

Aggies fall to Cowboys, 76-64

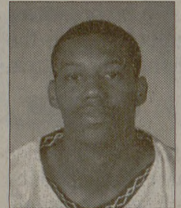
STILLWATER, Okla. (AP) — Maurice Baker scored 22 points and Oklahoma State used a late rally to beat Texas A&M 76-64 Wednesday night.

Oklahoma State (13-3, 4-1 Big 12) outscored the Aggies 14-4 in the final three minutes of the game after the two teams had stayed within five points through the first part of the second half.

A&M (6-12, 0-6) took advantage of cold shooting by OSU and some key 3-pointers by sophomore guard Bernard King and junior guard Andy Leatherman to keep the game close until the end, when OSU made key free throws down the stretch to seal the win.

It was the fifth straight win for OSU and the sixth straight loss for the Aggies.

Baker hit 4-of-7 3-pointers and grabbed 10 rebounds.



KING

Oklahoma State outrebounded the Aggies 46-32, led by 12 from Fredrick Jonzen.

The teams played even through the first seven minutes of the game, but OSU went on a 10-0 run to take a 23-13 lead on a 3-pointer by Victor Williams with 10:35 left in the half.

Then the Cowboys got sloppy. Up 27-18, the Cowboys committed three turnovers and two fouls, and the Aggies cut the lead to 27-23 on a jumper by Carlton Brown with 5:47 left in the half.

The Aggies hung in through the rest of the half and were ready to head to the locker room down just 37-36, but Andre Williams tipped in an inbounds pass at the buzzer to give OSU a 39-36 halftime advantage.

King led the Aggies with 19 points. Leatherman scored 15 and Brown had 14.

Victor Williams had 14 points for the Cowboys.

Olajuwon, Rockets owner meet

HOUSTON (AP) — Hakeem Olajuwon, unhappy with his role on the rebuilding Houston Rockets, met with team owner Les Alexander prior to Wednesday night's game against the Philadelphia 76ers.

"Hakeem and I had a pleasant meeting today, very productive," Alexander said. "We both want the same thing, and that is to win the playoffs."

Asked if that meant Olajuwon would finish out the season with the Rockets, Alexander said: "He'll be here, we'll see. The rest is confidential. Right now we're just trying to win the playoffs."

Olajuwon is in the final year of a contract and earns \$16.5 million this season, making him very difficult to trade. He has played a lesser role this season and asked the Rockets to consider trading or waiving him.

Olajuwon declined comment before the game.

"We both want the same thing, and that is to win the playoffs."

— Les Alexander
Houston Rockets owner

Rockets general manager Carroll Dawson said it was highly unlikely

the Rockets could trade the future Hall of Famer and remain under the salary cap for next season.

The Rockets activated Olajuwon from the team's injured list prior to the game and placed center Kelvin Cato on the injured list with a partially torn left rotator cuff.

Olajuwon, recovering from a cyst on his right knee, had been on the disabled list since Jan. 9 and missed 12 games. Olajuwon has averaged 10.2 points in 29 games this season.

Cato injured his rotator cuff against Sacramento on Jan. 13 and has missed Houston's last five games. Cato also spent time on the injured list from Nov. 9-Dec. 16 with a left ankle sprain.

FRESHMEN

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their success so far this season. Woodard will see more action at the point guard position since sophomore Meg Banahan went down with a season-ending knee injury against Oklahoma. Banahan was a solid player off the bench for the Aggies.

"Cherney is really coming along," Gillom said. "With Meg gone, she is getting more time to play and to practice with the starters."

Woodard, who came from North Side High School in Memphis, was a member of the Nike Stars of the South team before joining the Aggie squad.

"I love their athletic ability. They

are still learning to finish their shots, but, every game these girls are getting better and better," Gillom said.

In Florida, the upstart Williams was a major part of two high school state championship teams, and if her freshmen counterparts continue to improve, Williams may relive those championship days on a collegiate level.



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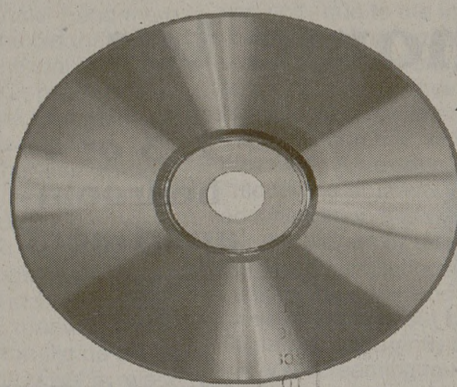
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