



Junior **Shanne Jones** scored a career high 27 points in A&M's victory.

Aggies off and running

Jones' career-high 27 points leads to 86-73 win over SFA

By **JEFF SCHMIDT**
Staff writer

There were to be no shot-clock violations in this game. The newer, quicker Texas A&M Men's Basketball Team held off a stubborn Stephen F. Austin squad for an 86-73 victory in the Aggies season opener Saturday.

It was S.F.A.'s first loss of the young season. The Aggies' 86 points ties last season's high for points in a single game. However, the Lumberjacks did not roll over like a good small school should.

Stephen F. Austin stayed close throughout the entire game, but A&M scoring runs would give the Aggies the victory. Shanne Jones had a career day, scoring 27 points and grabbing eight rebounds, both career highs. Jones struggled with his shot in the first half, hitting only three of eleven shots. However, he heated up in the second half, hitting eight of ten, in-

cluding two dunks, and scoring twenty points. Included in those 20 was a run of thirteen points in a stretch of about eight minutes to lead the Aggies to a nine-point lead they would never relinquish.

Jones was not the only Aggie to have a big day. Three Aggies, forward Calvin Davis and guards Gerald Brown and Michael Schmidt, added thirteen points each. Point guard Steve Houston dished out ten assists.

The Aggies held a 13-point lead in the first half, but the Lumberjacks slowly chipped away at it during a four-minute A&M drought right before halftime.

"I don't think we reacted well to the lead either time we jumped out," Coach Tony Barone said. "I thought we became a little too cocky with the lead, and that lends itself to some shot selection that is questionable. They came back and exploded on us. We were just trying

to survive the first half."

However, Barone was pleased with his team's effort.

"Overall, I was absolutely thrilled with the way the kids played today," Barone said. "I have absolutely no criticism of anything we did, other than not handling the lead very well. I liked our toughness coming back. I liked our attitude."

During halftime the Aggies decided to isolate Jones and let him use his superior strength in the post.

"We came in (at halftime) and set up a few plays to go towards me," Jones said. "Luckily, my shots were falling, and they just kept passing me the ball, and they just kept falling."

Stephen F. Austin coach Derek Allister said the pressure and hostile environment got to his team.

"I think it's very difficult to handle forty minutes of noise and the constant pressure they apply," Al-

lister said. "After a certain time it just wears you out. Jones tore us up and had a heck of a game."

Allister was quick to praise the A&M program.

"I like what they're (A&M) doing here," he said. "The crowd got into it, and I can imagine if that place is packed. That could be a great environment. They have a good basketball team; they're very athletic."

SFA was led by the strong play of true freshman point guard Aaron Radl and forward David Henry, who scored 12 and 17 points respectively. Radl has his own opinion of why his team lost.

"I don't think we wanted it as much as they did," Radl said.

The Aggies return to the court Monday night to take on the University of Missouri-Kansas City. The Aggies squeaked out a one-point overtime victory against the Kangaroos in Kansas City last season.

A&M stays hot with weekend sweep of Kansas, KSU teams

By **TRAVIS V. DABNEY**
Staff writer

The Texas A&M Volleyball Team came into this weekend's matches against the Kansas Jayhawks and Kansas State Wildcats playing some of their best volleyball of year. The team did nothing to end the run of quality play this weekend by beating the Jayhawks in three straight games on Friday night as well as beating the tougher Wildcats team in four games on Saturday night.

The Aggies started Saturday night's match in less than stellar fashion as they dropped game one to the Wildcats by a score of 15-13.

The Aggies fell behind in game one by a score of 14-11 and after fighting off two game points, senior Kristie Smedsrud had her kill attempt blocked and the Wildcats took game one. That victory in game one extended a streak of consecutive game victories for the Wildcats over the Aggies to four as they beat the Aggies in three straight games earlier in the season.

"We kind of waited to see what would happen in game one," coach

Laurie Corbelli said. "We did not set the pace early on and we were hesitant."

In game two a different Aggie squad took the court as the team was fired up and ready to play.

The Aggies would jump out to a quick 6-0 lead and never look back. Game two displayed a bit of everything for the Aggies as they performed well in all areas.

The was some excellent defense by junior Stacy Sykora, Amber Woolsey added five kills and Senior Cindy Lothspeich added a block as the Aggies cruised to a easy 15-0 victory in game two.

"Once we saw that they were not Olympic champions, we said oh yeah we can beat these guys," Corbelli said.

Game three was more of the same from the Aggies as they jumped to 5-0 lead behind a pair of kills from Smedsrud and Sykora. The Wildcats would finally break a string of 20 consecutive unanswered points to get on the board at 5-1 but at that point it was much too late as the Aggies continued their stellar play. Senior Farah Mensik got her second service ace of the match to extend the Aggie lead to

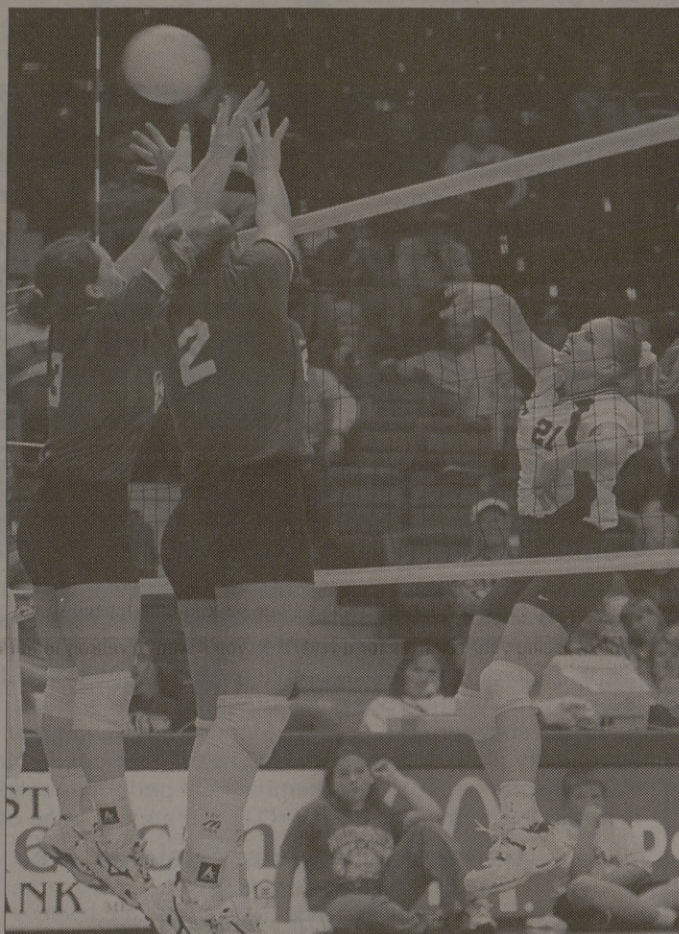
8-1. The teams exchanged an incredible rally full of hitting and defense with the score at 12-1. After the Aggies gained a side out from that rally it seemed to be the last straw for KSU as the Aggies went on to win 15-2.

Game four would prove to be along with game one the most tightly contested of the match. The Aggies jumped out to an 8-2 lead behind Woolsey as she added some excellent blocking and hitting. After the Aggies committed a pair of errors the Wildcats got the score back to 9-5. The game would be tight for the remainder, but the Aggies finally pulled it out in the end with a 15-10 victory in game four and a 3-1 victory in the match.

"It is always good to beat someone who has beaten you before," Sykora said. "We are kind of on a high right now and this helped us stay there."

The Aggies were paced in Saturday night's match by Smedsrud and Sykora as they added 21 and 19 kills, respectively.

The Aggies will face Oral Roberts University on Tuesday night at 7:00 p.m. in G. Rollie White Coliseum.



Senior **Cindy Lothspeich** sends a shot over two KSU blockers.

Swimmers claim top spot at Nike

STAFF AND WIRE

The 24th-ranked men's swimming and diving team used three first-place performances to hold off a last-minute surge by North Carolina to win the Nike Cup at Koury Natatorium in Chapel Hill Saturday. The Aggies finished with a three-day total of 649, 19 points ahead of North Carolina, who finished second in the 11-team field.

Junior Jarrod Kappler finished first in the 100-yard freestyle with a time of 45:29, while sophomore Devin Howard won the 200-meter butterfly. The Aggie 400-meter freestyle team added to the Aggies' first-place finish list with a time of 3:01.44.

The Aggie swim teams will return to action Jan. 3, when the men host LSU and the women host LSU and SMU at the Student Rec Center Natatorium at 1 p.m.

Women set to tangle with SWT

The A&M Women's Basketball team will face the Southwest Texas Bobcats in their season opener as the Aggies start a nine-game road trip. A&M looks to rebound from a season-opening home loss to 10th-ranked Vanderbilt, 59-78.

Sophomore Prissy Sharpe will look to continue her three-game streak of double-doubles as the Aggies try to add another win to the series with the Bobcats, which they lead 8-2, including the last four meetings.

Green Bay routs Cowboys at home

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP)—Dorsey Levens, Brett Favre and the Green Bay Packers finally showed the Dallas Cowboys on Sunday what it is like playing at Lambeau Field and its wind-chill of minus-4. Favre threw four touchdown passes, and Levens rushed for a Packers-record 190 yards, breaking Jim Taylor's 36-year-old team record. He had 145 yards in the dominating second half, during which Green Bay outscored the Cowboys 35-7.

A Packers defense burned for 467 yards last week held Dallas to 211 yards as Green Bay broke a 10-10 halftime tie with touchdowns on all four of their second-half possessions, plus a 34-yard fumble return by Darren Sharper.

Hail to the Victors

Michigan grabs top spot in both polls

Michigan, completing its first perfect season since 1971, was a near unanimous choice as the No. 1 team in The Associated Press' Top 25 college football poll.

The Wolverines (11-0), who beat Ohio State 20-14 on Saturday, received 69 of a possible 70 first-place votes and 1,749 points Sunday from the panel of sports writers and broadcasters.

Nebraska (10-0), idle Saturday, replaced Florida State at No. 2 with one first-place vote and 1,649 points. The Seminoles (10-1), 32-29 losers to Florida, tumbled to No. 5, leaving the Wolverines and Cornhuskers the only major unbeaten teams.

Nebraska still has games remaining against Colorado on Friday and Texas A&M in the Big 12 title game Dec. 6.

Tennessee (9-1), which clobbered Kentucky 59-31, moved up two places to No. 3 with 1,570 points, while Penn State, a 35-10 winner over Wisconsin, also advanced two places, to No. 4, with 1,497 points. The Vols play Vanderbilt, while the Nittany Lions are at

Michigan State on Saturday.

UCLA (9-2) moved up a notch to No. 6 after its 31-24 win over Southern California, followed by No. 7 Florida, No. 8 North Carolina, No. 9 Ohio State and No. 10 Washington State.

The Buckeyes (10-2) fell five spots after their loss at Michigan.

In the USA Today/ESPN coaches' poll, Michigan replaced Florida State at No. 1, followed by Nebraska, Tennessee, Penn State and the Seminoles at No. 5.

The Big Ten champion Wolverines play Washington State (10-1) in the Rose Bowl on

Jan. 1, knowing a victory would virtually secure their first national title since 1948.

Since the AP poll began choosing national champs after bowl games in the mid 1960s, a No. 1 team winning in the postseason has always emerged with the national title.

Kansas State (10-1), which beat Iowa State, fell two spots to No. 11, followed by Arizona State, Auburn, Georgia, Texas A&M, Syracuse, LSU, Purdue, Missouri, Colorado State, Washington, Mississippi State, Southern Mississippi, Air Force and Oklahoma State.

Purdue (8-3), which completed its first winning season in 13 years, jumped five spots to No. 18 with a 56-7 rout of Indiana. Colorado State (9-2), a 38-17 winner over San Diego State, also moved up five places, to No. 20.

Mississippi State (7-3), upset 17-7 by Arkansas, fell seven spots to No. 22, while Washington (7-4) dropped four places to No. 21.

Southern Mississippi, Air Force and Oklahoma State rejoined the Top 25, while Virginia Tech, West Virginia and Wisconsin fell out after losses.



AP Top 25

	Record	Pts
1. Michigan (69)	11-0	1,749
2. Nebraska (1)	10-0	1,679
3. Tennessee	9-1	1,570
4. Penn St.	9-1	1,497
5. Florida St.	10-1	1,470
6. UCLA	9-2	1,311
7. Florida	9-2	1,285
8. N. Carolina	10-1	1,236
9. Ohio St.	10-2	1,206
10. Wash. St.	10-1	1,178
11. Kansas St.	10-1	1,163
12. Arizona St.	8-2	978
13. Auburn	9-2	907
14. Georgia	8-2	865
15. Texas A&M	8-2	727
16. Syracuse	8-3	648
17. LSU	7-3	589
18. Purdue	8-3	473
19. Missouri	7-4	433
20. Colorado St.	9-2	359
21. Washington	7-4	270
22. Miss. St.	7-3	257
23. S. Mississippi	8-3	192
24. Air Force	10-2	148
25. Oklahoma St.	8-3	118

Foreman calls it quits again after losing majority decision

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP) — George Foreman walked away from boxing, and left them laughing.

Foreman, who will turn 49 on Jan. 10, announced his retirement following his majority decision loss to 25-year-old Shannon Briggs that was greeted with jeers and catcalls.

"I'm walking away," said the puncher with a paunch, who defied time for a decade and made an indelible mark in a young man's sport. "This could go on for the rest of my life, chasing young guys. Young guys should be chasing young guys."

In 1994, at age 45, Foreman became the oldest heavyweight champion in history by knocking out Michael Moorer in the 10th round for the WBA and IBF titles.

Asked if he thought anybody would break that record, Foreman said, "If some guy breaks it, I'm

coming back."

Then, in his best carnival barker's voice, he added, "I'm the last of the bearded ladies. Step right up."

Almost everybody but two judges thought Foreman won the 12-round fight Saturday night.

"They said Shannon Briggs won," Foreman said. "Good luck to him." Said Briggs: "He had the crowd behind him, and that's why they reacted like they did."

The reactions of most of 5,220 fans at the Trump Taj Mahal were those of dismay and anger. Ringside reporters were virtually unanimous in thinking Foreman won.

Foreman, all 260 pounds of him, pressed Briggs throughout. Briggs' movement and jab might have given him an edge, or at least had him even, after eight rounds. But Foreman appeared to control the last

four rounds with punishing jabs and hard rights to the head. He hurt his 227-pound opponent in the 10th round and rocked him a few times in the last round.

Judge Steve Weisfeld, who called the fight even at 114-114, gave Foreman three of the last four rounds. Calvin Claxton, who favored Briggs 116-114, gave Briggs three of the last four rounds. Larry Layton, who scored it 117-113 for Briggs, gave Briggs the seventh and eighth rounds and called each of the last two rounds even.

The AP scored it 116-112 for Foreman, favoring Foreman in each of the last four rounds.

"I'm not bitter about anything," Foreman said.

"This has been one of the great achievements in history, in life or in sports," Roy Foreman said of his

brother's career.

That might have been laying it on a bit thick, but Foreman's career unquestionably is one of the most remarkable in sports history.

A street tough in Houston, Foreman won the heavyweight gold medal at the 1968 Olympics at Mexico City. He turned pro in 1969, became undisputed world champion by stopping Joe Frazier in the second round on Jan. 22, 1973, at Kingston, Jamaica, and lost the title to Muhammad Ali when he was stopped in the eighth round Oct. 30, 1974, in Kinshasa, the capital of what then was Zaire.

After being outpointed by Jimmy Young on March 17, 1977, at San Juan, Puerto Rico, Foreman said he had a vision and he retired to become an evangelist in Houston.

He sounded like the Rev. Foreman

early Sunday when he said, "I hope that nice young man (Briggs) doesn't smoke and doesn't drink. He should go forth and lead a good life."

In 1987, Foreman began a comeback, he said, to raise \$100,000 for his youth center. He has earned more than \$100 million in purses and endorsements. His purse Saturday night was \$5 million. Briggs got \$400,000.

The Foreman who retired in 1977 often was a scowling, menacing man. The one who came back in 1987 did so with a smile and quip, especially about his waistline and love for cheeseburgers. He became a middle-aged folk hero, especially after he went the distance in losing to Evander Holyfield in a bid for the undisputed championship in 1991 at Atlantic City.

Foreman fought his way back for a title shot and cashed in by knocking out Moorer. He won a controversial decision over Axel Schulz in 1995 at Las Vegas before he was stripped of the titles for not fighting opponents designated by the WBA and IBF.

In the Moorer fight, Foreman's age started to show. He was far behind when he scored the knockout. After the Schulz match, he needed 12 rounds to beat Crawford Grimsley and then eked out a split decision against Lou Savarese. He looked old against Briggs, too. An old winner.

"I'm happy, I'm not hurt," Foreman said.

And a lot people in boxing are happy as well, happy that Foreman has finally retired.

"I've had a wonderful career," he said.