

Aggie basketball closes out regular-season play

Buffalos' second-half effort beats Ags

BY AL LAZARUS
The Battalion

The Texas A&M Men's Basketball Team came out strong in their conference road game Saturday.

The Aggies waited until the second half to fall apart.

After jumping out to a 38-30 halftime lead against the University of Nebraska, the Aggies (12-14, 5-11 Big 12) scored only 30 second-half points to the Cornhuskers' 57, to lose, 87-68, in front of 11,294 fans at the Bob Devaney Sports Center in Lincoln, Neb.

"I don't know what came over us in the second half," A&M junior guard Clifton Cook, who scored 16 of his 21 points before the intermission, said. "We just didn't play with emotion."

No emotion — mixed with a heavy dose of Nebraska's Venson Hamilton — proved to be a fatal formula for the Aggies in the second half, as the Huskers' big man scored nine of his team's first 12 points after the break, including a 3-point play that put Nebraska up, 42-41.

Hamilton, who finished with a game-high 23 points, said there was no lack of emotion on the Cornhuskers' part in the second half.

"We were real quiet [at halftime] before [Nebraska guard] Cookie Belcher spoke up and said we were going to win for Andy [Markowski] and the rest of the seniors," Hamilton said.

Hamilton's strong play down low, combined with three-pointers by Cary Cochran and Chad Johnson, fueled a 13-4 Nebraska run that gave the Cornhuskers a 60-49 lead with 8:53 remaining.

A Cook three-pointer pulled the Aggies to within eight, 64-56, with five minutes remaining, but Nebraska pulled away, leading by as many as 22 points down the stretch.

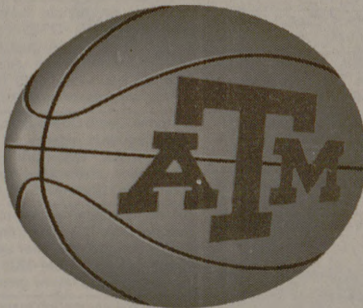
SEE COLORADO ON PAGE 6.

A&M Men's Game Leaders

Points leader:
Clifton Cook (19)

Rebound leader:
Clifton Cook (9)

Assists leader:
Michael Schmidt (4)



A&M Women's Game Leaders

Points leader:
Kera Alexander (14)

Rebound leader:
Celeria Washington (6)

Assists leader:
Kim Tarkington (6)

Colorado threes bury A&M women in OT

BY TRAVIS HARSCH
The Battalion

The Colorado Buffaloes almost died by their sword, but when it came to overtime, they lived by it.

After shooting just three of 17 three-pointers in regulation play against the Texas A&M Women's Basketball Team on Saturday at Reed Arena, the Buffaloes (14-12, 7-9) made good on both of their attempts behind the arc in overtime and rode the momentum from those shots to a 71-69 win over the Aggies.

The Aggies lost despite having four players score in double digits, including guard Kerrie Patterson, who hit two clutch shots toward the end of regulation play and added four more points in overtime to end the game with 12.

"We just needed a win, and it was just whoever could take the ball to the hole, and whoever could get off a shot if it was a high-percentage shot," Patterson said. "We wanted to win so badly, and we felt like this could have been our chance."

Prissy Sharpe had a chance to win the game for the Aggies, but her three-point attempt with six seconds remaining in overtime bounced out, and Kim Tarkington was unable to get a shot off before the buzzer.

The game almost ended in regulation play, as Kera Alexander was roughed up in the paint on a missed layup with eight seconds to go. No foul was called, and Colorado controlled the rebound.

A&M was unable to secure the win despite leading 30-25 at the half. The halftime lead was the first the Aggies had held since a 73-59 win at Kansas State on Jan. 27. But A&M Coach Peggie Gillom said Colorado altered its game plan at the half, and her team had difficulties coping.

"It was just one of those nights tonight where it should have been won in regulation," Gillom said. "We didn't adjust on their defense. I'm proud of our girls. We came back and made it a game, but the shots didn't fall for us."

Colorado was unable to take advantage of



CARINO CASAS/The Battalion

Junior forward **Kera Alexander** shoots over the defense during the Aggies' 71-69 loss to the University of Colorado Saturday.

its superior size, as the Aggies won the battle of the boards, 55-36.

In addition to Patterson, Kim Tarkington had 12 points, Kera Alexander had 15 and all-conference selection Prissy Sharpe had 15. Freshman Celeria Washington, making her third start of the year, grabbed 13 rebounds.

The game was the final of the season at Reed Arena for the Aggies, and the final home game for seniors Brenda Beard, Tarkington and Patterson. The Aggies will play Nebraska in Kansas City on Tuesday in the opening round of the Big 12 Tournament.



GUY ROGERS/The Battalion

Junior forward **Jerald Brown** and the Aggies got off to a hot start Saturday, but the University of Colorado pulled out the 87-68 win.

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