

49ers: the death of a dynasty; will they return?

Without a even the aid of a touchdown, the New York Giants ended the most dominating sports dynasty in almost a decade.

The Giants used five Matt Bahr field goals and a trick play to beat the 49ers at their own game.

Who would have thought, when the Giants lost Phil Simms three weeks ago, that they would have even survived their first playoff game?

They did so in grand style, dominating the Chicago Bears 31-3. But beat the 49ers in Candlestick? Hey, let's get realistic.



Alan Lehmann
Sports Editor

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Granted, astute observers (like our own Steve O'Brien) pointed out the possibility but I couldn't see it happening.

I mean these were the 49ers: Joe Montana, Jerry Rice, Roger Craig, John Taylor, Ronnie Lott and the rest of owner Eddie DeBartolo's cast of overpaid overachievers.

With an offensive arsenal that should have made the Pentagon envious, there was no doubt that these guys deserved to be the two-time defending Super Bowl champs.

All that stood between the 49ers and that third consecutive jaunt to the Super Bowl romp was the Giants.

The same Giants, like Saddam Hussein, were extremely vulnerable to air attack. With a recycled secondary featuring Everson Walls, who even the Dallas Cowboys had given up on, could hardly hope to stop the 49ers' vaunted aerial assault.

But they did.

And we should have seen it coming. The Giants gave us plenty of warning when they battled the Niners in the regular season, finally falling 7-3 in the lowest-scoring Monday Night Football game in history.

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Ags fall predictably

By DOUGLAS PILS
Of The Battalion Staff

The Texas A&M men's basketball team is in a rut.

Once again the Aggies fell behind early, came back to get in the game only to have their hopes dashed in the final minutes of the game.

A&M was looking for its first Southwest Conference win of the season against the Baylor Bears Saturday in G. Rollie White Coliseum with 2,602 in attendance, but came up on the short end of the stick, losing 90-85.

The loss leaves the Aggies in the SWC cellar with an 0-5 conference mark, one game behind the Rice Owls, who A&M will visit this Saturday.

Just as in the previous home SWC losses to Texas Tech and Texas Christian, the Aggies let the Bears jump out to a big lead.

BU built a 41-27 advantage with 5:27 remaining in the first half around the stellar play of guard David Wesley. He scored 18 points in the run and finished the afternoon with a career-high 33 points.

A&M then ran off a 15-2 run, bolstered by the inside play of junior center Shedrick Anderson. The run could have been even bigger, but the Aggies missed six of nine free throws in the stretch and still trailed by five, 48-43 at halftime.

A&M ran off seven straight points to open the second half and took a 50-48 lead with 18:40 remaining before falling behind 74-65 five and a half minutes later.

The Aggies pulled ahead 81-80 after Anderson converted on a three-point play with 3:57 left in the game.

Anderson hit another bucket with 3:07 remaining to go up 83-80. Then with 1:18 left BU guard Tim Schumacher hit a three-pointer to give the Bears an 85-84 lead. Schumacher's goal was only his second of the day and he finished with nine points.

Missing free throws was a problem that plagued A&M the entire game. The Ags hit only 56 percent from the charity line, making only 23 of 41 shots. Embattled A&M coach Kermit Davis Jr. said the game was A&M's to win if they had taken advantage of their free throws.

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HUY THANH NGUYEN/The Battalion

Despite A&M center Shedrick Anderson's 26 points and his dominating inside play the Aggies came up short in a 90-85 loss to Baylor.

Lady Aggies keep streak

By STEVE O'BRIEN
Of The Battalion Staff

The Texas A&M women's basketball team went into their Friday night game against Baylor looking for their third straight Southwest Conference victory.

Thanks to a second half barrage of outside shots, the Lady Ags found what they were looking for with a 91-75 victory in front of a raucous crowd at G. Rollie White Coliseum.

The Aggies also wanted to bring their SWC record to 3-2 and build momentum for their upcoming game against nationally ranked Arkansas.

Early in the game, however, the Aggies ran into problems and Baylor took a 50-40 halftime lead.

"They were shooting well and they came out good," senior guard Yvonne Hill said. "We tried to go man to man to put more pressure on the ball and to get some more help on their postmen. Their posts were killing us."

A&M head coach Lynn Hickey was also impressed with Baylor's offensive show.

"(In the) first half they just shot the lights out," Hickey said. "They played very well but at the same time we didn't have as much defensive pressure on them as we needed."

But in the locker room at half time, Hickey told her players to be patient and things would begin working.

"She told us that we were fine and that we just needed to start playing tougher defense and executing on offense," junior guard Shawn Medlock said.

And execute on offense they did.

Junior forward Dena Russo scored six of the Aggies' first eight points to start the second half as the Lady Ags went on a 16-6 run.

Hill added 11 in the second half to lead the Aggies in scoring with 21. Russo finished the game with 19.

And on a three point bomb by senior forward Wendy Jennings with 10:28 remaining in the game the Aggies regained the lead for the first time since midway through the first half.

From there the Aggies never looked back.

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