Basketball team rejoices over victory

Ironically, A&M's last SWC win in College Station came on March 3, 1990, against Texas Tech in the final home conference game of the season.

Damon Johnson, whose free throw with eight seconds left put the Aggies up by two points, said the A&M team had something to prove.

"We really wanted this one," Johnson said. "Especially for the seniors, because it was their last game. Plus, we wanted to give the crowd something for next year, so they don't get down on us and think we're not going to win anymore.

"It's as sweet as can be."

Sophomore guard David Edwards said he hopes the win sends a positive message to A&M fans about the potential for successful basketball in Aggieland.

"We've been playing hard all year," Edwards explained. "No one can really say that we just give away games during the whole season.

"We're just trying to make Texas A&M a better basketball program because we just want to win."

Aggies beat Tech, end home slide

once on that play, and I'll never lose another one. The other guy might have scored, but he wasn't going to."

Barone said the final minute seemed like 40 minutes, but in the end the team did what it needed to do to win.

"I told the kids this after the game, 'When you play a close game, it always comes down to defense and free throws,'" he said.

"I thought we hit most of our free throws. I thought our defense was outstanding at the end of the game. I was proud of our kids for what they did."

What they did was hold Tech to two points in the last 5:22 of the game. During that stretch, the Raiders went 1-for-6 shooting.

The game was close the whole way. The two teams went back and forth early in the first half before Tech scored six straight points to take a 19-12 lead.

But the Aggies came back behind four Johnson free throws and a Chuck Henderson jumper to close the gap to 19-18. A Tony McGinnis layup with four minutes left gave the Aggies a 24-23 lead. A&M led at halftime, 32-29.

The Aggies came out in the second half and controlled the tempo early. They maintained their lead until Tech's Brad Dale hit two free throws with 7:08 left, putting the Red Raiders on top 47-48.

But with five minutes remaining, A&M senior forward Anthony Ware hit a jumper that gave the Aggies a 55-54 lead, one which they would not relinquish.

Chuck Henderson and John son each scored 11 points in the game to lead the Aggies. Shedric Anderson added ten points and contributed a team-high nine rebounds.

Lance Hughes led Tech with 11 points and Flemons chipped in 10.

Foster

games between the top three or four teams should be televised. This is where the picture starts to get a little fuzzy. It looks like ABC is not trying to promote the conference, but trying to promote the Longhorns.

The reason ABC scheduled this game is so Texas could get a big win in front of a nationally televised audience before tournament play begins. It's basically a public relations move for the Longhorns.

Enter Barone and the Aggies into this scenario.

If ABC, or anyone for that matter, thinks it is going to get away with a planned, televised execution of the A&M basketball team, they probably would want to ask Tony and the boys if it's all right first.

The last time the Aggies and the 'Horns tangled, it was anything but a runaway.

Tom Penders and the boys from Austin were lucky to escape G. Rollie White Coliseum with a win. Playing against an A&M team that gives more effort than anyone in the conference, Texas looked like anything but an 11-2 team.

But this is not why Sunday's game will be televised, either. ABC is counting on the fact that the first game was close because it was in College Station. Therefore, the matchup in Austin will be lopsided.

This is just the kind of slap in the face Barone and his troops need to go into Austin and show Texas up.

This is A&M's chance to show the rest of the country that no matter how bad their record looks, they can compete with anyone in the conference when they are determined to win.