

## Aggies break losing skid; whip Gents 103-82

SCOTT WUDEL  
The Battalion Staff

Texas A&M coach Kermit Davis got what he had been looking for Monday night. An all out team effort.

The Aggies (5-10) picked up their first victory in almost a month by defeating Centenary University 103-

82. A&M's last victory was Dec. 20 over Texas College. Since that time the Aggies lost six straight games and fell to an emotional low last Saturday in a 15-point loss to Southern Methodist University.

The Aggies made a 360-degree turnaround in effort against the Gents.

Davis said he had met with each player individually before the game and stressed the need for having fun on the court, and not thinking about the losing streak.

A&M's newfound intensity led to the Aggies' highest point total of the year.

"Right now we're just glad to get a win, we needed a win," Davis said. "It was good to see our team rebounding that way."

Five Aggies scored in double figures in the contest, and the A&M offense struck from all points on the court.

Davis gave credit to the dominating inside-play of Shedrick Anderson, who converted eight of 10 shots for 18 points and added 9 rebounds.

Anderson, who utilized his size advantage inside, said he had to get himself focused after his poor performances in the last three weeks.

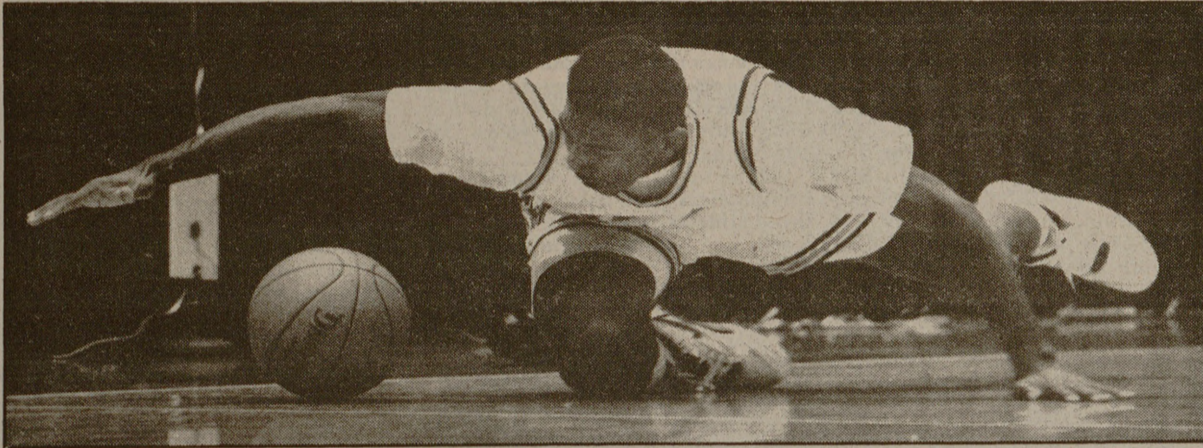
"I had to get myself together to come out and feel like I'm a player again," Anderson said.

Rashone Lewis picked up where he left off Saturday, continuing to give the Aggies muscle inside. He posted 19 points and grabbed 11 rebounds.

The guard trio of Lynn Suber, Isaac Brown, and Brooks Thompson, which struggled for a total of 19 points in its last game, ran up 45 points against Centenary.

Suber, who scored 18 points, said the team had the right attitude for the game.

"The different thing I saw was that we were having fun tonight," Suber said. "We play a lot better



A&M reserve guard Freddie Ricks stretches to keep the ball inbound during the Aggies 103-82 win over Centenary Monday night in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

HUY THANH NGUYEN/The Battalion

when we're out there having fun and pulling for each other.

"People were slapping each other on the butt and giving high-fives and just having fun."

The Aggies biggest lead of the night came with nine seconds left in the game, after Anderson finished the scoring with a layup. But earlier A&M had built safe leads only to let the Gents back into the contest.

The Aggies built a 14-point lead midway through the first half after Brown nailed a three-pointer.

But the Gents went on a 16-4 run to close the lead to two points with 16:01 left in the half.

Centenary continued to penetrate the lane for easy layups and eventually took its first lead with 2:47 left. The Gents held a 45-44 advantage at halftime.

Davis said the team talked about the defensive letdown during halftime, and the team responded by immediately regaining a lead they would never relinquish.

After Suber converted a 16-foot jump shot to open the scoring, the Aggies found space in the middle to convert easy layups and short jumpers.

Davis even found reason to smile at a technical foul issued to Centenary coach Tommy Vardeman, as the Aggies built a 65-54 lead halfway through the second half.

## Lady Ags fall to LSU

By CRAIG WILSON  
Of The Battalion Staff

What started as a comedy of errors between Texas A&M and Louisiana State Monday night developed into an exciting basketball game, although the outcome was not what the Lady Ags had hoped for.

Despite a slow start, the 11th-ranked Lady Tigers (12-2) built a comfortable 31-point lead early in the second half and cruised to a 90-75 victory over the Lady Ags (7-7) at G. Rollie White Coliseum.

LSU spoiled a good effort by A&M. The Lady Ags sank a school-record nine three-point field goals in the loss.

A&M was unable to stop LSU's Dana Chatman, who finished the game with 23 points, 21 of them in the first half. The 5-5 senior point guard also pulled down 10 rebounds.

Lady Ags coach Lynn Hickey, although upbeat about the team's performance, expressed concern over A&M's lack of consistent shooting.

"We started the game out great," Hickey said. "We made some great defensive plays ... but we had two or three layup opportunities and we were so intense that we couldn't take

advantage of the wide open shots."

Hickey was nonetheless impressed with the team's intensity and hustle, especially considering the circumstances.

"I am very proud of the team," she said. "This is a top ten team ... and we stayed with them."

The Lady Ags trailed by only twelve points at halftime, but Lady Tiger guard Annette Lowery keyed a 29-10 run with 11 points as LSU built a mountainous 76-45 lead with 9:35 to play.

A&M was outrebounded 20-8 during that stretch, and by a 53-40 margin for the game.

"We were in awe of what was around us," Hickey said, "and we didn't take care of business the first ten or twelve minutes of the second half."

The Lady Ags, despite shooting only 35 percent from the field, ended the contest with a 30-14 run.

They were keyed by the hot shooting of 6-1 junior forward Dena Russo, who fouled out with a game-high 27 points and 13 rebounds.

Russo said that a lack of defensive intensity was the cause of the Aggie's second-half demise.

"We're still not playing the full 40

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## Akeem's eye repaired

HOUSTON (AP) — Houston Rockets center Akeem Olajuwon underwent successful surgery to repair damage to his right eye suffered Jan. 3 when he was elbowed in the face by Chicago Bulls center Bill Cartwright, doctors announced Monday.

"There were no surprises, and with proper healing everything should go as planned," said Dr. Robert Wilkins, who performed the surgery.

Olajuwon, the Western Conference all-star starting center for the past four seasons, should be able to resume workouts with the team in eight weeks, Rockets general manager Steve Patterson said.

Olajuwon suffered a blowout fracture on the bottom of his right eye orbit Jan. 4 when he and Cartwright went for a rebound under the Rockets basket in a game in The Summit.

The Rockets at first thought Olajuwon would be lost three to four weeks and that no surgery would be required but further examination revealed a need to insert a piece of Teflon shield to help repair the damaged bone structure around Olajuwon's eye.

There was concern that Olajuwon's eye might sink from lack of bone support if the surgery was not performed.

"The doctors were able to pull the floor of Akeem's orbit back up into place and insert Teflon over it and recovery should be as

expected," Patterson said.

Olajuwon was dismissed from the hospital Monday night to begin his recuperation at home. Patterson said the Rockets' center could resume conditioning on a stationary bike as soon as he wished.

"He can begin some sort of exercise in roughly four weeks and in eight weeks be able to play basketball after that," Patterson said.

There was no damage to Olajuwon's eye, Patterson said, so "we're looking for a full recovery."

Patterson said Olajuwon would wear protective goggles when he returns to the court.

"The fracture was as large as we expected, maybe a little larger," Wilkins said. "Tissue had herniated into the sinus and we removed it with no problem. We inserted a Teflon plate approximately two inches by one inch."

Patterson said because the Rockets are over the NBA's salary cap he is not anticipating any roster moves before Olajuwon's return.

Olajuwon was injured in the third quarter against the Bulls. Houston won that game and beat Indiana Jan. 5 in their first game without Olajuwon in the lineup.

They have since lost four straight games going into Monday night's game at the Los Angeles Clippers.

## Pistons continue Mavs' slide

DALLAS (AP) — Vinnie Johnson scored 10 of his 19 points in the fourth quarter Monday night as the Detroit Pistons won their 10th consecutive game, 89-81 over the Dallas Mavericks.

Joe Dumars added 17 points for the Pistons, who won for the 12th time in their last 14 games and matched their 10-game winning streak in November.

Derek Harper scored 21 points and Rolando Blackman 19 for Dallas, which lost its third consecutive game and 21st in the last 29 starts.

The Mavericks trailed only 84-81 on Randy White's follow shot with 2:11 to play. But Dennis Rodman, who had 15 rebounds, scored off an offensive rebound with 1:51 left and Bill Lambeer made it 88-81 with an 18-footer with 1:15 remaining.

Detroit led 68-62 entering the final quarter behind 12 third-quarter points from Dumars.

The Pistons took a 38-35 halftime lead despite shooting only 36.6 percent from the field.

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