

Aggies end losing streak

A&M win turns tables on season of adversity

By Steve O'Brien
The Battalion

The tables finally turned and the Texas A&M men's basketball team won a game for the first time in almost two months.

The Aggies defeated Texas Southern, 75-67, in front of 1,621 fans at G. Rollie White Coliseum Thursday night, breaking a 12-game losing streak that began last December. The win moved the Aggies to 4-16 this season. The Tigers fell to 11-14.

A&M head coach Tony Barone said he was worried until the last seconds of the game rolled off the clock, even though the Aggies had built a 60-45 lead with 2:33 left in the game.

TSU freshman Kevin Adams was part of Barone's concern. Adams scored 12 of his 17 points in the second half, including four three-pointers.

"I didn't feel comfortable until the buzzer went off," Barone said. "I was doubting it when that kid hit all those three-pointers. The kid just nailed some shots, and they were from downtown."

"I was just hoping the clock was going to tick. I was hoping for a malfunction, and it go from two minutes to one minute."

A&M guard David Edwards led the Aggies with 18 points and nine assists. Chuck Henderson added 15 points for A&M, while Corey Henderson and Matt Haralson both scored 11.

TSU guard Theon Dotson led all scorers with 25 points.

Haralson said the team wasn't concerned with the losing streak.

"Other people mentioned it, but Coach Barone isn't the type of coach that's going to let you think about that," Haralson said. "When we go into games we're totally focused on that game. Everybody is focused on winning."

"We don't even think about losing." A&M went on an 8-0 run to start the game and led 34-27 at halftime behind the shooting of Edwards, who scored seven consecutive points before intermission.

Thursday night was the eighth time this season the Aggies led at halftime, but only the third time they won.

"(Edwards) stepped in and hit some tough shots when we needed it," Haralson said. "He's been doing that all year long. That's what a good point guard does."

Edwards said the Aggies deserved a win after having coming close so many times this season.

"It feels great after losing all those games when we felt we deserved to win," Edwards said. "We play hard against everybody we play. We might not play great against everybody, but we play hard."

The last time A&M celebrated the thrill of victory was Dec. 21. That night, the Aggies defeated Delaware State of the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference.

Since that time the young A&M team has suffered carbon monoxide poisoning as well as had to deal with the death of Barone's mother, in addition to the losing streak.

Barone said his team has been playing hard throughout the season despite the adversities.

"I didn't really feel a lot of pressure as the season has gone on," he said. "I think



KARL STOLLEIS/The Battalion

Anthony Ware takes a pass from David Edwards and scores to give the Aggies a 14-5 lead with more than 14 minutes left in the first half of A&M's 75-67 win.

these kids have played with a tremendous amount of enthusiasm and effort in most of the games. It wasn't like we were trying to lose the games, and our effort wasn't good.

"But when you lose as many in a row

as we have, you tend to doubt yourself," Barone said. "I think any time you win a game, you gain credibility."

"Tonight, they gained credibility for themselves and that's just as important as anything else."

Edwards adjusts to coach's lessons, helps A&M win

By Scott Wudel
The Battalion

More than a week ago, David Edwards found himself pining away on the A&M bench while his backup, David Martin, took the G. Rollie White Coliseum floor with the rest of the A&M starters.

Edwards had been shown his seat by head coach Tony Barone, who thought Martin's abilities were more conducive to controlling the tempo of the game and decreasing the chances the Aggies' would turn the ball over to their nationally-ranked opponents, Alabama.

It was a small part of a bigger lesson Barone was hoping to teach Edwards. A continuing education for the overexuberant point guard to show him what it would take to be the Aggies' leader of the pack.

Wednesday afternoon, Barone gave Edwards his next assignment. The head coach handed his student an article about Duke point guard Bobby Hurley, who he considered the best point guard in the country.

The article's intent was to teach a person in Edwards' position how he could make the other players on the team better as well as improve his own abilities.

Hours after Edwards read the article he took the floor of the Coliseum again. The point guard had taken the article to heart and Barone was beginning to see the fruits of his labor.

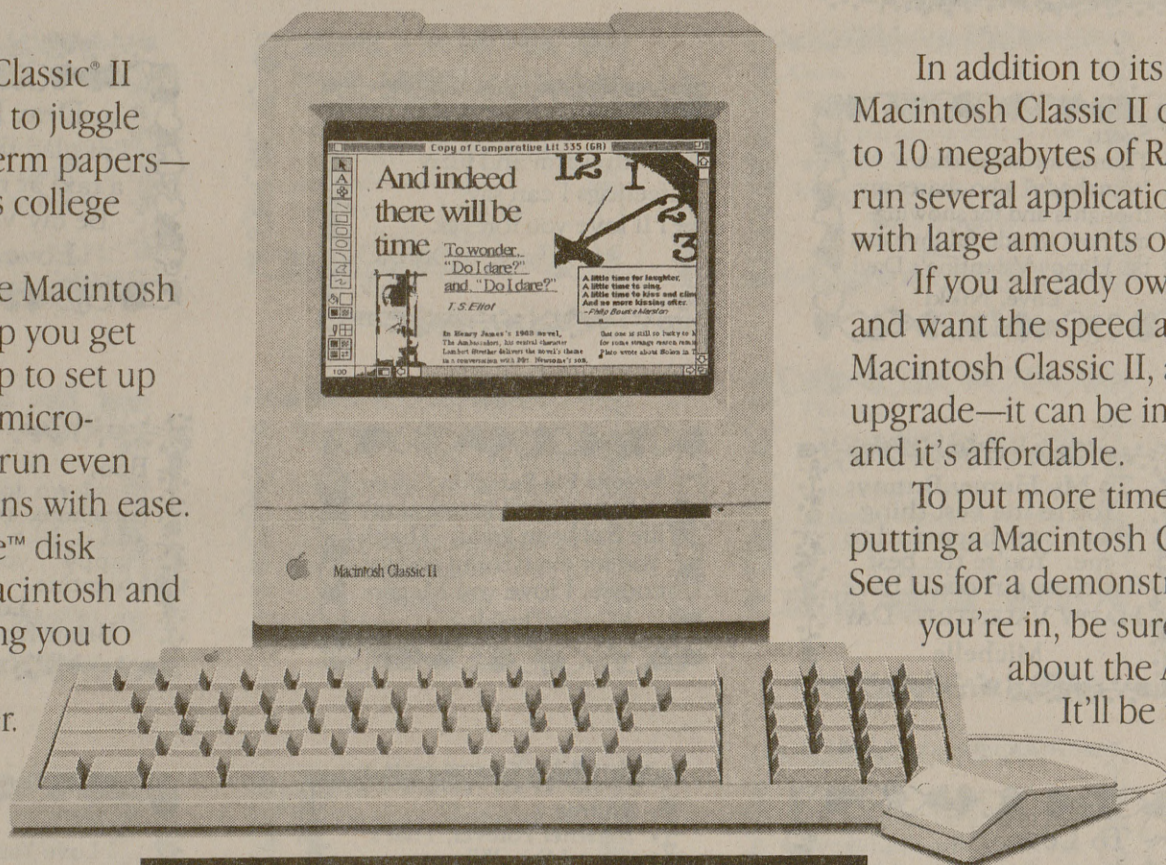
"David Edwards can be as good a point guard as there is in this league," Barone said after the Aggies' 75-67 win over Texas Southern. "I think what David

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