

Raiders wear down Aggies, 80-65

BY MATT MITCHELL
THE BATTALION

It was the same old story for the Texas A&M Men's Basketball Team last night against Texas Tech University as it watched a game-winning second-half rally fall short. As a result, the Red Raiders outlasted the Aggies 80-65 at G. Rollie White Coliseum.

Down only three points at halftime, A&M overcame a Tech surge early in the second half to forge a tie at 32. But after two missed free throws by Tech forward Gionet Cooper, the Aggies could not control the rebound and Raider forward Gracen Averil scored on a putback.

The Aggies were unable to convert on the ensuing possessions, missing two one-and-one opportunities. Layups by Averil and guard Stan Bonewitz followed by two free throws by Cooper put Tech up

by eight. The Aggies would get no closer than six the rest of the way.

"I thought they wore us down — they're an extremely physical team," A&M Head Coach Tony Barone said.

The Aggies started sluggishly, shooting only two for nine to open the game. Meanwhile, Tech established its inside game early and used high-percentage shots in the lane to shoot 55 percent for the game.

Tech took its largest lead at 30-16 with 6:32 to go in the first half, and it looked as if the Red Raiders were going to run away with the game. But the Aggie defense held the Raiders to seven points the rest of the half as A&M reeled of 18 to cut Tech's lead to three at the break.

"I was really concerned with the run they (A&M) made just before the half," Tech Head Coach James Dickey said. "We tried to force the ball offensively, and we forgot what got us the lead, primarily playing the inside-outside game with Tony Battie."

Tech quickly extended its lead to eight right after halftime, and it seemed A&M left its motivation in the locker room. But

the Aggies chipped away until they tied the score at 52 on a three pointer by freshman guard Jerald Brown.

However, that was as good as it got for the Aggies as Tech made the plays down the stretch to hold on for the win.

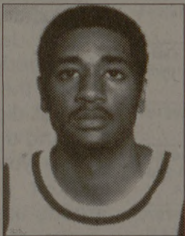
"I thought after they made their run the keys for us were defense, defensive board play and offensive execution," Dickey said. "We got some easy baskets because we were more patient and we executed better offensively. Plus, in the second half I thought we did an outstanding job on the boards. We minimized, for the most part, any second chance opportunities."

Nearly lost in the defeat was the tremendous effort of sophomore forward Calvin Davis, who finished with a career-high 29 points and 11 rebounds. Brown was the only other Aggie player who scored in double figures with 15.

"We didn't get a lot of help for Calvin tonight, obviously," Barone said. "He played well, rebounded well. I thought he had a live body the entire game."

A big key in the second half was rebounding, especially on the defensive end.

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Davis

Tech stops A&M attempt at late comeback

BY CHRIS FERRELL
THE BATTALION

A major case of the runs swept through G. Rolle White Coliseum Wednesday night, as the 20th-ranked Texas Tech University Red Raiders defeated the Texas A&M Men's Basketball Team 80-65.

As has been the story line for most of the season, the Aggies fell behind early and had to scramble to keep the game from slipping away. The Red Raiders jumped out to a 14-point lead and then watched as A&M clawed its way back.

Trailing by 11 with 5:13 left in the first half, the Aggies used a 12-5 run to garner momentum before the intermission. After two free throws by Texas A&M senior guard Tracey Anderson cut the lead to nine, A&M took

advantage of a television timeout to come within two points.

A&M sophomore forward Calvin Davis, who had a career-high 29 points, came up with a steal and hit freshman guard Jerald Brown as he cut away from the pack. Brown threw down a monster one-handed dunk that erupted the crowd and caused the Red Raiders to burn a timeout.

The Aggies got the ball back after a missed three pointer by Tech sophomore Stan Bonewitz. Aggie freshman guard Brian Barone missed a layup but then came up with a steal underneath the A&M basket after Red Raider center Tony Battie brought down one of his game-high 17 rebounds. Barone passed the ball to junior center Dario Quesada who kicked it out to a wide open Anderson who buried a three-pointer to

close the gap to four.

The Aggie run continued when Quesada hit a cutting Davis in the lane and Davis slammed it home.

"We had some momentum because we got the ball inside and we hit a three," A&M Head Coach Tony Barone said. "It was good momentum but they came right out in the second half and stopped it. They came right out and the lead went from three to nine again."

Tech came out and built a lead to start the second half and again watched the Aggies come back and tie the game on a Brown three-pointer that evened the score at 52.

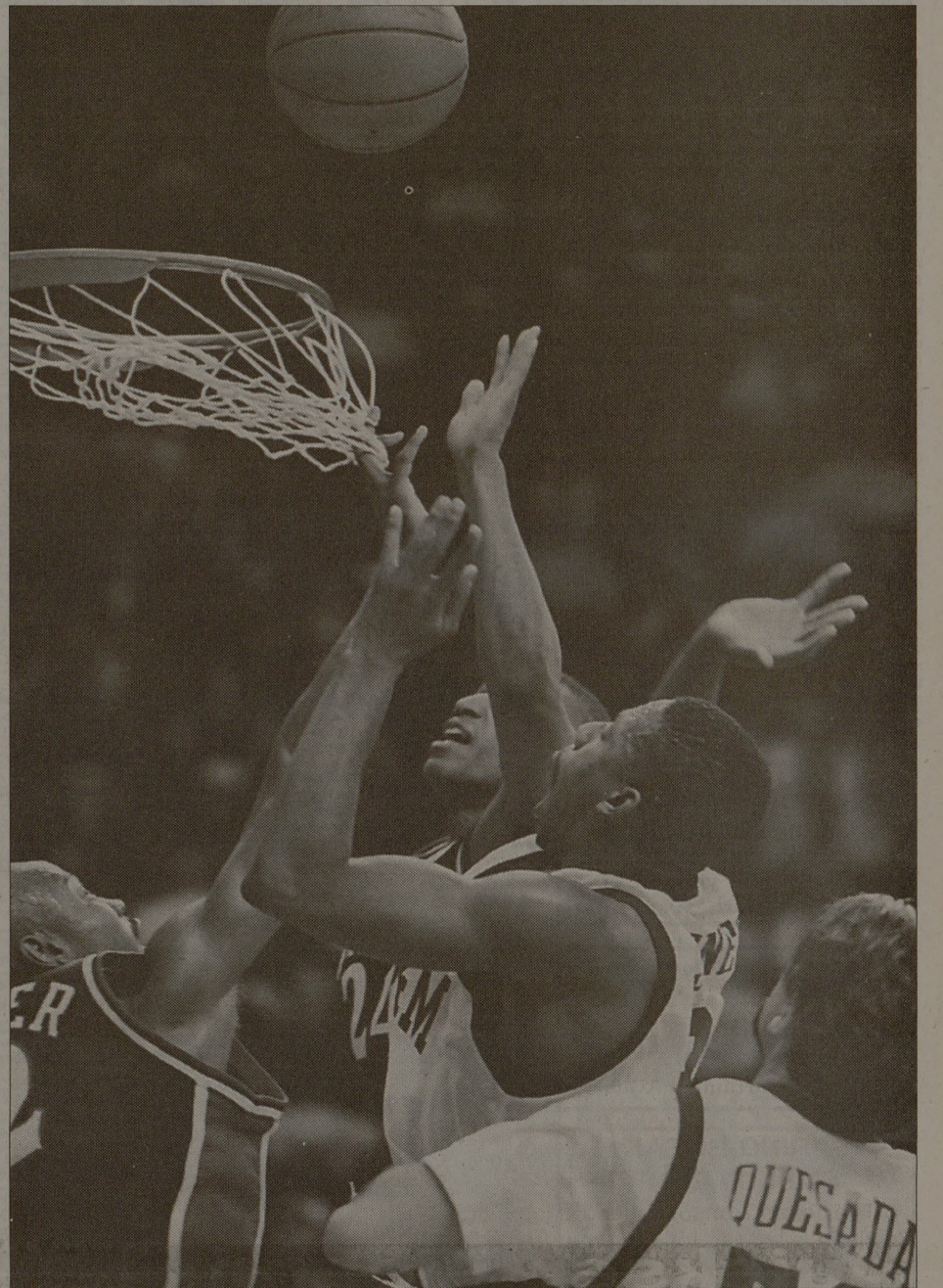
"They made a nice run, I thought because they did some things real well," Tech coach James Dickey said. "They got the

ball to Calvin Davis down low. Jerald was hitting some big shots from the outside. I thought that combination of inside-out was really big for them to tie the game up. Our guys kind of got out of position defensively. We tried to make a couple of adjustments to make sure we got better defensive pressure."

Tech's defensive pressure and offensive execution proved to be too much for A&M down the stretch as it showed the Aggies how to put a team away with a 28-13 run of their own in the final 10 minutes to close out the game.

"After they hit that three pointer to tie it at 52, we kind of held them a bit," Battie said.

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Stew Milne, THE BATTALION

Sophomore Shanne Jones battles for the rebound against Tech's Tony Battie (#24) and Gionet Cooper (#32) in last night's game at G. Rollie White Coliseum.

Throwing themselves into Big 12, record books

Schrader takes advantage of size in field events

BY DENNIS RAMIREZ
THE BATTALION

Although sophomore Kelli Schrader has the shoulder-length hair, muscular build, and hammer throwing ability of the legendary Thor, the Norse god of thunder, she has goals other than saving humanity.

Entering her second season on the Texas A&M Track and Field Team, Schrader has developed her

own little recipe for success.

"As I ready myself to throw, I am in my own little world and I am very competitive," Schrader said. "That adrenaline rush gets the best of me, and it allows me to block everything out and just concentrate on the task at hand."

The task at hand for Schrader has always been to be the best at everything she chooses to tackle. Schrader has competed in a variety of events, including hammer,

shot put, javelin throwing and discus, where she has come close to setting A&M records.

"Being a freshman, I saw the record and saw it as reachable, but I was only able to come within three inches of it," Schrader said. "That was a really big motivator, and it has really pushed me to always do good and push myself for excellence."

Before concentrating solely on breaking the discus record, Schrader was attracted to the sport because the family support she received.

"I got started throwing in the first place because I was one of the biggest girls in junior high and throwers are big," Schrader said. "In high school, though, the coach got me really involved. Then my family, grandparents included, would follow me around not only to all the regional and state competitions, but also to all the little meets throughout the year, and it soon became a family event."

Not only was attending competitions a family event, but being a thrower is a family tradition. Schrader's grandfather was a thrower as well.

Even though family support is still high, other ambitions have taken priority.

"My ultimate goal is to compete in the (2000) Olympics, and as I start to train this summer I will always keep that in mind," Schrader said. "Although I didn't plan on making track my career, if it works that way that is great. If not, then that is why I am here at A&M, to receive a quality education."

For now, though, Schrader said she wants to take it one step at a time and concentrate on being a team player.

Assistant head coach Juan De La Garza credits Schrader with being able to accomplish whatever goals she sets because of her will and determination.

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Pat James, THE BATTALION

From the family alfalfa farm to the A&M campus, Nuti has found his niche in track and field

BY JEREMY FURTEK
THE BATTALION

There is something simple and tranquil about working on a farm in today's fast-paced, information-at-the-touch-of-a-button world. Similarly in today's track and field arena, with all the glamour and electricity of stream-lined athletes dashing through finish lines or leaping gracefully through the air, heaving a chunk of iron as far as possible seems primitive.

Russell Nuti, a senior on the Texas A&M Men's Track Team, can relate to both age-old practices.

Nuti was born and raised in Nevada, where his father and three uncles own an alfalfa farm. He was brought up with the idea that hard work brings success — a belief he carried into his training for the discus, shot put and weight throw events.

"There's no question he learned his work ethic on the farm," A&M Head Track and Field Coach Ted Nelson said. "Getting up early and working those long days have shaped his attitude."

Despite being physically smaller than the standard competitor, Nuti began throwing the discus in the sixth grade. He went on to compete at Smith Valley

High School, where he won two state titles in the discus. When it came time to decide on a school, Nuti said the choice was easy.

"I wanted to do two things in college," Nuti said. "Compete in the discus and study agriculture. After making my recruiting trip to (The University of) Nebraska and then to A&M, I knew I wanted to be here."

A&M, with its 40,000-plus students, is a long way from Nevada and Nuti's senior class of 14, but he said he quickly found another family here.

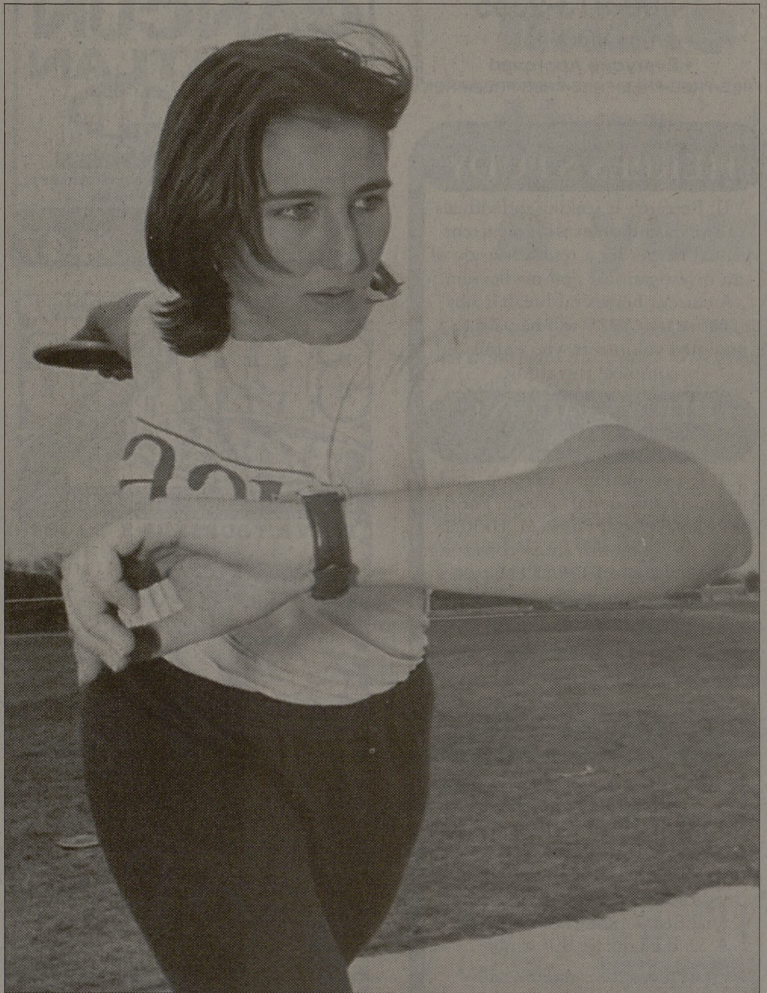
"Making friends on the team and feeling comfortable around them made my transition down here easier than I expected," he said.

Nuti said his plans were to come to college, compete in the discus, get his agronomy degree and go home to work the family farm. However, he admits he has entertained other ideas.

"I've thought about maybe going to compete in Europe or in other professional competitions," he said. "But that all depends on how I throw in this year's competition."

Nelson said Nuti's fierce competitiveness and work ethic, along with his room for development, sold the coaches on him despite his lack of weight training experience.

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Pat James, THE BATTALION

Sophomore Kelli Schrader prepares to throw the discus during practice at the A&M track Tuesday.