

Men's basketball falls to Tech, 76-64

BY AL LAZARUS
The Battalion

Texas Tech may have finally found a strategy for winning conference games.

For the Red Raiders, less is more. Forced to use just five players for most of the second half, Tech withstood a late Texas A&M rally and a boisterous crowd of 5,439 to defeat the Aggies, 76-64, Saturday afternoon at Reed Arena.

"I'm very proud of the way our guys played today," said Tech coach James Dickey. "Not just that we won, but the way we did. We basically played the second half with only five guys."

The Red Raiders improve to 11-12 on the season with a 2-10 conference record. The Aggies fell to 7-16 and 3-9.

Tech's already-thin roster was pared further 14 seconds into the second half when senior forward Mario Layne, the Red Raiders' second-leading scorer, took an elbow to the lip from A&M freshman center Andy Slocum. Layne, who had 10 points at the time, left the game for good and would later receive 12 stitches.

Fortunately for the Red Raiders, someone was there to fill the void. Freshman swingman Ronald Hobbs, who saw only three minutes of playing time against the Aggies in the two teams' first matchup on Jan. 15, led Tech with 22 points.

Hobbs was averaging just 2.7 points prior to the contest.

"We played A&M early in the conference season, and he wasn't quite as ready as he is now," Dickey said of

Hobbs. "The difference is we are much further into the conference season."

Leading 42-27 at halftime, the Red Raiders stretched their lead to as much as 19 in the second half before the Aggies mounted a run. Freshman guard Bernard King, who led A&M with 21 points, nailed three 3-pointers in a little over two minutes to cut Tech's lead to 51-39 with 13:18 remaining.

The Aggies continued to whittle away until a 3-pointer from freshman forward Larry Scott cut the A&M deficit to 68-63 with a minute remaining. The Red Raiders responded, though, and hit 6-of-8 free throws in the final minute.

"I thought we could pull it out at the end," King said. "We had some good looks, but it just wasn't meant to be."

The Red Raiders led at halftime af-

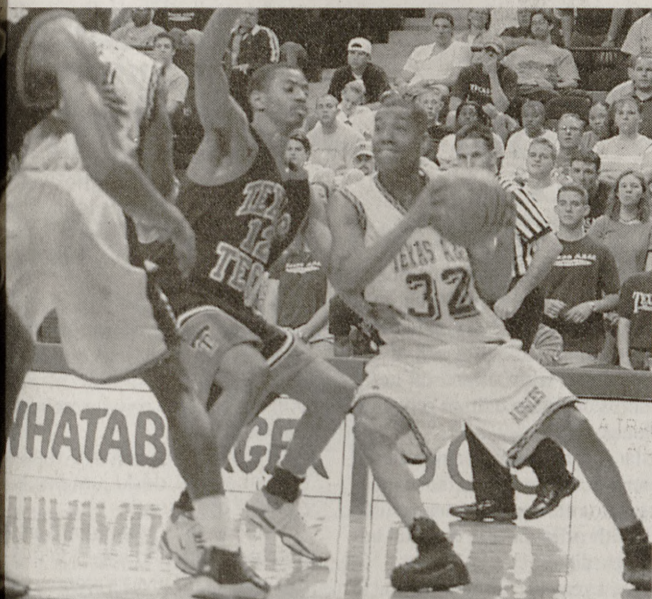
ter shooting 51.5 percent from the field compared to the Aggies' 37.9 percent clip. After starting the game playing man-to-man and trading baskets with the Aggies, Tech switched to a zone and promptly began to pull ahead.

"I thought switching to zone would help us shade King, and also conserve some energy," Dickey said.

The strategy worked on both parts. King was held to 1-of-8 shooting and two points in the first stanza. The Red Raiders, meanwhile, had enough left to fend off A&M's late comeback attempt.

"Their zone defense caused us a lot of problems," A&M coach Melvin Watkins said. "I thought we came out ready to play, but the zone got us. We were not making good decisions."

"We have got to get better at the things we don't do well."



SALLIE TURNER/THE BATTALION

freshman guard Bernard King drives the baseline against Texas Tech's Ronald Hobbs, in Saturday's loss at Reed Arena.

Ags sweep Aggie Invitational I

BY BREE HOLZ
The Battalion

The Texas A&M Softball Team bounced back from a four-game skid with six straight wins and a tournament championship at the Aggie Invitational I this weekend at the Aggie Softball Complex.

The Aggies (8-4) began the tournament Friday night with a shutout against Colorado State University, 6-0. A&M scored two runs in the third inning and four in the fourth to give junior pitcher Amy Vining her third win of the season.

Immediately following their first win of the tournament, the Aggies took on New Mexico State University. With the Aggies leading 4-0 in the top of the fifth inning, NMSU came out swinging and scored three runs on three hits. The Aggies put one more run on the board in the bottom of the fifth when senior center fielder Angie Shetler singled up the middle to score junior right fielder Tiffany Esters. NMSU struck again in the top of the sixth, scoring two more runs and tying the score, 5-5.

The Aggies were held scoreless in the bottom of the sixth inning, but in the bottom of the seventh, senior shortstop Jamie Smith scored from third base after freshman third baseman Jennifer Davis was thrown out at first.

A&M started the second day of competition with another shutout against the Centenary Ladies, 9-0. Freshman pitcher Kara Weikel posted her first win of the season, giving up four hits. The Aggies scored five runs in the first inning, three in the second, and one in the fourth, giving A&M its third win of the tournament.

The Aggies started the second round of play with a dramatic come-from-behind win against NMSU, 3-2.

A&M was held scoreless through six innings, while NMSU scored once in the third and once in the fifth. In the top of the seventh, with senior first baseman Angie Long on first and junior left fielder Hollee Hayden on second, sophomore second baseman Lisa Klam stepped up to the plate and blasted a three-run home run over the center field wall. NMSU could not manage any runs in the bottom of the seventh, and the Aggies were able to win their fourth game of the tournament.

"A lot of pitches had been a little outside, and [the umpire] hadn't been calling them," Klam said. "I didn't want to go down looking, and I was hoping my pitch would be there. It felt really good coming off the bat."

A&M coach Jo Evans said she was happy that someone finally found their rhythm.

"We had our opportunities, but we couldn't get the timely hit," she said. "We had some hits early, and had our chances, and I felt someone would set up at some point."

On Sunday, A&M proved unstoppable with its fifth win



JP BEATO/THE BATTALION

A&M senior first baseman Angie Long crosses home plate in the Aggie Invitational I.

In the final game of the tournament, A&M defeated Centenary, 10-0. Sophomore pitcher Lauren Ripple recorded her first win of the season, giving up only two hits.

of the tournament against Colorado State, 14-0. Vining (6-2) provided the Aggies with solid pitching, and threw the first no-hitter of her college career. Klam posted her second home run of the tournament over the left field wall in the second inning. Esters also found the left field wall, knocking out a three-run home run in the third inning.

In the final game of the tournament, A&M defeated Centenary, 10-0. Sophomore pitcher Lauren Ripple recorded her first win of the season, giving up only two hits.

A&M sophomore pitcher Grant Gregg pitched well for the Aggies in the loss. Gregg (1-2) also pitched a complete game, giving up four runs on 11 hits with eight strikeouts.

After the win, Diggins said that playing at Olsen Field was one of his best experiences in college baseball.

"This is the most incredible place I've ever been as far as baseball and tradition and everything," Diggins said. "Makes you wish you would have gotten some recruiting letters from here. I just wish Arizona had a tradition like this. This is incredible."

"The atmosphere and fans make this the most incredible thing I've seen as far as baseball. Hopefully at Arizona we can start a little tradition. The fan support here is off the wall."

The Aggies next take the field Tuesday as they travel to Huntsville to take on the Sam Houston State University Bearcats at 2 p.m.

early start for A&M as the Aggies scored four first-inning runs to cruise to an 8-3 win over the Wildcats.

A&M freshman first baseman Travis Wong led the Aggies, going 3-for-5 in the game with 3 RBI, two of which came on a double in the four-run first inning.

A&M freshman pitcher Todd Deininger got the win for the Aggies. Deininger (2-1) gave up three runs on six hits in eight strong innings of work.

Wildcat pitcher Brian Pemble was saddled with the loss for Arizona. Pemble (3-1) gave up four runs on five hits in just one inning.

Friday, the Wildcats used a big fourth inning and the pitching of sophomore Ben Diggins to take the first game of the series, 4-1.

Diggins (3-0) kept the Aggies at bay all day, throwing a complete game, six-hitter. He struck out nine while walking four.

SERIES

Continued from Page 5
out and getting four runs today, it gets more exciting in the dugout and gets the enthusiasm up and we just hit the whole game."

Sepulveda, who finished the series 4-for-10 with a home run, four RBI and four runs scored, added some padding to the A&M lead in the fifth inning when he sent a pitch from Wildcat pitcher Tony Milo over the left field wall for his third home run of the year to give the Aggies a 7-0 advantage.

Sophomore pitcher Khalid Ballouli picked up the win for the Aggies. Ballouli (1-2) gave up one run on six hits in 5 1/3 innings pitched.

Arizona pitcher Mike Crawford took the loss for the Wildcats. Crawford (3-3) gave up five runs on five hits in just two innings pitched.

Saturday's game featured another

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LET'S RIDE by Lee Weaver
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- 10 "I taut I ___ a pudgy tail"
- 13 Make amends
- 14 Exercise, as power
- 16 Fire residue
- 17 Diagnosis
- 18 Murder star
- 19 Roman dozen
- 20 Squared building stones
- 21 Wee tree
- 23 Shade tree
- 24 Heavy burden
- 25 Fix a pillow, perhaps
- 28 Weather term
- 32 Bulling "Bravo!"
- 33 Swiss mathematician
- 35 Doctrine
- 36 Verdi heroine
- 38 Cantered
- 40 The Lion King villain
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- 45 Summer, in Lyon
- 46 Lease signers
- 48 Forehead neighbor
- 50 As the ___ flies
- 51 School-zone sign
- 52 Placed back on the payroll
- 55 Docking fee
- 59 Important time
- 60 Vegetable grower
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