

Aggies get back to winning ways Aggie men top Red Raiders to win first home conference game

BY AL LAZARUS
The Battalion

Two guys juggling lit torches and riding unicycles were not even the most interesting spectacle at Reed Arena Wednesday night.

The halftime performers were a mereideshow compared to the unexpected antics of the Texas A&M Men's Basketball Team, which rolled to a 68-47 victory over Texas Tech University, a team the Aggies had not defeated in nearly four years.

The Aggies (9-8, 2-5 in Big 12) seemed to carry over momentum from Saturday's feat of Baylor, a win that gave A&M its first conference victory of the season and ending a seven-game losing streak.

"Wins are the cure-all," A&M coach Elvin Watkins said. "A win can do a

lot of things for you."

Clifton Cook, who had eight assists and six steals against Tech, said the Baylor victory helped the Aggies prepare for Wednesday's game against Tech.

"[The Baylor victory] gave us a lot of confidence," he said. "And we took it with us to practice and to the game tonight."

With Tech long-range specialist Stan Bonewitz injured, the Aggies' priority on defense coming into Wednesday's game was to stop Rayford Young, the Raiders' diminutive point guard.

A&M forward Shanne Jones, who led all scorers Wednesday with 18 points, said the Aggies accomplished this goal.

"We knew we had to stop him," Jones said. "We just focused on trying to shut him down, and we did a good job of it."

Offensively, the Aggies offered a balanced performance, with three players

scoring in double figures and one player,

Watkins, who with nine games remaining has already led the Aggies to more overall wins and conference wins than last year's team, said he was pleased with the Aggies' offensive performance.

"We had a lot of balance tonight," he said. "The guys from the bench gave us a big boost."

Watkins said the crowd of 4,929 was a factor in the Aggies' victory.

"The crowd was great for us," he said. "We felt that they really helped us out."

After taking a 29-25 lead into halftime, the Aggies appeared headed for another nail-biter when Tech took the lead, 38-37, on a James Ware three-pointer with 12:55 left in the contest.

The Aggies had other plans, though, and a 26-5 A&M run sent much of the crowd home early.



GUY ROGERS/THE BATTALION

A&M Men's Game Leaders

Points leader:
Shanne Jones (18)

Rebound leader:
Joe White (6)
Paul Jacobs (6)

Assists leader:
Clifton Cook (8)

freshman Joe White, with eight points.

A&M women use hot shooting touch to tame Wildcats

BY MATT WEBER
The Battalion

ankle in the closing minutes

A&M Women's Game Leaders

Points leader:
Prissy Sharpe (21)

Rebound leader:
Three players (6)

Assists leader:
Brandy Jones (6)

The Texas A&M Women's Basketball Team dropped a last-second decision to Oklahoma State University Saturday, 70-69, marking the sixth time this season the Aggies had lost a game by five points or less.

But Wednesday, versus the Kansas State Wildcats, close finishes were not a concern for A&M.

The Aggies (7-10, 2-5 in Big 12) used 55-percent shooting and 21 points from leading scorer Prissy Sharpe to beat the Wildcats, 73-59, at the Bramlage Coliseum in Manhattan, Kan. in front of a crowd of 2,605.

The sophomore forward, who was listed as questionable for the game after spraining her

against Oklahoma State, played a game-high 37 minutes and recorded six rebounds and two blocks.

The Aggies came into the game shooting just 41 percent on the year, but in the first half they connected on 16 of 31 shots, including 2 of 6 from behind the arc, for a field-goal percentage of 51.6 and a six-point halftime lead.

The Aggies added to that lead after the break, shooting nearly 60 percent in the second frame to coast to the win.

In addition to Sharpe's contributions, the Aggies also got help from senior guard Kim Tarkington, who scored nine points along with six rebounds and four assists in the winning effort.

Junior forward Kera Alexander, who connected on all seven of her attempts from the floor, and sophomore guard Brandy Jones both scored in double dig-

its for A&M with 14 and 12 points, respectively.

The A&M women, who topped Kansas State in every offensive statistic, also showed some defensive aptitude by holding the Wildcats to 11 points below their season average while forcing 18 turnovers. The Aggies also recorded seven steals and three blocks.

The only statistical category in which A&M did not lead was rebounding. The Wildcats, who have outrebounded opponents by an average of 4.4 rebounds per game, outmuscled the Aggies on the boards, 35-27.

The A&M women will look to continue their winning streak when they take home court this Saturday against the Oklahoma Sooners at 7 p.m. at Reed Arena.

Top: Senior forward Shanne Jones goes up for a tough shot in the Aggie men's 68-47 win over the Texas Tech Red Raiders.

Left: Leading scorer Prissy Sharpe overcame an ankle injury to lead the A&M women to a 73-59 victory versus the Kansas State Wildcats.



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