

North Carolina gives Aggies chance for upset

King posts 30 in win over Lamar

By Jason Lincoln
The Battalion

Bernard King nailed eight 3-pointers in a 30-point performance Tuesday night in Texas A&M basketball's 83-60 win over Lamar at Reed Arena.

The performance was King's best this season, after struggling with his shot for the first five games, exclaiming, "Thank you Jesus, finally" as 1999's Big 12 Freshman of the Year left the court.

"I've been working on my game — a lot," King said. "My shot is starting to fall, and it feels good to come back out and have a good game."

Carlton Brown posted 19 points and 13 rebounds while Nick Anderson had a career-high 14 points.

A&M takes on No. 16 Tar Heels for first time since 1980 NCAA tourney win

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Playing the nation's top teams has become the norm in the Big 12 conference. Six league teams went to the NCAA tournament in 1999 alone. But none made it to the Final Four.

Saturday, Texas A&M will take on one of those teams — No. 14 North Carolina at the Houston Charity Classic at the Compaq Center at 8 p.m.

A&M will pit its two straight Top 25 recruiting classes against a North Carolina's squad, which returns four starters and nine lettermen from last season's Final Four team.

"It's here, and our kids are excited about playing the game," said A&M coach Melvin Watkins. "It is good for our program, playing a nationally ranked team, a team with such tradition as North Carolina. "But hopefully it's just the beginning

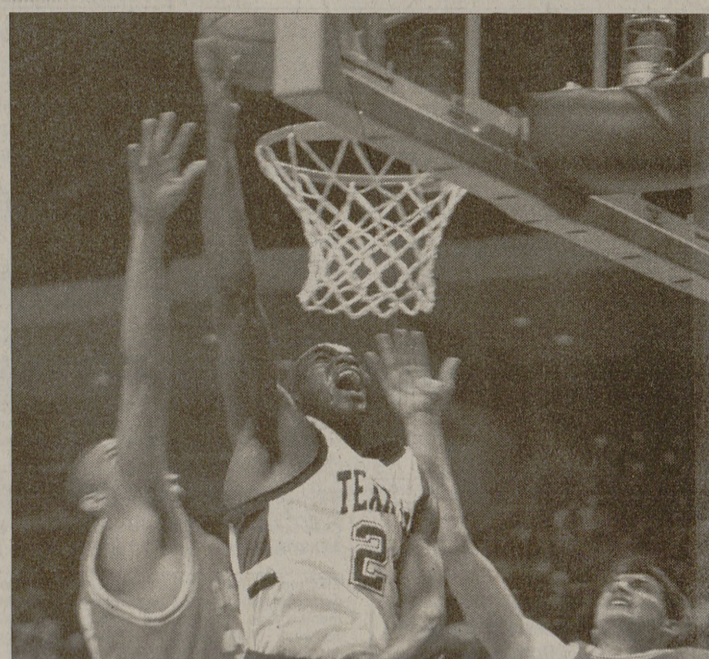
of what we want this program to be. We want to be one of those teams, and the way you do that is to play them."

North Carolina (4-2) handed Miami a 67-45 loss in Chapel Hill on Monday. The Tar Heels' only two losses came to No. 3 Michigan State and Kentucky.

A&M (3-3) is coming off an 83-60 win over Lamar on Tuesday.

"This win gives us a lot of momentum going into North Carolina," said A&M forward Carlton Brown after defeating Lamar. "They're a great team, and we'll need to play our 'A' game against them."

The only other time UNC and A&M have faced off was in the 1980 NCAA tournament in which the Aggies upset the Tar Heels, 78-61, in double overtime to advance to the Sweet 16. The Aggies' 25 points in one overtime and the 17-point winning margin still stand as NCAA tournament records.



PATRIC SCHNEIDER/THE BATTALION
Texas A&M forward Carlton Brown scored 19 points with 13 rebounds against Lamar in Tuesday's 83-60 Aggie win.

A&M women continue home stand

By Brian Ruff
The Battalion

After a 5-1 start to the season, the Texas A&M women's basketball team will close out the Aggies' first home stand at Reed Arena on Sunday when they take on Illinois-Chicago.

The Aggies have won two games in a row, including a 30-point thrashing of Arkansas-Pine Bluff on Nov. 28.

The Flames are led by forwards Kimberly Henry and Amanda Bartz.

A&M is led by Jaynetta Saunders, who is third in scoring in the Big 12, averaging 19.3 points a game. The 5-11 forward is second in the conference in defensive rebounds, with a 7.67 average per game. Saunders is coming off a 25-point performance against UTSA, during which she had 11 rebounds.

True freshman Toccara Williams averages 4.33 steals per

game, good for second in the conference. 6-3 post Lynn Classen is third in the conference in blocks, tallying 1.5 blocks per game.

As a team, the Aggies lead the Big 12 Conference in steals and blocks, averaging 15.33 and 5.33 respectively.

A&M is coming off a 67-54 win over a pesky Texas-San Antonio team. The Aggies were led by Saunders and Brandy Jones, who added nine points, four steals and nine assists to help the Aggies pull away from the Roadrunners late in the second half.

Over the semester break, the team will finish its pre-conference schedule against Texas-Pan American and Pepperdine. The Aggies will host the Aggie Invitational on Dec. 29 and 30.

Big 12 play begins for the Aggies on Jan. 3, when the team will take on the Texas Longhorns in Austin. The game will be regionally televised on Fox Sports Net.

Sports in Brief Freeman leaves A&M for ACU

Texas A&M freshman quarterback Colby Freeman has announced plans to transfer to Abilene Christian University.

"Colby Freeman is a tremendous young man from a great family," said A&M coach R.C. Slocum.

"We hate to see Colby leave but respect his wishes to get more playing time. ... I wish Colby well with this move."

Freeman (6-2, 214 pounds)

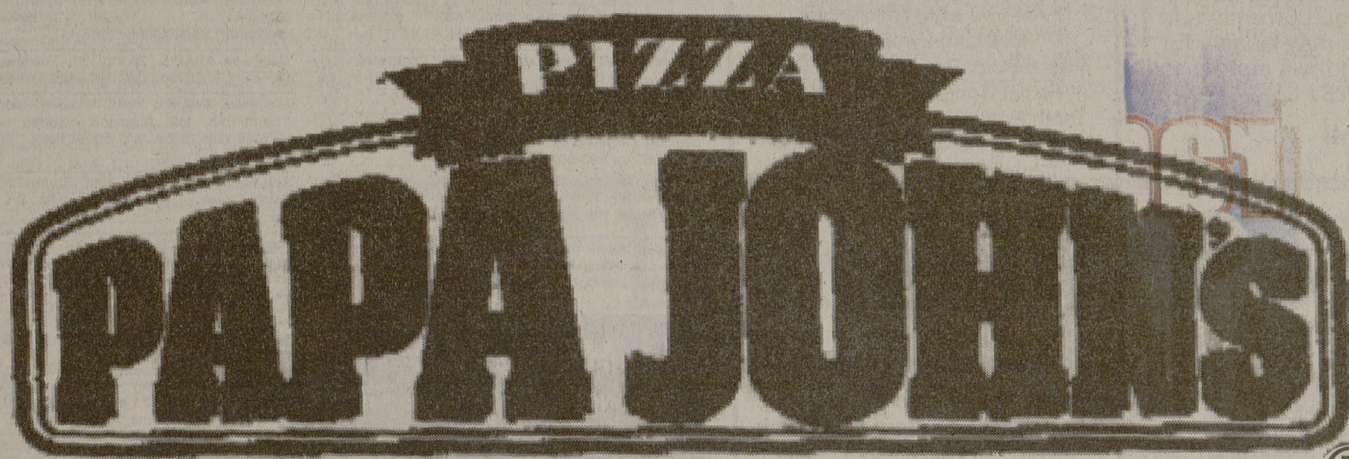
is a redshirt freshman from Brownwood High School. This season, he played in nine games and completed two-of-three passes for 26 yards. He also rushed for 53 yards and a pair of touchdowns.

"Texas A&M is a great school and I've enjoyed my time here, but I think it is in my best interests to move on," Freeman said.

"Overnight, I went from being part of the Aggie family to being the biggest Aggie family outside of that family. I wish the coaches and team all the best."



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