

Slippery continues for Aggies as they fall to Texas, 81-80

As A&M loses late fourth-quarter lead, misses last-second shot to drop tenth consecutive game

JEFF SCHMIDT
Staff Writer

It was déjà vu all over again, only the Longhorns did not need former starter Freeman to bail them out. The Longhorns (10-11, 4-5) held on to beat A&M 81-80 in men's basketball on Monday night.

After a missed shot by A&M point guard Brian Barone and two timeouts, Texas' Kris Clack missed a driving jumper 18 seconds to play only to have teammate Chris Mihm get the rebound and subsequent layup. This gave the Longhorns an 81-80 advantage. The Aggies had more chances to take the lead, only to be jumpers by Shanne Jones and Steve Johnson draw iron.

Barone was the star for the Aggies, scoring a career high 32 points and 11 rebounds. Larry Thompson had 11 points and eight rebounds. Barone also proved he is one of the scrappiest guards in

the conference with 10 points, seven assists and only one turnover.

Both Jerald Brown and Michael Schmidt fouled out of the game. Brown collected

points and pulled down seven rebounds. Nnadubem "Gabe" Muoneke and Bernard Smith had 13 and 12 points, respectively.

Despite the victory, Texas Coach Tom Penders feels lucky to have escaped with a win.

"I thought the Aggies played terrific. It was a typical Texas-Texas A&M game. Both teams played their hearts out. We're very fortunate to win," Penders said.

"I feel for Tony (Barone). He's had a lot of hard luck. I've never seen them (Aggies) give anything less than 100 percent," Penders said. Brian Barone feels the team will keep their head up.

"I don't think we can do anything else. The coaches are still proud of us," Barone said.

Larry Thompson felt the pain of losing two straight home games, both by one point.

"I couldn't believe the hurt in that locker room," Thompson said.

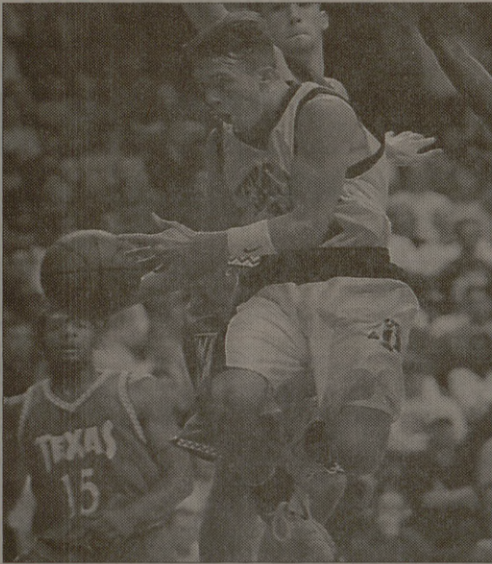
This was Texas' fourth consecutive win at G. Rollie White and their first conference road win. The Aggies travel to Lubbock Saturday to take on the Texas Tech Red Raiders.

"I couldn't believe the hurt in that locker room."

Larry Thompson
A&M Senior Center

his third foul with nine minutes left in the first half.

While the Aggies had a big night from Jones, the Longhorns used balanced scoring to win. Clack lead the way with 20 points and five dunks. Mihm scored 18



RYAN ROGERS/THE BATTALION
Sophomore **Brian Barone** makes a pass in last night's loss to the University of Texas.

Barone shows true grit in loss

BY JEFF WEBB
Staff writer

A crowd of 6,065 witnessed an exhibition of pure emotion and energy on the court last night that likely will never be matched in the future of the storied Texas-Texas A&M rivalry in old G. Rollie White Coliseum.

In a game that provided countless lead changes and numerous big plays down the stretch, No. 12 in the maroon and white jersey was the one who let his will dominate the game. Five rebounds for the diminutive Brian Barone, 10 points on 5-12 shooting, seven assists to only one turnover and three steals is how his numbers read. But his heart only shows on the court.

The floor burns acquired after diving for loose balls, the pain endured from a broken thumb and the 39 minutes he played are the badges of hustle the young man wears. Barone said he feels pain after a game like the loss to Texas.

"It hurts, it hurts bad," Barone said. "I don't know. You think about what you could have done better, but I guess you can't get yourself up about it. We're going to get it, though. I think everyone put it out there. I'm spent."

Texas A&M Coach Tony Barone consoled the team in the locker room after the game and expressed the pride the coaches have in the players and their effort. Brian Barone said the locker room was hushed and all the players could do was think about what could have been.

"(My head) was in my lap the whole time," Brian Barone said. "It was quiet. No one said anything. The coaches said they're still proud of us, which is good to hear. My dad (Coach Barone) said we had nothing to hang our head about."

Tough losses are hard to take, but Texas A&M and the famed Twelfth-Man spirit keeps people from losing hope. The only thing Coach Barone can do is ask each player to give his best and hope for a win.

"I asked the kids to expand all their energy in the game and when they came back into the locker room, they should not to have one ounce of energy left," Coach Barone said. "I think we did that."

Abdur-Rahim heads list of should-be NBA All-Stars



our tireless, overpaid professional heroes a vacation soon with the NBA All-Star weekend peeking its head around the corner. This is the time we should settle down and give thanks to this bastion of entertainment, all the while wondering why David N has trashed the fan-favorite Slam Dunk contest in favor of the shameless WNBA promotion shootout with NBA ballers.

Snub Team

With every All-Star Team comes the list of players that were on the cusp of making it; however, it seems that there are some All-Star Snubs this NBA season.

G - Rod Strickland - Washington Wizards - He is head-and-shoulders above anyone in assists at 10.5 a game. A tiff with teammate Tracey Murray probably turned

coaches against this bona fide playmaker.

G - Allen Iverson - Philadelphia 76ers - Probably didn't deserve Rookie of the Year honors in 1997, but has eliminated his turnovers, and when he doesn't carry the ball, is the best in the league at breaking his man down off the dribble.

F - Dennis Rodman - Chicago Bulls - Has been lacking on defense a little, but who hasn't in the league? No one can do better than his 15.7 rebounds a game. Worm was the glue that held the Bulls together until Pippen came back.

F - Charles Barkley - Houston Rockets - Year after year, the chunky forward is good for 20 points and 15 boards in the big ones. Rockets could be 10 games under .500 if Chuck hadn't strapped the team on his back.

F - Shareef Abdur-Rahim - Vancouver Grizzlies - This is simply a crime. Until the NBA gets rid of McDonald's balloting for the starters, Penny Hardaway (who played less than 15 games before being voted in) and Kobe Bryant (who doesn't even start for his own team) will waste spaces that should go to players like Shareef. He scores 22.8 on a team that has no other offensive players to take the heat off of him. And if you saw some of the moves he put on Karl Malone in their last match-up with the Jazz, you would be a believer too. Give Kobe's spot to this kid.

Rocketship Down

The Houston Rockets (21-23) would be facing the Sonics on the road if the playoffs started today, which means a long golf season for Sir Charles and company. Perhaps urgency beckoned when, in the Rocket's loss to the Orlando Magic, their leading scorer was Matt Bullard with 20 points. The Magic played without second option Rony Seikaly in the 95-88 victory.

Houston's 102-86 victory the next night was a relief, but sucked too much energy out of those aging bodies due to the frantic Boston press. Antoine Walker tallied a triple-double with 27 points, 14 rebounds and 10 assists to down the Rockets who have until Tuesday to figure out how to rise above .500 and that eighth playoff spot. Next two? Vancouver and Detroit. Looks like a two-game winning streak is near.

Pass The Buck

Dallas voters passed a bill that institutes a tax to raise money for a new \$125 million home to replace Reunion Arena. The so-called "tourist tax" will affect hotels and rental cars. I suppose Mavericks fans are saying that a new arena is fine ... as long as the tourists are the ones paying. This is a probable backlash due to the Mavericks losing 110-98 to the Nuggets. Next up? Vancouver, Boston and

Toronto could use a win against the Mavs.

Because The Clips Are On My List

The Spurs found themselves fortunate enough to face the Clippers twice in the past week. The first meeting resulted in a 109-86 victory for San Antonio and the tune did not change as the Spurs cruised to a 97-87 victory in the second meeting. Monday night's game against Sacramento saw prolific scorers David Robinson and Mitch Richmond square off. Robinson's bunch came away with the 103-97 win to go 3-0 in the trash-time week.

Trade Bait

After Damon Stoudamire rumors swirled about, Kenny Anderson of the Blazers opined his dislike of the Toronto trade idea. He reinforced that statement by leading his team to a 97-90 win over the hot Raptors.

Other players on the block are Miami's Ike Austin and Sacramento's Mitch Richmond, who has always said he wants to go to a contending team. Now in the mix is forward Christian Lattener of the Hawks. Due to Atlanta's struggles, Lenny Wilkens said the team needs a boost to their chemistry, and stars Steve Smith, Dikembe Mutombo and point guard Mookie Blaylock are untouchable. Alan

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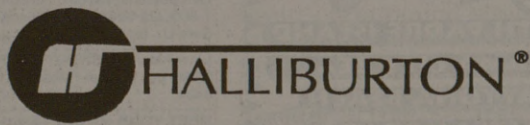
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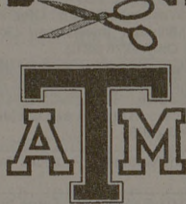


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Texas Aggie Athletics
This week
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Monday:	Basketball (M) vs. Texas	8:30
Tuesday:	Tennis (W) vs. North Texas	1:30
Wednesday:	Basketball (W) vs. Baylor	
	"Take a kid to the game Day"	7pm
Thursday:	Tennis (M) vs. Rice	2pm
Friday:	Baseball vs. UTPAM	3pm
Saturday	Swimming (M&W) vs. Rice	
	Baseball vs. UTPAM	1pm
	Tennis (W) vs. SWT	1:30



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