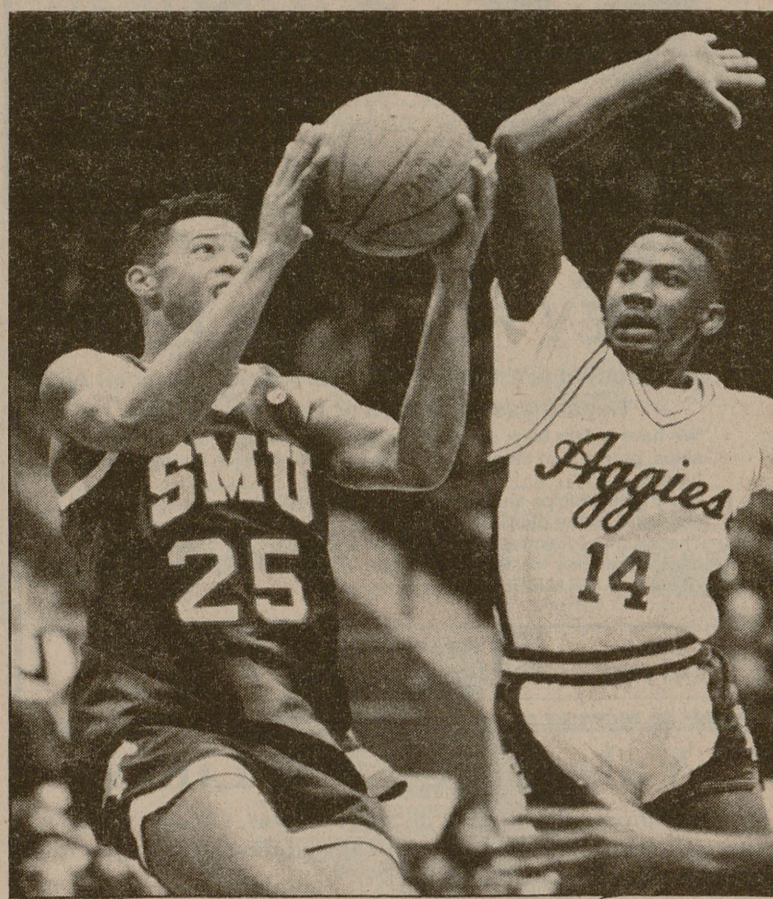


Photo by Dean Saito

SMU's J.D. Green shoots over A&M's Freddie Ricks.

Dillardards fit in with Lady Ags

By Stan Golaboff

SPORTS WRITER

Most Texas A&M students know about A&M's famous All-American siblings — John Roper and Donna Roper. However, they are not the only siblings to play sports at A&M.

This year, A&M and head women's basketball coach Lynn Hickey

Profile:

Lori and Sheri Dillard

welcomed two sisters that may one day become campus celebrities like the Ropers. Lori Dillard, a junior, and sister Sheri, a freshman, have many similarities that make them special.

The first is their hometown. They are from Austin. Any Aggie from Austin gets a second look, but a woman basketball player from there deserves two or three. Austin, home of the Texas Lady Longhorns, has been one of the premier centers of women's basketball. So why would they want to play in College Station?

"I've lived in Austin all my life and my house is only seven or eight minutes away from the Erwin Center, but I felt I needed a change," Lori said.

"A&M has never won the SWC and after talking to Coach Hickey I felt A&M had the talent to win. I want to be a part of that."

Sister Sheri had almost the same reason for playing at A&M.

"I wanted to go to school somewhere close to home, but I wanted to be part of a program that was build-

ing itself into a power. A&M is that kind of program," Sheri said.

The similarities don't end there. Both played high school ball at Austin's LBJ high school, but their age difference kept them from playing together.

While at LBJ, Lori was named All-District and All-Central Texas while leading LBJ to three straight district championships. She averaged 22 points a game during her senior year.

Lori continued her winning ways at Temple Junior College, helping Temple win a conference championship last season, while averaging 15.5 points a game and 10 rebounds a game.

Lori first caught Coach Hickey's eye during the U.S. Olympic Festival

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Slocum fills defensive holes; Linemen and 'backers top list

By Doug Walker

SPORTS EDITOR

Texas A&M Head Football Coach R.C. Slocum admitted the obvious Wednesday.

A&M football recruiting suffered because of NCAA probation and the aftermath of the George Smith "hush money" scandal.

"I think some recruits were scared off of Texas A&M because of the uncertainty about the NCAA," Slo-

cum said. "If everything would have been wrapped up, it would have made a tremendous difference. I had several recruits tell me they waited as long as they could, but they had to weigh all of the information."

However, the Aggies still got what they needed and saved some scholarships for next year.

And this group is no slouch. Slocum inked the state's top place kicker, one of the state's best fullbacks and the Class 4A player of the year.

The place kicker is Terry Venetoulis of Deer Park. Venetoulis was rated the top kicking prospect

on recruiting guru Max Emfinger's Top 300 list and was selected to the Class 5A All-State team as a senior.

The fullback prospect is David Drapela of Kerrville Tivy. Drapela (6-1, 205) reminds Slocum of former A&M fullback Matt Gurley. He is expected to provide depth at the position as a reserve for Robert Wilson, who set an A&M record for touchdowns by a freshman last year.

"We needed a guy to come in and spell (Wilson)," Slocum said. "He's the type of guy that can get tough yards in the middle."

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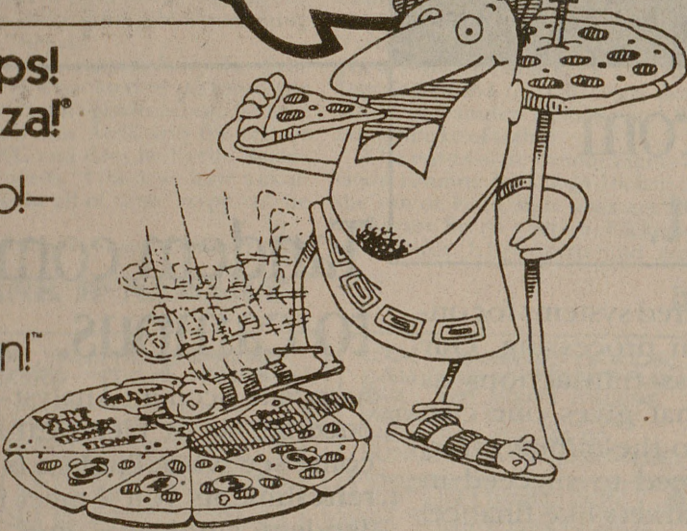
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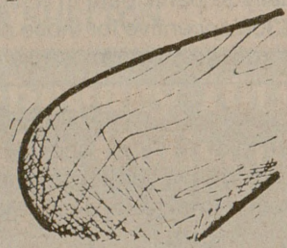
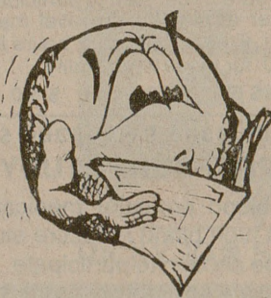


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Tired of throwing snow balls? Get ready to throw softballs!!

Slowpitch Softball and Preseason Softball Tournament entries will be taken Mon., Feb. 13 - Tues, Feb. 21

Individuals interested in becoming Intramural Softball Officials should attend the orientation meeting on Mon., Feb. 13, 6 PM, 267 G. Rollie White.



For more information, call
the Recreational Sports
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