

Thursday, February 23, 1989

Thompson leads Aggies over Rice

By Tom Kehoe

SPORTS WRITER

Shelby Metcalf's Texas Aggies stretched their winning streak to five games as they rolled to a 72-58 win over Rice before a noisy crowd of 2,282 last night at G. Rollie White Coliseum.

The Aggies were led by forward Donald Thompson's game-high 27

points. Thompson hit 10 of his 13 field goal attempts and seven of eight from the free throw line to post his second-best scoring night of the season.

Metcalf singled out Thompson as the key to the victory.

"The highlight of this game was what Donald did," Metcalf said. "He responded when the defense was designed to stop him."

Also hitting in double figures for the Aggies were guards Tony Milton with 12 points and Freddie Ricks who posted 15.

The Owls were led by freshman forward Kenneth Rourke. Rourke hit for 20 points and pulled down and led all rebounders with eight boards.

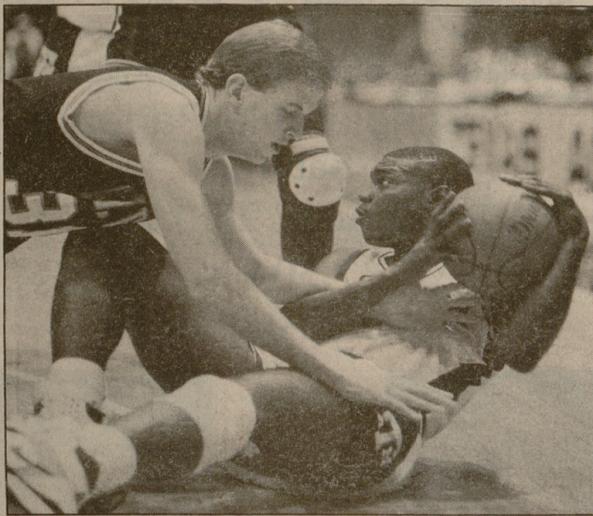
Senior center Andy Gilchrist, Rice's leading scorer this season, was held to just two points and fouled out with 2:07 remaining in the game.

Metcalf attributed Gilchrist's difficulties to Thompson's play.

"Donald's one of those players that plays the other end of the floor well too when he's getting his points," Metcalf said.

The game opened Rice working up to a 12-6 advantage before an official timeout. The Aggies had three unanswered buckets and assumed a 15-12 lead. It would be a lead that wouldn't be relinquished.

A&M increased their lead to 18 when Milton canned a 24-foot



A&M forward Donald Thompson (right) protects the ball from Rice's Greg Price during A&M's 72-58 win. Photo by Dean Saito

Ags take Bobcats in chilly twin-bill

By Jerry Bolz

ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Cold weather wasn't enough to slow down the warmed-up Texas A&M baseball team as they took two games from Southwest Texas State Wednesday.

Aggie Baseball

- Score: A&M 6-6, Southwest Texas St. 3-3.
- Record: 10-0.
- Ranking: Sixth.
- Next Game: Saturday double-header vs. Louisiana Tech.

The sixth-ranked Aggies won 6-3, 6-3 to make their season record stand at 10-0. The losses dropped the Bobcats to 3-5 on the year.

A&M third baseman John Byington said winning in the cold weather can be more a relief than a thrill.

"We've had some bad weather,"

Byington said. "These teams aren't the best teams so it's good just to get out there and beat them."

Second baseman Terry Taylor, who had a three-run homer in the first game, said it's hard to tell what will happen in games played in cold weather.

"It feels good to get these wins out of the way with the cold and everything," he said. "These teams aren't bad, but I'm ready for some better competition so we can see what we're made of."

The Aggies were made of consistency in both hitting and pitching. SWT got all three runs of each game in only one inning. In no other inning did the Bobcats get more than one hit.

Sean Lawrence and senior Anthony DeLaCruz worked the first game with DeLaCruz getting the win. He pitched four innings without giving up a hit or a walk and struck out four batters.

Lawrence, a freshman lefthander,

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Aggie Update

- Score: A&M 72, Rice 58.
- Record: 13-12; 6-7 in the SWC.
- Standing: Tied for sixth.
- Next game: Saturday at Houston.

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International rules have no place in U.S. college basketball

Many of today's basketball rules makers say they are beginning to see a movement by the NCAA toward widening the language similar to that of international rules, an 18-foot baseline that narrows to 12 feet at the foul line. Some are even considering an 11-foot-high basket.

What's going on? Why do these people want to make further alterations in a game that has seen its share of changes through the years — most of which have been good — in an effort to give the game more of an international flavor.

At this point and time, however, international flavor will not be as appealing to American college basketball.

Granted, many rules changes over the years have allowed the game of basketball to grow in popularity all over the world while also allowing some of the finest athletes from around the globe to showcase their talents and become worldwide heroes



Steven Merritt Assistant Sports Editor

in the sport.

I'm sure James Naismith would have no trouble understanding what the game means today if he was fortunate enough to see Michael Jordan take off from the free throw line or Patrick Ewing come out of the paint to block a three-point shot.

College basketball has always been scrutinized more in terms of rules changes

because it is where the game originated.

One of the best changes came in 1937, when the rule of playing a jump ball after every score was eliminated. Many critics of the day felt the game would turn into a track meet, which today is usually not the case unless you watch a UNLV or Oklahoma game. It is exciting nonetheless and a definite improvement from what it might have been without the change.

Just think of it, you could actually see Billy Tubbs or Jerry Tarkanian call ten years every time a jump ball was called after a score. It is nothing but a blessing to these coaches, however, because Tarkanian might run out of laundry to chew on and Tubbs can't afford to lose much more hair.

The institution of the shot clock, three point line, two-shot intentional foul and last, but not least, the breakaway rim, have

all produced their share of discussion.

The introduction of the shot clock came as a surprise to those coaches who felt that having the lead and the ball with five minutes left in the game was an easy win. If the clock had been introduced in the late fifties or early sixties, the opposition might have had a stronger case.

The early eighties saw an increased interest in televised college basketball, an interest that was aided by yearly final four broadcasts and increased season coverage by the networks as well as ESPN.

Broadcast media will also be an influential voice of opposition in the NCAA decides to go through with the new changes to make the college game more internationally appealing.

Raising the goal to 11 feet? Be serious. What game would be any fun if the fans

couldn't get excited over an in-your-face dunk? That's what the breakaway rim is for, anyway. The dunk swings momentum, it gets the crowd into the game, it raises Dick Vitale's voice by at least three decibels.

Widening the lane will only force post players to shoot from farther away from the basket as well as opening up the lane for easier penetration of point guards. There go the shot blockers.

International play is considerably different from what we are exposed to.

Olympic teams such as those from Brazil and Russia have proven that the United States is not unbeatable in the sport, but they lack the team personality that make American teams unique. There is nothing wrong with the international style of play, it just has no place in American college basketball.

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