

Aggies could be out of the frying pan....

Last Friday, a local television station ran a story at the top of its sportscast stating they had learned that the Dallas Morning News would run a front page implicating Texas A&M players and some coaches in a widening scandal of illegal payments from an Aggie booster.



K. LEE DAVIS
Sports Editor

As everyone who ran out to the local stop and rob yesterday morning at the crack of dawn to get a copy of the DMN knows, that story did not run.

Mercifully, thankfully, finally something went right for a football program that has been careening toward disaster since mid-December of last year when the News first broke the "Gilbert pay-for-sleep" debacle.

Unfortunately though, this football program is not out of trouble yet.

There are at least three reasons why the story did not run.

Reporters have been wrong

The sportscaster that works for the local network affiliate could have been given some bad information from a source he trusted.

If this is the case, the story will never run and a local television figure has his ego chopped down to half of its normal size for a few months. And while he will probably not be in any danger of being sued,

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Lady Aggies hold off TCU, 79-74

A&M ups record to 9-5 after third straight victory

By DAVID WINDER

The Battalion

Every time freshman point guard Lisa Branch touched the ball Saturday night, one of the Lady Aggies scored.

Branch set a Southwest Conference record with 19 assists as Texas Christian made a late charge before falling 79-74 in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

Yolanda Brown led the Lady Aggies with 14 points, with Beth Burket and Branch both chipping in 12. Amy Bumstead had 27 points for the Lady Horned Frogs, scoring 20 in the first half.

The Lady Aggies went on a 22-8 run to begin the game as they scored 12 points on eight TCU turnovers. Bumstead then scored 11 of the next 12 to bring the Frogs back into the game at 22-20.

"I'll take the blame for the lull in the first half," A&M head coach Lynn Hickey said. "I did a mass substitution and I looked up and there was only one starter on the floor."

Branch then took over as she handed out seven assists and hit a key three pointer to give the Lady Aggies a 41-33 lead at the half.

"I learned that I had eleven assists at halftime," Branch said. "That's when I told the girls that I wanted to break the record."

She did not miss a beat coming back from the break, giving out two quick assists to make the score 45-34. Debbie Biermann scored her tenth point on a layup to give the Lady Aggies their biggest lead at 57-42.

"I gave Debbie a look there in the second half," Hickey said. "And the way she responded, I think I am going to have to start giving her some more looks."

After getting no closer than 10 points for most of the second half, the Lady Horned Frogs found themselves only down 75-71 after a jumper by Rachel

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A&M center Martha McClelland (54) fires up a shot against TCU's Amy Bumsted. McClelland had five points and three rebounds in the 79-74 win.

A&M tops Frogs in first SWC, road victory

FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

Riding a three game losing streak after heart breaking losses to Rice and the University of Nevada-Las Vegas, Texas A&M coach Tony Barone said he was tired of moral victories.

Texas A&M 60, Texas Christian University 58 was a real victory.

Barone and the rest of his Aggie basketball squad played in another tight game that wasn't decided until the final shot on Saturday, but for the first time in a long time the Aggies were victorious after the shot had been attempted.

"I started wondering if anything good was going to happen for us," Barone said.

The outcome could have been very different as A&M did not capitalize on opportunities late in the game to put the contest out of reach, missing five of seven free throws in the final minutes of the game to let TCU have a shot at victory.

The Horned Frogs squandered that opportunity when Allen Tolley missed a free throw that would have brought TCU to within one point of the Aggies with 12 seconds remaining in the game.

But TCU's Jentry Moore came down with the rebound and had his three point shot attempt rattle around the rim of the basket before falling out as A&M's Brett Murry was fouled, giving A&M another chance to put the game away.

Murry, however, missed both free throws, and Moore drove the ball down the floor before he dished the ball to Byron Waits who missed a turn around jump shot at the buzzer, preserving the Aggie victory.

Junior Guard David Edwards led all A&M scorers with 17 points and 3 assists, as Sophomore forward Damon Johnson added 12 points and shot .750 from the floor.

The Aggies outshot the Horned Frogs .514 to .426 on the afternoon, and despite poor free throw shooting down the stretch, won that category also, .655 to .571.

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