&M whips Sam Houston State 91-68

By JEFF SCHMIDT Staff Writer

The Texas Aggie Men's Basketball continued its recent tradition ng more offensive than wearhite after Labor Day with a 91rashing of the Sam Houston Bearkats. The Aggies have d at cheeseburger pace (the gets a free cheeseburger from onald's when the Aggies score st 80 points) all year long. So

is season, ggies are avging around points per

At the time last the Aggies averaged to 73 points.

ading scoror the Aggies forward

had 19 points, and guard Jer-Brown, who finished with 16 ts. Davis also had eight reunds to tie for the team lead th center Larry Thompson. s did most of his damage in second half after leaving the ne in the first half with a cut ve his right eye. Other stand were point guard Steve Hous-. Houston finished the night nine assists, eight of which e in the first half.

oints off turnovers killed Sam ston. The Aggies scored 32 nts off 29 Bearkat turnovers. The es also scored 15 points on secchance baskets, compared to four for Sam Houston. The main dout for Sam Houston was freshguard Jeremy Burkhalter. He the team with 18 points while ing most of the game.

he Bearkats stayed with the Agfor approximately 12 minutes t run started by a Chris hards free throw and ending with State Rams.

ing the run, the Aggies forced five turnovers to break the will of the Bearkats. Forward Shanne Jones, the team's leading scorer, gave credit to the guard play for the victory.

"Coach (Barone) told us they were going to be physical, but our guards came up big," Jones said. Sophomore Jerald Brown agrees with Jones' assessment.

"By knocking down our (the guards') shots in the first half, it opened up the posts in the second half."

This offensive balance helped open up the inside for Jones and Davis. Brown had his best shooting day of the year, knocking down three of his six three pointers.

"When you knock the first shot down your confidence builds after that," Brown said.

Brown credits old friend, SHSU's Josh Pastner, a walk-on at Arizona, for improving his shot. The two played on the Houston Hoops AAU team together.

"He told me to spread my fingers out more," Brown said.

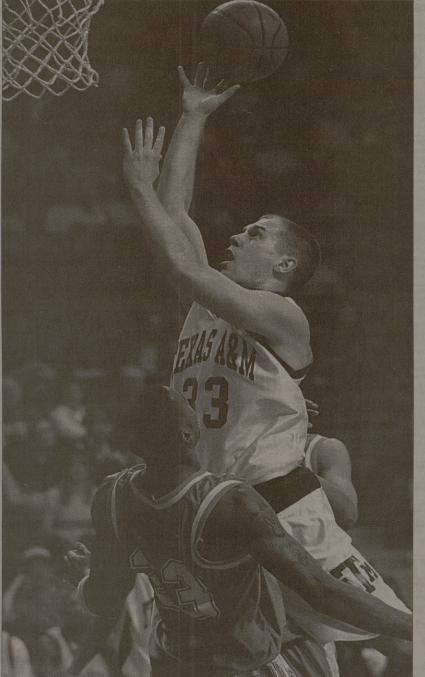
Despite the comfortable win, Barone learned something from

'We took the press off and we lost our intensity," Barone said. 'You can't lose your intensity. I don't think (leaving the press on) gives the players more confidence. Sam Houston is well-coached. I thought our quickness took them out of their stuff.'

Barone's new high-octane offense looks to get a comfortable margin to work with and then clamp down with the press.

"We looked to see if we could get a spurt. I thought we really did a good job of pushing the inbound receiver up the court. I thought we played pretty good on the front line of the press," Barone said.

The Aggies will have a much ore the Aggies went on an 18 more difficult time Wednesday night as they take on the Colorado



gies 91-68 victory over Sam Houston.

RONY ANGKRIWAN/THE BATTALION Junior John Reeves goes to the basket for two points last night during the Ag-

Injuries play major role for Aggies, Bearkats

Staff writer

An injury in basketball can be a funny thing. Sometimes they can motivate a team to maximize their potential when a fallen teammate is helped off the court. Other times they can simply take a team out of its game plan and serve as a handicap. A little of each was demonstrated last night as Texas A&M rolled over Sam Houston State University 91-68.

SHSU was without the services of its most experienced player, guard Mike Dillard.

Dillard was a scratch from the night's starting lineup due to a foot problem that might require surgery. Already shorthanded, the Bearkats found themselves without guard Boney Watson as well. Watson was X-rayed before the game and it was thought that he might have a broken foot. He was penciled into the starting lineup anyway, but played a mere two minutes before succumbing to the injury. His backup, Anwar Abdus-Sallaam, was forced into much of the ball-handling duty and wound up with as many turnovers (seven) as points.

The fortunes of the Aggies looked bleak in the first half as well. Starting forward Calvin Davis came down awkwardly on the hardwood midway through the first half. After being helped up, he was escorted to the locker room where he would stay for the remainder of the half.

"I tried to strip the ball and slipped on the floor," Davis said. "I hit my head on the court on the way down. The same thing happened to me last year, but I played through it."

Despite the nasty gash, coach Barone did not have any doubt that Davis would return in the second half, where he would score 12 of his game high

'He's a big boy," Barone said. "It took five stitches. He's mad

"It took five stiches. He's mad because it was in the same place as last year."

TONY BARONE BASKETBALL COACH

because it was in the same place as last year."

Davis seemed dazed

enough not to remember the 18-point run the Aggies would go on in his absence. With the score at 29-27, the Aggies reeled off 19 straight points by blowing up from beyond the arc. Jerald Brown contributed two of the three treys during the run on his way to a 16point outing. Brian Barone was a man possessed coming onto the court after Davis went down. The full-court intensity was up and Barone gathered two of his four steals during the decisive run.

"I came in and Jerald had a couple of three's," junior forward Shanne Jones said. "The threepointers really helped us out [in the run].

Davis will be able to play in the Aggies' next home game on Wednesday against Colorado State.

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