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Magic edge Rockets, 97-96

☐ Shaquille O'Neal led the way for Orlando with 29 points.

THE BATTALION

Monday January 22, 1996

HOUSTON (AP) — Last time, it was Anfernee Hardaway. This time, it was Shaquille O'Neal. Orlando's 1-2 punch is just too much for

In a rematch of a Christmas Day game won on Hardaway's last-second jumper, the Magic beat the Rockets 97-96 Sunday

when O'Neal made a layup with . the matchup of NBA finalists. 4.7 seconds left, then blocked Houston's final shot.

"We have a lot of weapons on this team, and whoever is hot needs to take it over and we need to go to them,' O'Neal, who finished with 29 points and 16 rebounds.

Hardaway had the hot hand, blunting a Houston rally that had pushed the Rockets to as much as an eight-point advantage midway through the final period. He scored 13 of his 28 points in the final quarter of

"The touch came back in the fourth quarter," Hardaway said. "It came at a great time. Hardaway scored eight of the

Magic's last 14 points, and O'Neal accounted for the other six. The Magic ended their longest road trip of the season five games over nine days with a 2-3 mark.

"One of the toughest assignments in the NBA is the last game of a long road trip," said Magic coach Brian Hill, whose team is 20-0 at home but 9-10 on the road. "A lot of guys just mail it in. It was a good win against a quality team and we needed this one.

If we want to establish ourselves as a force in this league we have to get some wins on the road against teams like

O'Neal's winning layup came after he snared a rebound following a missed shot by Dennis Scott. Then he blocked Sam Cassell's layup attempt at the buzzer to seal the victory

Houston coach Rudy Tom-janovich thought Cassell was

fouled on the play.

"I'm left with an empty, helpless feeling when you battle in a tough game, and you execute something, you gain the adventage you are fouled. the advantage, you are fouled and you can't get that call," Tomjanovich said. "I can't comment on anything, but I can state facts and the fact was that he was fouled."
Cassell took the inbounds

pass after a Houston timeout and appeared to be fouled by Hardaway, but there was no call, and O'Neal diverted Cassell's desperation shot at the buzzer to down the team that swept the Magic in the NBA Finals last year.

"This is a tough one to lose," said Clyde Drexler, who had 20 for Houston. "We've lost a couple down the stretch and it makes you think that you are McGhee

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Aggies, McGhee managed just eight points on 4-of-11 shooting, including a miserable 0-of-3 from beyond the three-point arc.

McGhee's shooting woes were typical of the Owls Sat urday. For the game, Ric shot just .396 from the field including an atrocious 3-of 19 from the field. The Owls were led by Shaun Igo and Eric Singletary, who each scored 10 points.



Rice fell

to 2-2 in the SWC and 9-6 overall for the year. The Aggie defense set the tone early, by holding Rice to

just 19 points in the first half, which ended with A&M leading The first-half defensive effort was the best by the Aggies

since March 3, 1993, when the Aggies held Rice to just 16 points in a half. The impressive defensive effort garnered much applause from the G. Rollie White Coli-

seum crowd of 3,421, and forced

the Owls to try and play catch-

up throughout the second half. The Aggies will return to action on Wednesday when they travel to Hofheinz Pavilion in Houston to take on the University of Houston Cougars.

The Cougars were tied for first in the conference until Saturday night when they traveled to Lubbock and were blown out by the red-hot, 14-1 Texas Tech

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Registration Dates

	Sport	Open	Close	Fee/Team
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	•Basketball	now	Jan. 23	\$30
	•Team Bowling	now	Jan. 23	*
	•Three-Point Shot	now	Jan. 23	Free
	•Squash Singles	now	Jan. 30	Free
	•Wallyball	now	Jan. 30	\$15
1812E	•Preseason Slow Pitch Softball	Jan. 29	Feb. 6	\$10
	•Slow Pitch Softball	Jan. 29	Feb. 6	\$30
	•Racquetball	Feb. 5	Feb. 13	Free
	•Slam Dunk	Feb. 5	Feb. 13	Free
	•Valentine's Day Run	Feb. 5	Feb. 13	Free
	•Handball	Feb. 5	Feb. 13	Free
	*cost of Team's first 4 games & shoes			

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Monday/Wednesday 8:00-9:00 am
Tuesday/Thursday 12:00-1:00 pm
Classes begin January 22

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For more information come to the TAMU Outdoor Facility or the Rec Center Member Services Desk

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