

# A&M whips Sam Houston State 91-68

By JEFF SCHMIDT  
Staff Writer

The Texas Aggie Men's Basketball team continued its recent tradition of being more offensive than wear-white after Labor Day with a 91-thrashing of the Sam Houston State Bearkats. The Aggies have played at cheeseburger pace (the word gets a free cheeseburger from Donald's when the Aggies score at least 80 points) all year long. So this season, the Aggies are averaging around 73 points per game. At the same time last year, the Aggies only averaged 65.5 points per game.



Davis

Leading scorers for the Aggies are forward Calvin Davis, who had 19 points, and guard Jerald Brown, who finished with 16 points. Davis also had eight rebounds to tie for the team lead with center Larry Thompson. Davis did most of his damage in the second half after leaving the court in the first half with a cut above his right eye. Other standouts were point guard Steve Houston. Houston finished the night with nine assists, eight of which came in the first half. Points off turnovers killed Sam Houston. The Aggies scored 32 points off 29 Bearkat turnovers. The Aggies also scored 15 points on second chance baskets, compared to only four for Sam Houston. The main standout for Sam Houston was freshman guard Jeremy Burkhalter. He led the team with 18 points while averaging most of the game. The Bearkats stayed with the Aggies for approximately 12 minutes before the Aggies went on an 18-point run started by a Chris Richards free throw and ending with

a Jerald Brown three-pointer. During 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 the game.

"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 more difficult time Wednesday night as they take on the Colorado State Rams.



Junior John Reeves goes to the basket for two points last night during the Aggies 91-68 victory over Sam Houston.

## Injuries play major role for Aggies, Bearkats

By JEFF WEBB  
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 short-handed, 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 19 points.

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

**"It took five stitches. 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 16-point 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 threes," junior forward Shanne Jones said. "The three-pointers 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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