



DOUG FOSTER
Sportswriter

ABC pushes wrong button with A&M-UT

It's time for coach Tony Barone and the Aggies to send a strong message to ABC and the rest of the nation.

Sunday's final regular season basketball game between Texas A&M and the University of Texas is scheduled for regional broadcast on ABC television. The Aggies will enter the game with a 6-20 overall record and a 2-12 mark in conference play. The Longhorns are leading the conference race with a 10-2 record and will take on Rice tonight before hosting A&M on Sunday.

But something is definitely wrong with this picture.

It makes sense that most national networks would try to schedule the best possible matchup for a televised game. But it has been a long time since I can remember ABC or any of the Big Three networks putting a 6-20 team on television.

There must be a reason for this game to be televised. Maybe it's the rivalry? Probably not. ABC doesn't think that there is any chance of the Aggies winning this game. The network doesn't buy that rivalry stuff for one minute.

One reason this game is on ABC television could be for some Southwest Conference promotion. But if anyone wants to promote the conference, they are going about it all wrong.

If we want the nation to see SWC basketball at its competitive best, then

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No practice makes perfect

Barone gives Aggies day off; team holds on to edge Tech at Coliseum

By Anthony Andro
The Battalion

Maybe Texas A&M men's basketball coach Tony Barone has found the reason for his team's troubles - they practice too much.

"We didn't practice yesterday," Barone said. "That's the first time I've ever done that the day before a game."

It paid off Wednesday night. The Aggies ended their four-game losing streak by defeating Texas Tech, 58-56, in front of 2,545 fans at G. Rollie White Coliseum.

The victory improved the Aggies' record to 6-20, and 2-11 in Southwest Conference play while Tech fell to 13-13, and 5-8 in the SWC. It was A&M's first conference win in the Coliseum since March, 1990.

Tech center Will Flemons missed a turnaround jumper with no time left to give the Aggies the victory. A&M's Damon Johnson failed to convert the second free throw of a one-and-one with six seconds left to give the Raiders a chance to tie or win.

A&M did what it hadn't been able to do in the past - hold the lead down the

stretch. But it was not easy. Leading 57-56 with 25 seconds left, sophomore point guard David Edwards was fouled. The point guard went to the free throw line and missed the front end of a one-and-one.

Flemons rebounded the ball and missed a jumper at the other end of the court. Tech's Lamont Dale fouled Johnson in the scramble for the rebound, sending Johnson to the free throw line with eight seconds remaining.

Johnson's first free throw hit the front of the rim, bounced off the back and found its way through the net to give the Aggies a 58-56 lead. His second free throw was short, and Tech's Bryant Moore picked up the rebound.

"I needed to hit both of them," Johnson said. "I started celebrating a little too early. Coach said it's never over until the clock says zero."

Barone said he knew the Red Raiders would give the ball to Flemons in that situation.

"I thought they were going to go directly to Will from the out-of-bounds play," he said. "I lost a high school game

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Lady Aggies swamped by Swoopes

From Staff and Wire Reports

LUBBOCK - Sheryl Swoopes had 26 points and all of Texas Tech's starters scored in double figures as the No. 15 Lady Red Raiders claimed their first Southwest Conference regular season championship with an 84-62 victory over Texas A&M Wednesday night.

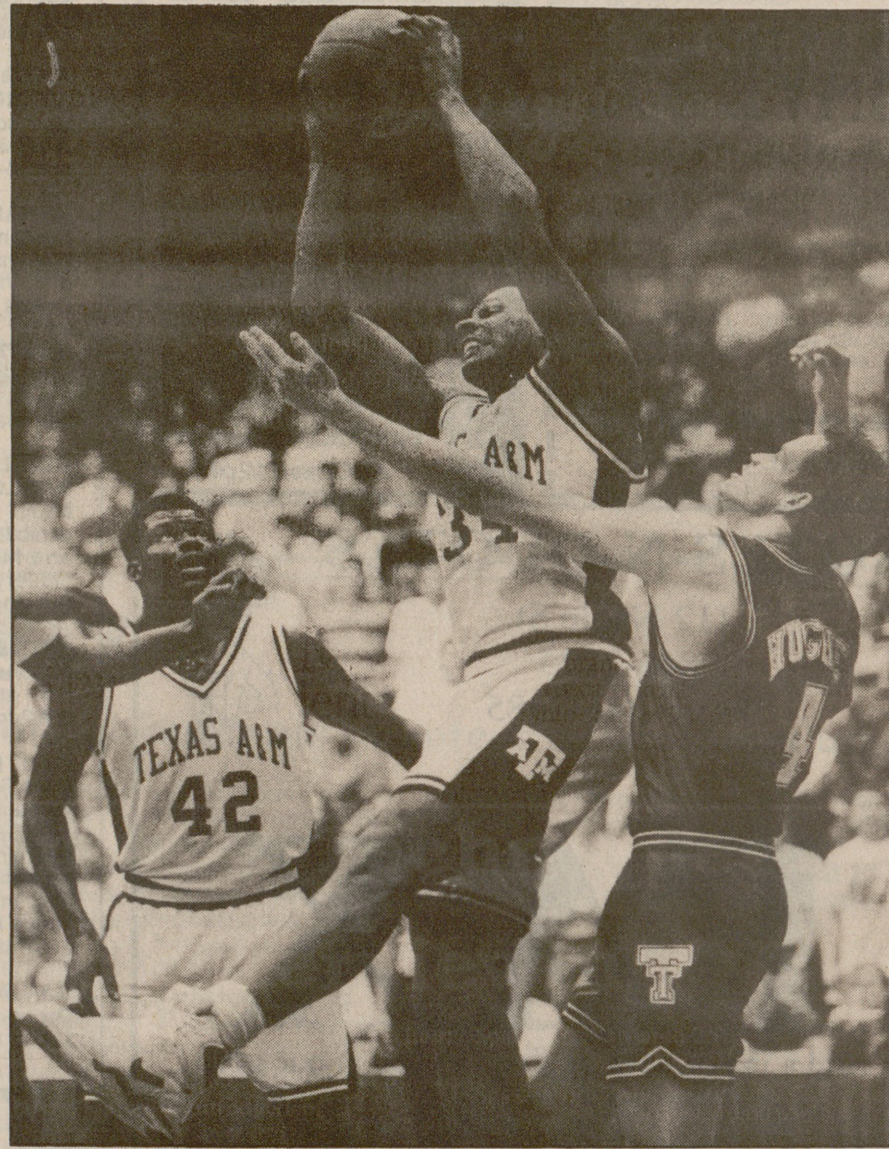
The Raiders (22-4 overall, 12-1 in the SWC) wept as SWC Commissioner Fred Jacoby handed the players their golden trophy minutes after Tech earned its eighth consecutive victory against the Lady Aggies (15-12, 7-7).

A&M's Yolanda Brown scored 20 points, and Shawn Medlock added 14. Senior Dena Russo scored only four points in her last regular season game.

The Lady Aggies shot 38 percent from the floor and only 10 percent from three-point range.

Texas Tech, which will be the top seed in the SWC postseason tournament next week, becomes only the third school to win the SWC regular season title in the 10 years women have competed in the conference.

Texas A&M will have the fifth seed in the conference tournament and will play SMU on Wednesday.



BILLY MORAN/The Battalion

A&M forward Damon Johnson pulls down a defensive rebound in the first half of the Aggies' 58-56 victory over Texas Tech Wednesday in G. Rollie White Coliseum

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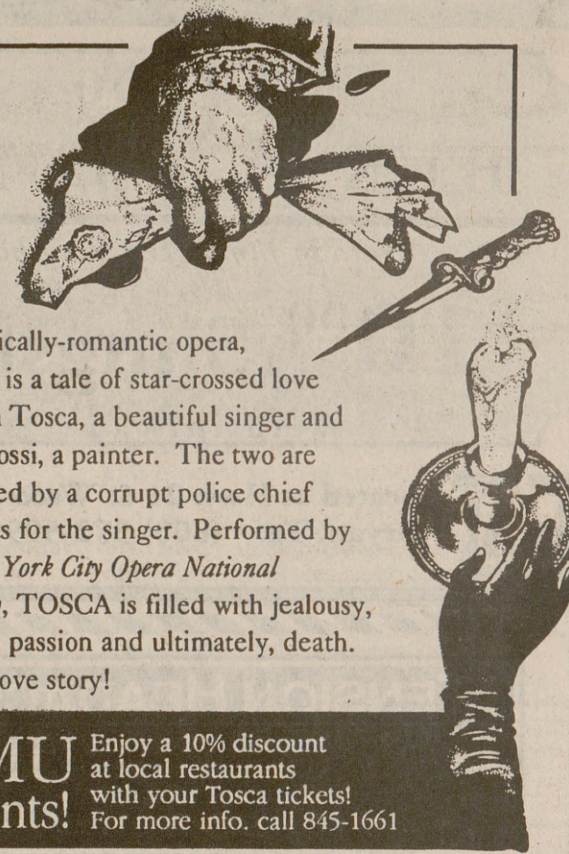
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