



KARL STOLLEIS/The Battalion

Texas A&M coach Tony Barone says the Aggies have had chances to win games but have not taken the opportunity to do so. Tonight, A&M tries to end a 12-game losing streak against TSU.

## No consolation in losing

Barone: Aggies need to take advantage of every opportunity

By Anthony Andro  
The Battalion

Texas A&M men's basketball coach Tony Barone said his team has been given plenty of opportunities to win some of their recent games. Now it's time for the Aggies to start taking some of the opportunities.

Tonight the Aggies will have a chance to break a 12-game losing streak when Texas Southern University travels to College Station. The game starts at 7:30 p.m. in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

The Aggies have had seven legitimate chances to break the losing streak but have come up short each time.

"I think as I look at our basketball team, those kids have given themselves a chance to win some ballgames and we didn't do it," Barone said. "I think if we keep putting ourselves in that position, we're going to do it."

Barone does not see the Tigers as the definitive answer to the problem.

"I don't think the players are looking at Texas Southern as the way to end a losing streak be-

cause Texas Southern isn't as good as everybody else," he said. "If we are, we are going to get beat. That's very simple."

Frustration would seem like an easy excuse for the A&M team as the losses continue to mount. But Barone doesn't find much consolation in excuses.

"I don't think there's really any room for frustration," he said. "I think frustration is a way to rationalize the fact that you're not winning. That's bullsh--"

A&M enters the contest with a 3-16 record, while the Tigers have an 11-12 record. Texas Southern is a quality opponent, Barone said, and the Aggies must execute to be successful.

"Texas Southern is an excellent ballclub," he said. "They're very athletic and they are a strong rebounding team."

"We're just trying to find a way to win a game. If it's Texas Southern and it gives us a boost, then we're excited about that."

Point guard David Edwards and forward Sherrick Anderson are the only healthy Aggies scoring in double figures. Edwards is averaging 15.2 points a game while Anderson is averaging 11

points.

The Aggies miss freshman forward Damon Johnson. Johnson was averaging almost 17 points a game before he broke a bone in his foot. The Aggies have yet to win a game in the seven games he has missed. Barone said this season could have been dramatically different if Johnson had been healthy.

"One of the issues I don't think we're really cognizant of was Damon Johnson," he said. "He was far more than a big man for us."

"Damon Johnson was the difference between us beating Texas Christian and SMU. We've beaten those teams with him."

The Aggies gameplan for tonight's game will be based on Texas Southern's strategy. "A lot of times the other teams dictate to you what you're capable of doing," he said. "Sometimes they'll allow you to do some things."

"SMU allowed us to run the shot clock down and that's what we were able to do. We would hope that if somebody pressured us a lot we would be ready to take the ball right at them."

## Syracuse admits NCAA violations

Former A&M player Tony Scott named in internal investigation

SYRACUSE, N.Y. (AP) — Boosters gave Syracuse basketball players cash, free meals, free legal advice and other benefits in violation of NCAA rules, university officials admitted Wednesday as they released the findings of an internal investigation.

Syracuse Chancellor Kenneth A. Shaw stressed that coach Jim Boenheim and his assistants were not responsible for the violations, and that the university had not lost control of its perennially-ranked men's program.

"The violations we found were unacceptable, but they were isolated incidents," Shaw said.

The school admitted 13 apparent rules violations and probable wrongdoing in two other instances. One of the violations, which involved players receiving free haircuts, occurred before 1985 and is not punishable under the NCAA's general four-year statute of limitations, Shaw said.

Shaw declined to speculate on what penalties Syracuse might face as a result of the 500-page report. He said "clearly there will be sanctions" from the NCAA.

Syracuse's basketball team had never been accused of violating

NCAA rules. No team in the powerhouse Big East Conference has faced NCAA sanctions before.

"I'm pleased that they came to the conclusion there's no systematic intent to violate NCAA rules," said Boenheim, whose team is 16-4 this season and ranked 10th in the nation. "That's something we've maintained from the very beginning and I think that the violations that were discovered were isolated incidents."

Among the violations committed by the men's basketball program, according to the university's investigation:

—Rochester lawyer Loren Kroll gave free legal service to former Orangeman Tony Scott.

Scott later transferred to Texas A&M where he was in the center of another NCAA investigation that uncovered eight rules violations under former coach Kermit Davis, Jr.

The A&M basketball program received two years probation and is severely limited in the number of scholarships it can give student athletes in the future.

—Bill Rapp Jr., a local car dealer who once worked at the team's scorekeeper at away games, sent

players \$50 in cash inside Christmas cards yearly between 1980 and 1990.

—Players received free or reduced-priced meals and drinks at Grimaldi's, a popular local restaurant.

—Boosters provided players with free board, meals, transportation and other extra benefits.

Boenheim declined to discuss the possible penalties that the NCAA could impose, but he said he believed his program had stood up well after nearly two years of scrutiny.

"There's no program that can withstand 22 months of investigation and not find a violation," said Boenheim.

"You look at 15 years and the small number of people involved (in alleged wrongdoing) and you come to the conclusion that there aren't a whole lot involved," he said.

The NCAA had no comment on the specific findings of Syracuse's in-house probe or what possible penalties it could receive, said spokesman Jim Marchiony.

The report, which took 13 months to compile, was sent to the NCAA Tuesday.

## Foster

Continued from Page 3

Murray. The home crowd serenaded each of Calvin's practice swings — "one, traitor...two, traitor...three, traitor." Brooks Kieschnick of the Longhorns wasn't spared of the harassment, either. His distinctive "fanny-shaking" at the plate drew screams and whistles from the crowd, all in sarcastic fashion. Those were a few of the mild ones.

And, of course, anyone — fan, coach or umpire — who drops a ball gets the "E" sign from the crowd.

Not even our Diamond Darlings are safe from this group of

rowdies. Pity the member of that group designated to retrieve a foul ball in the student sections. Here's one piece of advice to that group of young ladies: Watch the ball as it goes into the stands. And never, ever look to the crowd for directions.

Senior shortstop Jason Marshall said A&M fans are great to play for, not just because they pull for the Aggies, but because they recognize great baseball when they see it.

"It's great to play here because the crowd is very complimentary, not just of our play but of the other teams as well," he said. "They stand up and cheer when other teams make great de-

fensive plays, too."

Maybe all of this madness is just because baseball fans are more gung-ho than fans of other sports. Baseball, you might note, has its own song. Rumor is there's a push to make "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" our national anthem.

Maybe it's not just baseball fans, but Aggie baseball fans that make Olsen Field so special.

Whatever it is, one thing is for sure: Anyone who goes through the rigors of completing an education at this University (and those who don't complete theirs) should attend at least one game at Olsen. You can bet it will be an experience you will never forget.

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