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Aggie basketball extends record to 30

Red-hot sophomore Calvin Davis leads A&M to a 61-54 win over Illinois-Chicago

By MATT MITCHELL
THE BATTALION

Sophomore forward Calvin Davis must have looked at the Illinois-Chicago game on the Texas A&M Men's Basketball Team's schedule and smiled. Illinois' mascot may be the Flames, but it was Davis who was on fire Sunday.

Saddled with foul trouble and injury woes in both of the Aggies' season-opening victories, Davis matched or set career highs in points (22), rebounds (14), and blocked shots (6) to carry the Aggies to a 61-54 victory over Illinois-Chicago before 2,025 turkey-stuffed fans at G. Rollie White Coliseum.

"This was a good game for me," Davis said. "I was slumping in the last two games, but I'm glad my teammates had the confidence to give me the ball."

The Aggies fed Davis the ball numerous times in the second half with the game still in doubt, and Davis responded by scoring five points in the final 1:23, including three free throws and a sensational follow dunk on a Steve Houston miss to seal the win for the Aggies.

"I thought that Calvin Davis stepped up to the table today," A&M Head Coach Tony Barone said. "He had a good game focus and really rebounded well."

Davis' play was one of the few bright spots offensively for the Aggies, who struggled to get into any kind of offensive rhythm the entire night.

A&M shot just 30 percent from the floor and had only one other player in double figures in scoring, sophomore forward Shanne Jones with 11.

But as bad as the Aggies were offensively, the Flames were worse. Illinois was unable to capitalize on foul-prone A&M, making just 12-of-29 shots from the line.

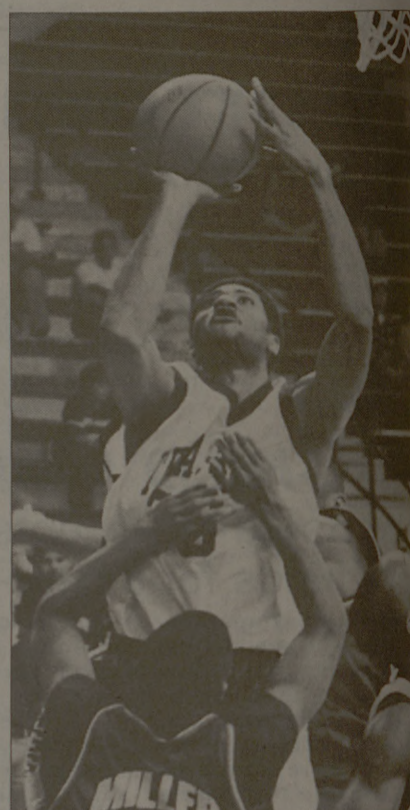
Despite their problems putting the ball through the hoop, A&M maintained a lead for the majority of the game with its tenacious defense. The Aggies contained Illinois' high-scoring guard Mark Miller in the second half after allowing him 17 points in the first. Miller shot just 1-for-8 after halftime and scored a quiet three points.

After forging a tie at 41 with just over 10 minutes left in the game, the Flames managed only two points in the next six minutes as the Aggies clamped down on defense.

However, the Aggies were able to muster just a few free throws and jumpers by Davis and Jones over the same span, keeping the game very much in doubt.

With the score 49-44, the Aggies steadily pulled away behind steady free throw shooting and rebounding, as well as a large helping of Davis.

"I thought our kids played really good defense today," Barone said. "We had good shot contesting, and the steals, blocks and rebounds were there. The things we needed to win the game, we did."



Rony Angkriwan, The Battalion
Forward Calvin Davis goes for the shot amongst traffic Sunday against Illinois-Chicago.

McNair, George help Oilers down Jets, 35-10

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) — All that is wrong with this dismal season for the New York Jets came together Sunday, and the Houston Oilers were the beneficiaries.

The Oilers (7-6) stayed in contention for a playoff berth with a 35-10 victory in the rain and wind and before 55,985 empty seats — a Jets record.

Of course, the Oilers are used to such small crowds as the 21,731 who braved the awful weather — they've had three home games with fewer than 28,000 fans after announcing they're leaving Houston for Tennessee for the 1998 season.

Rookie star Eddie George carried 28 times for 141 yards and two touchdowns, and Steve Mc-

Nair operated the Houston offense like a veteran. The second-year quarterback didn't let the elements bother him in guiding a conservative attack.

"This is definitely a confidence-booster," said George, the 1995 Heisman Trophy winner. "I thought I played a solid ballgame."

"We needed this win to get our momentum back and our confi-

dence back. We do understand this is the Jets, and we continue to have to get better."

For the Jets (1-12), it was another loss in a season since spoiled. But this one was even more ludicrous than Neil O'Donnell, returning separated shoulder that cost six weeks, pulled a calf muscle during warmups and was scratched.

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