

Aussies Gazed, but Milton the sharpshooter in Ag win

By Clay Rasmussen

Of The Battalion Staff

It wasn't a G'day for the Australian Olympic National basketball team Sunday. Texas A&M dominated the game, and the Aussies, 87-74 in front of a crowd of 1,524 at G. Rollie White Coliseum.

The only thing that kept the Australians close was the three-point shooting of former star Seaton Hall guard Andrew Gaze. Gaze, who led the Aussie team, hit four-of-six three pointers. His 67 percent accuracy from three-point range accounted for 12 of his 20 points.

The Australians shot 42.8 percent from the three-point range and hung in with the Aggies throughout the first half.

"They played with a lot of heart," A&M guard Tony Milton said. "I'll tell you one thing, they can shoot the three-pointer."

Australian Coach Adrian Hurley said the Australians' whirlwind tour schedule is partially to blame for his team's poor showing. "We were mentally tired," Hurley said. "We've been on the road three weeks now and have three more to go."

"Tomorrow we'll go to L.A. and play UCLA and then Santa Barbara. After that we'll go down to Argentina. It's really grueling."

Still, Hurley gave credit to the A&M's dominating defense and quick offense. "We were surprised at the Aggies' running game," Hurley said. "We had heard that they weren't that strong."

The Aussies stayed even with the Aggies throughout the first half, but with 2:34 left in the first period, Milton sunk a three-point shot that gave the Aggies a nine-point lead, their largest of the first half.

The Australians never recovered, and A&M never trailed again.

In the second half with the Aggies leading 44-38, the Australians came out and took advantage of A&M's aggressive defense, converting free throws and shooting from outside to even the game at 48.

The teams see-sawed back and forth throughout much of the second half until the Aggies' offense got back on track and outscored the Aussies' 25-16 in the final seven minutes.

"I thought we played hard and we played unselfish basketball," A&M Coach Shelby Metcalf said after the game. "I was pleased

with our play."

The Aggies seemed to pick up where they left off last year, shooting 52.1 percent from the field and converting half of their free throws.

Last year, the Aggies turned around their struggling 1-7 team to finish 7-1 in the second half of Southwest Conference play. A&M crashed the boards time and time again, giving the offense second and third chances.

Aggie forward David Harris was unremitting under the basket, snagging a total of 10 rebounds. He also finished with 16 points.

"Everyone ought to like the play of David Harris," Metcalf said.

Everyone, that is, except for Harris himself.

"I did good defensively, but I think I could have done better," Harris said. "I was missing a lot of shots after we would get the rebound."

Harris couldn't have done much better. He shot 53.8 percent from the field.

Only leading scorer Tony Milton shot better than Harris.

Milton finished the game with 25 points. He shot 61.1 percent from the field and hit two three-pointers.

Still, Milton also was disappointed with his play.

"I don't feel like I played up to my potential," he said. "I had a couple of bad passes. I think I can play much better than that."

However, the Aggies were impressive, playing the fast-break type of basketball that Metcalf believes will make the Aggies strong contenders in the SWC this season.

A&M plays its first collegiate game of the season next weekend when the Aggies travel to Anchorage, Alaska to take part in the Great Alaska Shootout.

The Aggies open the Shootout squaring off against the University of Connecticut.

With games lined up against Auburn, Michigan State and Florida State, A&M should find out early in its season if the team can contend in the SWC.

"We still have a lot of hard work to get to where we were last year," Milton said.

Still, the game with the Australian National team showed the Aggies a bit of what they can be in 1989.

"I feel like this game help us out a lot," Milton said. "It showed us what we could do and where we needed to work more."

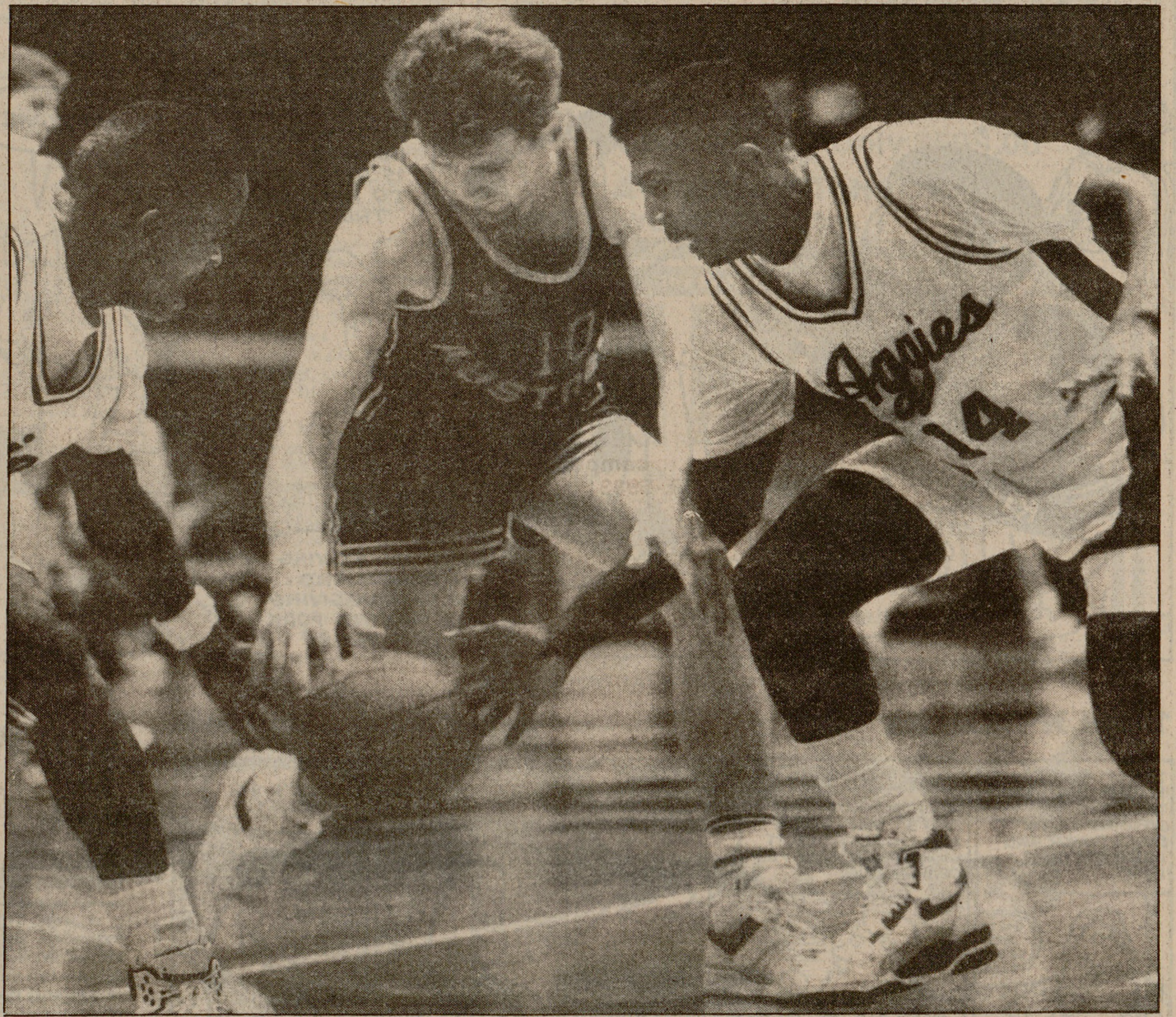


Photo by Mike C. Mulvey

Aggies David Harris (l) and Freddie Ricks (r) steal the ball from Australia's Andrew Gaze in A&M's 87-74 win.

Floyd hot in Rockets' 132-84 win over Heat

HOUSTON — Mitchell Wiggins and Sleepy Floyd scored 26 and 23 points respectively to lead the Houston Rockets to a 132-84 victory over the Miami Heat Sunday night.

Floyd, who was scoreless in last night's loss to Denver, did not start for the first time this season.

But he came off the bench for a season-high point total.



The Heat, loser of four consecutive games, were led in scoring by

reserve forward Billy Thompson, who had 21 points. Tellis Frank added 15 for the Heat.

With 7:39 left in the first quarter, Wiggins hit a 15-foot jump shot to give the Rockets the lead for good.

Akeem Olajuwon, Buck Johnson and Floyd led the Rockets scored eight points apiece to give the Rockets a 36-24 first-quarter lead.

In the second quarter, Wiggins scored 10 of 14 points in the first half as the Rockets increased their lead to 65-48. Frank led the Heat

with nine first-half points.

Led by Floyd with 10 points and Otis Thorpe with eight, the Rockets shot 53 percent from the field and led by 25 points, 97-72, after the third quarter.

Thompson led the heat with 10 points.

Rockets reserve forward Larry Smith had a game-high 14 rebounds.

Olajuwon had 12 points and 11 rebounds.

U.S. soccer advances to Cup finals

PORT OF SPAIN, TRINIDAD (AP) — The United States advanced to the World Cup finals for the first time in 40 years by beating Trinidad and Tobago 1-0 Sunday on Paul Caligiuri's goal in the 30th minute.

Trinidad, playing before a boisterous overflow crowd of 35,000 at National Stadium, needed only a tie to become the smallest nation ever to qualify for the World Cup. But Caligiuri spoiled the national celebration with a spectacular left-footed shot.

Tab Ramos made a throw-in and Caligiuri raced down the left side before sending a curving, dipping shot that went into the upper right corner. Michael Maurice, the Trinidad goalkeeper, was in the middle of the net and had no chance to stop the shot.

Caligiuri is a 25-year-old from Diamond Bar, Calif., who played for SV Meppen of the West German second division before rejoining the National Team full-time in May. He also beat Trinidad, and Maurice, by scoring the only goal in a 1-0 World Cup qualifying victory on May 19, 1985 at Torrance, Calif.

The United States, which played in the 1930, 1934 and 1950 World Cups, became the 24th and final team to qualify for next year's finals, which begin June 8, 1990 in Milan, Italy.

Cameroun qualified earlier Sunday, beating Tunisia 1-0.

The North and Central American and Caribbean region gets two spots in the 24-team field. Costa Rica finished first at 5-2-1 and the Americans were second at 4-1-3. Trinidad ended up with a 3-2-3 record.

Bo may know football, but Oilers know how to stop him

Houston now 7-4 with 23-7 win over Los Angeles; three-game win streak longest since 1985 season

HOUSTON (AP) — How to stop the Los Angeles Raiders: make interceptions, force fumbles and bottle up Bo.

Houston did all three Sunday and won 23-7. It was the Oilers' third straight victory, their longest winning streak since 1985.

"Credit our players. (Bo) had to beat 50 people today and he couldn't beat 50 people today," Oilers coach Jerry Glanville said.

"He's a great talent. I hope he goes on now and beats everyone on their schedule and next year I hope he stays in baseball."

Houston, which intercepted three passes and recovered two fumbles, held Jackson to a season-low 54 yards on 11 tries — the first he hasn't gained 100 yards in four games.

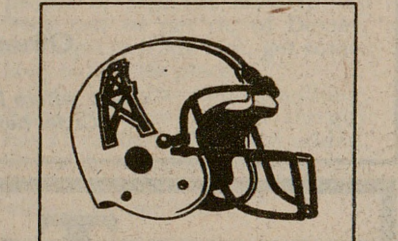
Jackson carried just twice for four yards in the second half when the Raiders went to the air and tried to try to erase a 17-7 halftime deficit.

"I thought we could run the ball on them by running right at them," Jackson said.

"But then they kept the ball away from us. They were trying to contain our speed. To get back in the game we had to pass."

The Oilers (7-4) tried to come up with new wrinkles to stop Jackson in the first half, but those didn't work so well.

"We started slanting and getting into the gaps, but they took advantage of that and Jackson made some good runs," linebacker John



Grimsley said.

"We went back to playing heads up football, trying to be where he was going and it must have worked out."

Quarterback Steve Beuerlein tried to rally the Raiders (5-6) in the second half without success.

"We just didn't make the plays and there are a lot of reasons," Beuerlein said.

"We had penalties and dropped passes. Those things are going to happen during a game. We just didn't overcome them today."

The Oilers, meanwhile, did fine. Warren Moon threw two touchdown passes and Tony Zendejas kicked field goals of 20, 20 and 46 yards, extending his string to eight in a row.

"It doesn't matter how many wins in a row or how you win them," Glanville said.

"We just have to keep winning. We gained half a game today because Cleveland tied."

The Oilers lost three started in the first half with injuries. Ernest Givins (ankle), George Yarno (knee bruise)

and Robert Lyles (knee sprain) left the game and only Givins returned. Raiders nose tackle Bob Golic left with a concussion in the second quarter.

"We were totally outplayed by a good football team," Raiders coach Art Shell said.

"They beat us in all phases of the game. They plain and simply outclassed us."

Moon's touchdown passes went 25 yards to Curtis Duncan and 11 yards to Leonard Harris, sparking the Oilers to a 17-7 halftime lead.

Zendejas capitalized on Raiders' turnovers for his first two field goals.

An interception by Tracey Eaton and a fumble recovery by Kenny Johnson on the second-half kickoff set up Zendejas' kicks.

A 42-yard pass from Moon to Hayward Jeffries set up a 46-yard field goal by Zendejas with 10:26 left in the game.

Beuerlein completed a 22-yard touchdown pass to Mike Dyal in the second quarter.

Houston took a 10-7 lead on Zendejas' 20-yard field goal in the second quarter and an interception by Eaton set up Harris' touchdown with 25 seconds left in the half.

Eaton returned the theft 13 yards, lateraled to Jeff Donaldson, who ran another 14 yards to the Raider 36.

Moon completed 20 of 30 passes for 249 yards. Beuerlein, who completed one of nine passes in one stretch of the third quarter, was 10-for-25 for 149 yards.

Marino, Aikman have impressive passing day; Cowboys drop to 1-10 Zendejas misses last-second field goal attempt to tie game

IRVING (AP) — Former Dallas quarterback Roger Staubach invented the "Hail Mary" pass, but the patent has run out and now Dan Marino owns it.

For the second time this year, Marino hit a desperation pass for a touchdown to end the first half and Sunday's completion ignited the Miami Dolphins over the lowly and luckless Dallas Cowboys 17-14.

It was Miami's sixth victory in seven games and propelled the Dolphins into a tie with Buffalo for the AFC East lead at 7-4. Dallas dropped to 1-10 in its second worst season in 29 years.

Marino's 48-yard "Hail Mary" to Andre Brown was called "a great lift" by Miami coach Don Shula.

"It was what we needed after Dallas played us so tough in the first half," Shula said. "Brown just has tremendous leaping ability."

Brown outjumped five defenders for the ball and said "that was a shot in the arm for us and a shot in the back for them."

Dallas Coach Jimmy Johnson agreed, saying, "The 'Hail Mary' took a lot out of us. We would have been leading 14-3 at the half, instead it was 14-10. It hurt."

Shula was told in the dressing room that Buffalo had lost and responded "Oh wow! That's big. That really makes us happy."

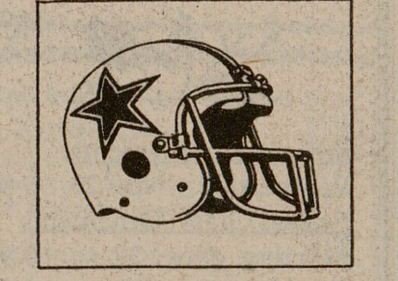
Sammie Smith's 1-yard scoring run early in the fourth quarter provided the winning points but it was Marino's miracle that destroyed Dallas' upset dreams.

The victory wasn't secure until Dallas' Luis Zendejas missed a 53-yard field goal attempt at the gun.

It was the second time this year that Marino had lofted a touchdown prayer at the end of the first half that was answered for a touchdown.

He hit a similar 43-yard pass to Fred Banks to end the first half in a game on Sept. 24.

"There's a lot of luck involved on a play like that but Andre had to have a lot of talent to pull it off," Marino said.



Johnson, who saw Miami play for five years while he coached the University of Miami, still had trouble believing it.

"It's been a tough season and that's an example of it," Johnson said.

"We played tremendous defense. We even sacked Marino twice and not many teams have done that. At least we are getting to the point where we can say one or two plays decide a game. We're getting closer."

Liffort Hobley's interception and 22-yard return set up Smith's game-deciding touchdown.

Marino completed four passes on the 62-yard drive.

With the touchdown pass, Marino moved into ninth place on the NFL's all-time touchdown pass list with 213, ahead of Terry Bradshaw and Y.A. Tittle.

The Cowboys built a 14-3 second-period lead on the sharp passing of Troy Aikman, who completed four straight throws to set up Broderick Sargent's 1-yard touchdown run.

Aikman then flipped a 6-yard scoring toss to Darryl Johnston.

Pete Stoyanovich kicked a 23-yard field goal for the Dolphins, who were stymied offensively until Marino's desperation throw.

Aikman hit 25 of 33 passes for 259 yards while Marino completed 21 of 36 and 255 yards.