

49er fans can't mess with Texas

Another family member bites the dust. Yessss.

Since football season started, my sister-in-law has pestered me about how the Dallas Cowboys "were going to go down this year." Yeah right.

When the Dallas Cowboys plunged to an 0-2 start and the 49ers jumped to a 2-0 start, she found it appropriate to send me a funny note.

"49ers 2-0, Cowboys 0-2, ha, ha, ha. Enjoy your Super Bowl victory, junior," she wrote, obviously suffering from the same insanity that drove her to say yes to my brothers marriage proposal. "49ers all the way."

Someone must have forgotten to remind her that Emmitt Smith—the greatest runner of all time—was lying idle in Florida.

When Emmitt Smith returned to the Pokes, the "Letters From Hell" ceased. And, being a Pokes fan, I settled on the notion that "America's Team" was headed to Georgia.

See Pokes / Page 6



JOSE DE JESUS ORTIZ
Sportswriter

A&M flattens TCU Aggies move to 4-0 in SWC

By Drew Diener

THE BATTALION

Texas A&M remained in sole possession of first place in the Southwest Conference by defeating Texas Christian University last night 80-64 in front of 3,862 fans at G.Rollie White Coliseum. The win improved the Aggies' record to 4-0 in conference and 10-5 overall.

Junior forward Joe Wilbert and senior point-guard David Edwards paved the way for the Aggies' victory. Wilbert came off the bench to score a team-high 20 points and grab nine rebounds in 24 minutes of play. Edwards recorded his second straight double-double and his fourth of the season by scoring 14 points and dishing out 15 assists. His 15 assists tied an A&M single-game record. Edwards said he was pleased with his team's convincing victory.

"We needed to come back from that tough Siena loss," Edwards said. "If someone wants to move up (in the SWC standings), they've got to beat us."

The Aggies jumped out to a 13-6 lead in the first six minutes of the game and increased that lead to 20-10 midway through the first half. On the strength of dominating play by TCU junior forward Kurt Thomas, the Horned Frogs battled back to take a four-point lead over the Aggies at 31-27 with 3:08 remaining until halftime. After A&M senior guard Chuck Henderson canned his second consecutive three-pointer with just over two minutes left in the half, the Aggies retook a lead they would never relinquish at 33-31. The Aggies held Thomas scoreless for the rest of the half and took a 37-35 lead into the locker room.

"I think the kid (Thomas) played really hard tonight," A&M coach Tony Barone said. "He has a chance to go to the next level (the NBA)."

The two teams battled tooth and nail for the first ten minutes of the second half, trading baskets and playing tight defense. The Edwards to Wilbert combination repeatedly put points on the board for the Aggies as they worked the ball inside getting Thomas into severe foul trouble.

"David really made some key passes to Wilbert," Barone said. "Our game plan was to go inside."

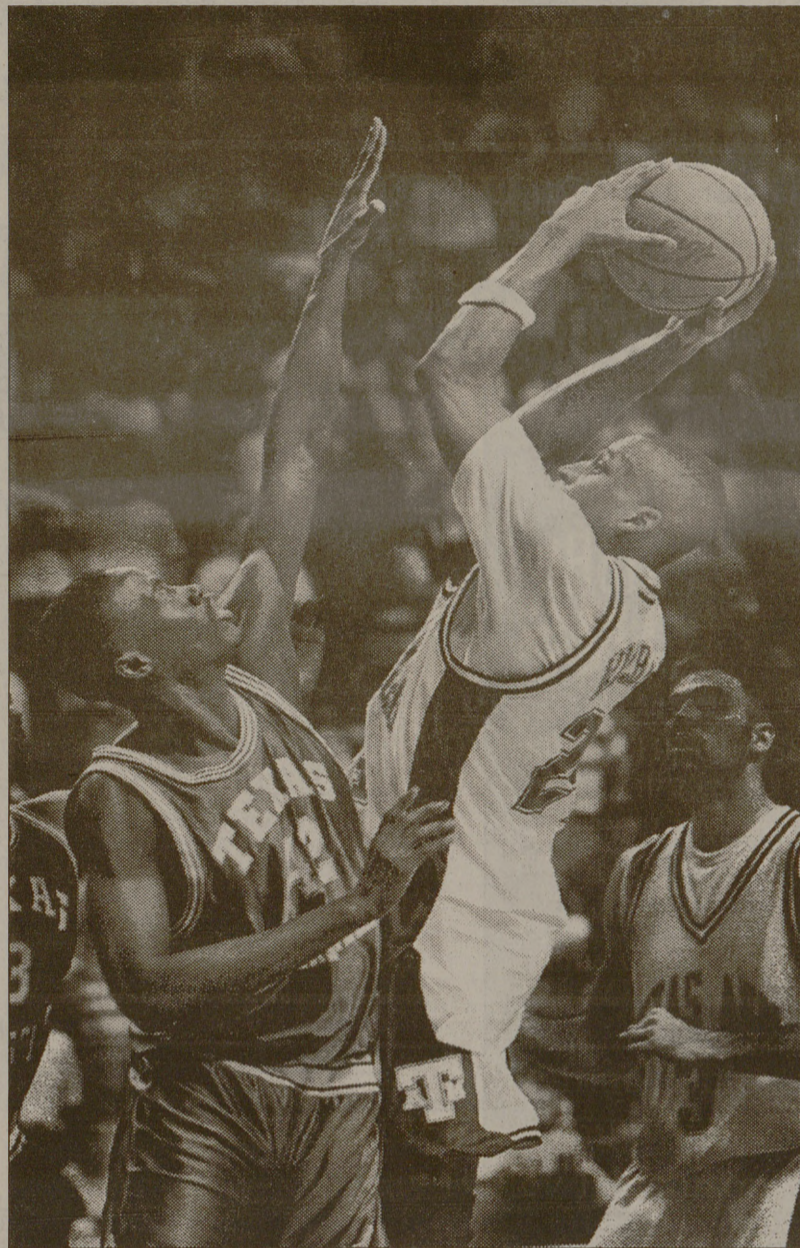
TCU stayed in the ballgame never letting the A&M mount more than a six-point lead until Thomas fouled out with nine minutes remaining in the game. TCU coach Moe Iba said he was really pleased with the way his team played until that point and said that Thomas' fouling-out was unfortunate.

"Foul four, I really thought was a touch foul," Thomas said. "Foul five I went over his (A&M center Brett Murry) back, but I didn't even see him."

After TCU lost its star player, A&M took the game over and built 64-48 lead with six minutes left in the game. A&M's massive lead was built on the shoulders of Wilbert who scored 18 of his 20 points in the second-half. A modest Wilbert took pride in his team's win while crediting his teammates for leading the Aggies to victory.

"David Edwards, Chuck Henderson, and Tony McGinnis should get the game balls," Wilbert said. "They did a great job defending their men. That's the bottom line of the game."

See TCU / Page 6



Kevin Iba/The Battalion

Texas A&M forward Joe Wilbert (24) shoots over Texas Christian Leroy Gaston (42) in the men's game Tuesday night. Wilbert led

the Aggies in scoring with 20 points in 24 minutes. A&M beat the Horned Frogs 80-64 in front of 3,862 fans at G. Rollie White.

Wilbert leads Aggies in win

By Jose de Jesus Ortiz

THE BATTALION

Junior forward Joe Wilbert started slowly Tuesday for A&M's men's basketball team, but stepped forward and scored 18 of his team-high 20 points in the second half to lead the Aggies to an 80-64 victory over Texas Christian University.

With the game tied at 45, he replaced junior forward Damon Johnson. After the substitution, Wilbert scored 12 points, grabbed four rebounds, dished out an assist and stole a pass while pacing A&M to a 19-3 run in eight minutes that TCU never recovered from.

Wilbert, who had to attend Tyler Junior College before getting a scholarship at A&M, said he has never let slow starts bother him.

"Yes, I had a bad first half," Wilbert said. "I don't think of that as bad. I use that (a slow start) as a way to motivate myself to do better."

"I am a person that perseveres. Like when I had to go to Tyler (J.C.) after attending Bryan (High School), I just persevered to reach my goals of attending A&M," he said.

He said that in basketball and life it is sometimes better to sit and watch before entering a situation.

"I think it's good to watch from the bench," Wilbert said. "I want to be like a fresh veteran coming from the bench. I just want to give my team a lift when I come off the bench. I want them to be able to say, lets go, Joe is in the game."





"The same goes in life. I want the kids in Bryan to be able to see me and realize that they also can

See Wilbert / Page 6




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