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Hogs ready for Rebels

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP)—The tents are up outside Barnhill Arena, the final indication that Sunday's UNLV-Arkansas showdown is the college basketball event of the season.

But first, the No. 2 Razorbacks (22-1) play at Houston on Thursday night. "The big concern is the fact that Houston is a very good basketball team," Arkansas coach Nolan Richardson said. "The times we've won down there, they were one-point and four-point victories. It will not be a cakewalk."

And then there's Sunday's game at Barnhill, where students pitched tents outside the arena on Wednesday to claim a spot in line for general admission tickets.

"If you answer the phone in my office, I've never seen anything like it," Richardson said. "I mean, 99.9 percent of the calls are about tickets. People who went to school with me in the first grade, judges, lawyers, coaches. Coaches who I like them as friends saying, 'Hey, you've got to do me a favor. Can I have a couple?'"

So No. 1 vs. No. 2 is three days away. UNLV (18-0) brings its 29-game winning streak to town, while Arkansas has won 19 in a row after a loss to Arizona.

Everyone knew the Runnin' Rebels would be ready to defend their national title this year, but Arkansas had a question mark or two entering the season.

Last year, the Razorbacks had three sophomore starters. Todd Day was the scorer, Lee Mayberry the catalyst and Oliver Miller the assist man with the soft shooting touch.

But most figured Lenzie Howell, who made plenty of big plays last year when Arkansas reached the Final Four, would be difficult to replace.

Enter seniors Ron Huery and Arlyn Bowers.

Bowers is the shortest player on the team at 5-foot-10. Huery comes off the bench by choice.

The Razorbacks took a break from the Southwest Conference in mid January and went to Tallahassee, Fla. Bowers was questionable because of a foot injury, but he made three 3-pointers in the first 5½ minutes and scored 12 points in the first half.

TANK McNAMARA



by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds



Aggie cagers notch first win

LUBBOCK (AP) — It's finally over.

After waiting over a month for its first Southwest Conference victory, Texas A&M beat Texas Tech and avoided the dubious distinction of matching Tech's 1990 SWC mark of 0-16.

Brooks Thompson scored 20 points to lead five players in double figures as the Texas A&M Aggies knocked off Texas Tech 70-63 Wednesday night.

The Aggies snapped a nine-game SWC losing streak and improved to 6-15 overall, 1-9 in conference play. The Raiders, who shot a paltry 43 percent for the game, fell to 7-16 and 3-7.

The Aggies hit several free throws down the stretch to seal the victory after a 14-4 Raiders run had cut their lead to 64-57 with 1:56 remaining.

A&M's ability to sink the pressure free throws is somewhat of a novel thing for Kermit Davis Jr.'s team. In more than a couple of games this year, A&M has faltered due to a lack of free throws.

A&M flustered the Red Raiders with a trapping, full-court press and shut down Tech's leading scorer Steve Miles.

Miles, averaging 15.3 points, drew double- and triple-coverage and scored only 4 points in the first half.

He finished with 12 to lead the Raiders. Bernard Saulsberry added 10 for Tech. Lynn Suber, A&M's leading



scorer with a 14.5 average, finished with 16.

Freddie Ricks added a season-high 12 for the Aggies and Rashone Lewis and Sherrick Anderson each had 11.

Texas A&M jumped out to a 15-7 lead behind the sizzling shooting of Thompson, who connected on five of seven shots from the field, including 2-of-2 from 3-point range, in the first half for 12 points.

The Red Raiders were only 9-of-24 from the field in the first half or 37 percent and trailed 30-23 at intermission.

The Aggies will travel to Ft. Worth to take on Texas Christian, who took a 71-57 beating at the hands of Southern Methodist Tuesday night.

In the previous meeting, the Horned Frogs beat A&M 80-72 in College Station.

With the victory, A&M can now start focusing in on trying to ob-

tain a good spot in the SWC Tournament. The Aggies remaining games after TCU are: SMU at home on Feb. 13; at Baylor on Feb. 20; Arkansas at home on Feb. 23; Rice at home on Feb. 27 and at Houston on March 2.

In other SWC action, Courtney Jeans scored seven of his 17 points in the final two minutes and Texas got a career-high 31 points from Locksley Collie in a 100-95 Southwest Conference victory Wednesday night in Waco over Baylor.

Texas (15-5, 9-1) sprinted to a 21-8 lead as Baylor sought a way to stop Collie, who finished the first half with 21 points.

Baylor (9-10, 2-8) rallied behind Melvin Hunt, who sank three 3-pointers to help cut the Texas lead to 47-45 at the half. The Bears were led by Kelvin Chalmers' 16 points.

The lead changed hands four times in the opening minutes of the second half. Texas finally took the lead for good with 7:57 left in the game, starting a 12-5 surge keyed by six of Dexter Cambridge's 20 points. Down the stretch, Jeans sank a crucial 3-pointer with 1:45 left to give Texas a 91-86 lead and then went four for four from the line to help clinch the victory.

Cambridge played 23 minutes for Guillermo Meyers, who had foul trouble.

Tim Schumacher added 15 points, Melvin Hunt 14 and David Wesley 12 for Baylor.

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O'Brien

Continued from page 7

national television, I'm sure A&M head coach R.C. Slocum sat back in his chair and smiled.

Slocum had failed to push a talent-studded team to its limits during the regular season, but his team's victory in the Holiday Bowl was all the revenge he needed.

If a college team's finish determines how many recruits will sign with the school, then the 'Horns probably wishes they'd never gone near Dallas.

It seemed Texas was content just getting to the Cotton Bowl and never thought about actually trying to win it.

The Aggies, on the other hand, were mad at their fumbled chances throughout the season.

The long-range legacy of the bowl results is not merely the final scores of the two contests.

It's about high school recruits who needed something to help them decide on whether to head to Austin or College Station.

Most of the time, SWC champion gets more than its fair share of high-school talent while other programs hope to pick up some loose change left behind.

But when a high school player like quarterback Matt Miller, who's from San Diego coincidentally, sees an A&M ball club that likes to hit hard on defense, run the option and also

throw on offense, the difficult decision is made easier.

Also, A&M teams always rise to the occasion of big games and don't shrug their shoulders to big competition like Ty Detmer.

It's too early to tell who got the best recruits in the SWC, but A&M is sure to be near the top.

Sam Adams, a 6-4 270 pound defensive lineman from Cypress Creek, signed with A&M yesterday as the top ranked player in state and a Parade All-American.

With his talent and the Aggies' injury-riddled defensive line, Adams is sure to make an immediate impact.

The list goes on. Tommy Preston of A&M Consolidated will add the Aggies' depth at quarterback and Rodney Thomas, a Blue Chip All-American, finally made up his mind and chose to come to A&M.

But A&M's big finish at the Holiday Bowl didn't influence the big recruits as much as it attracted the lesser known players.

And it's these offensive linemen, linebackers and tight ends that anchor a winning team.

It's players like 6-4 linebacker Antonio Shorter and 6-3, 285 pound center Darius Smith who will lead the Aggies back to Dallas for a Jan. 1 date to play in the Cotton Bowl.

Recruiting

Continued from page 7

now with Randy and Keith gone, I'm sitting here with one scholarship running back and having to count on a true freshman—a frightening position to be in."

Slocum said he wants to continue the tradition of having pro-style running backs in the Aggie backfield.

"The basis of our offense will be running the football," he said. "So it's imperative that we have a quality running back."

The Aggies nabbed two of the top running backs in Texas.

Rodney Thomas had a change of heart Tuesday and signed with A&M after originally pledging to LSU the day before.

Thomas led Groveton to its second consecutive Class 2A championship while compiling over 3700 yards last season.

Tim Cassidy, recruiting coordinator for A&M, said Thomas is comparable to Emmitt Smith and Darren Lewis.

"He's got a good mixture of slashing, speed, and the size to be a powerful runner as well."

Wilbert Biggens was another running back on many teams' wish lists.

Biggens was the top scorer in Class 5A while also earning respect as a dominant defensive player for Aldine MacArthur.

"Biggens is an outstanding athlete as well as a another good sprinter," Cassidy said. "We have every intention of playing him at running back."

Slocum said he took a personal hand in making sure A&M landed two players from close to home.

A&M Consolidated's Cliff Groce could challenge for a backup fullback position next year, Cassidy said.

Slocum said the Aggies recruited Consolidated's Tommy Preston, regarded as the top quarterback in the state, despite having a stable of players at that position already.

"You can take a number of quarterbacks before you find that special guy," Slocum said. "Right now I've got one quarterback on this team who has proven he can win ball games and be a big time quarterback—that's Bucky Richardson."

"When Bucky's gone, all of a sudden I have a problem. I've got some people here I'm proud of, but none of them have walked out on the field and proved they can win big games and be that special quarterback."

A&M also signed Matt Miller, a highly rated quarterback from San Diego.

Slocum said the team needed help at wide receiver with only one player returning next season with game experience.

A&M signed 6-4 Chris Sanders, a multipurpose type performer; Perry Singleton, a receiver with 4.4 speed; and a possession-type receiver in Gene Lowery from Austin LBJ, and Rick Daniel from Benton, Ark.

The Aggies filled two holes at placekicker and punter during the recruiting period.

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