

Aggies beat SFA Lumberjacks, 70-65, for first win of season

BY AL LAZARUS
The Battalion

Four freshmen started for the Texas A&M Men's Basketball Team Wednesday night at Reed Arena.

Twenty-three turnovers later, the Aggies had defeated the Stephen F. Austin State University Lumberjacks, 70-65, for their first win of the year.

The Aggies (1-2) shot 50 percent from the field compared to SFA's 41.1 percent and outrebounded the Jacks, 40-27. SFA stayed close, though, scoring 20 points off the Aggies' 23 giveaways.

"I have to give credit to SFA — they came in and played hard," A&M men's basketball coach Melvin Watkins said. "As you can see, we've got a lot of work to do; we just have to figure out where to start."

Freshman forward Larry Scott led the Aggies with 14 points, 12 of those off four first-half three-pointers. Freshman guard Bernard King and senior forward Aaron Jack chipped in 13 and 11 points, respectively.

"Bernard King has a chance to be a superstar at the national level," SFA men's basketball coach Derek Allister said, "and Larry Scott is like a professional shooter."

The Aggies helped themselves throughout the game with strong rebounding, but the Jacks stayed close because of repeated mental lapses on A&M's part.

In one 10-second span early in the second half, the Aggies threw two careless passes, both of which were picked off and taken in for dunks by SFA.

"We just made so many mental errors — way, way too many mis-

takes," Watkins said. "There's no shortcut; we just have to keep practicing and get better."

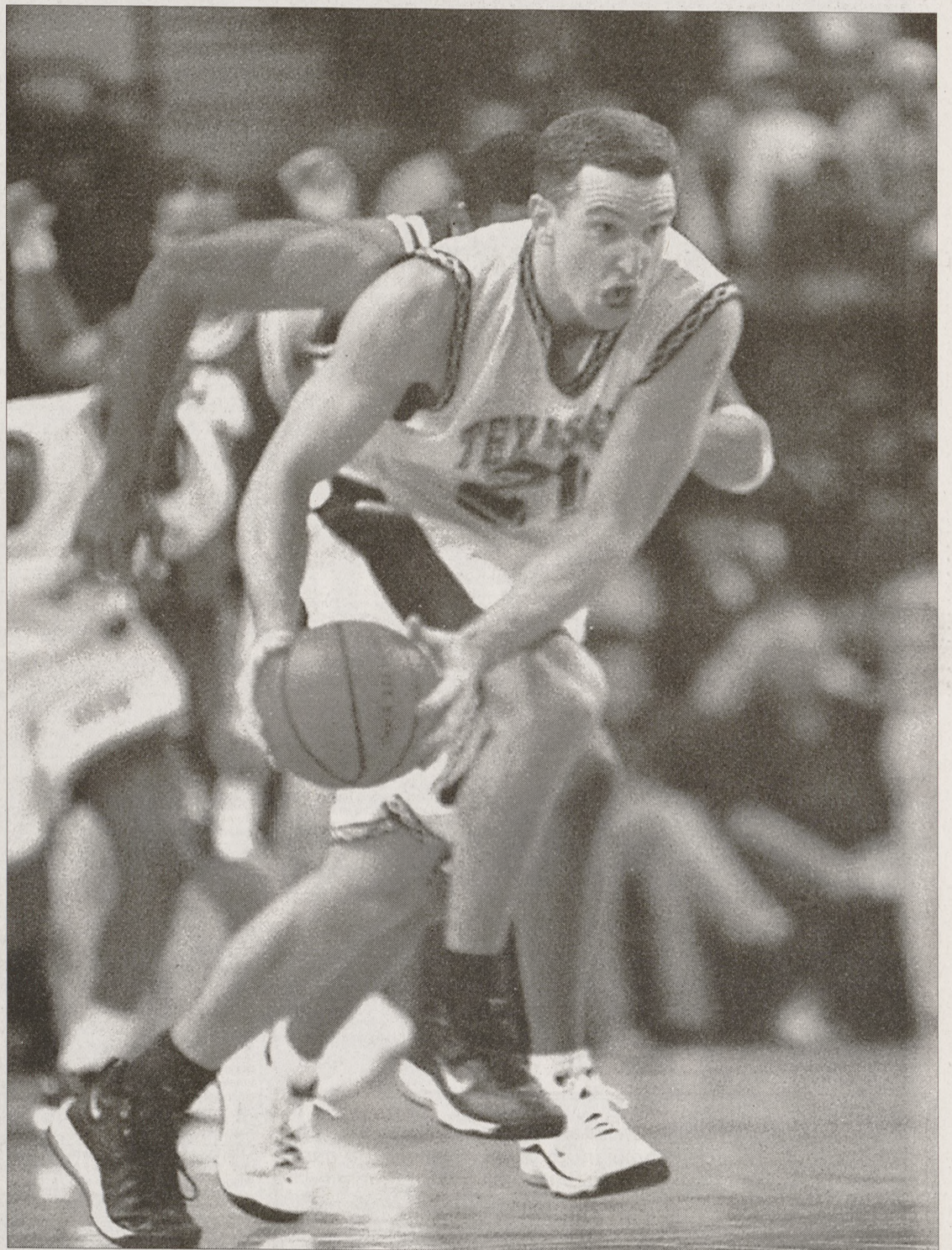
The Aggies were without the services of senior forward Jerald Brown, who suffered a broken orbit bone near his right eye after colliding with a teammate in practice last week.

Brown has missed all three of the Aggies' regular-season games but is expected back in the lineup soon.

"Not having Jerald in there, we are playing some people out of position," Watkins said. "We had [junior forward Carlton Brown] inside, and he hasn't gotten any work at that."

Though admittedly bitter after losing a game he said the Jacks should have won, Allister had nothing but praise for A&M.

"Texas A&M's got good players," Allister said. "They are young, but they're going to be superb."



LEFT: A&M freshman point guard **Jamaal Gilchrist** looks for a teammate downcourt in the first half of the Aggies' game against Stephen F. Austin State University last night at Reed Arena. The Aggies defeated the Lumberjacks, 70-65, for their first win of the season.

RIGHT: A&M senior forward **Aaron Jack** drives to the basket after stealing the ball from SFA junior center Emanuel Jackson in the second half last night at Reed Arena.



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