

'Horns demolish Aggies in Austin

Men's basketball team's losing streak to Texas reaches 16 games after 81-61 loss

By JASON LINCOLN
The Battalion

AUSTIN — The two worst shooting teams in the Big 12 met for the second time in two weeks.

This time, Texas fixed its shooting woes to break a two game skid with an 81-61 victory over Texas A&M at the Frank Erwin Center.

The Longhorns (16-5, 5-2 in Big 12), who have been shooting under 40 percent for most of the season, drained 59.3 percent of their shots against the Aggies (6-14, 0-8), erasing the memory of a 28-point loss to No. 12 Arizona on Saturday.

"After we had such a bad game in Arizona, we felt like this was a must have for us," said Texas guard Darren Kelly. "Like the Super Bowl was Sunday, this was as big for us."

The 'Horns, who set a new high in field goal percentage on the season, also set a new high in 3-pointers with 11.

"Shooting makes up for a multitude of sins, doesn't it," said Texas coach Rick Barnes.

Meanwhile, the Aggies could not erase any of their problems on the floor, shooting 35.1 percent from the field.

"We gave them some confidence," said A&M men's basketball coach Melvin Watkins. "They had some good looks and they hit them. But where they really did the damage was on the inside. When they established the game, it opened it up on the perimeter."

Sophomore guard Bernard King led the Aggies with 21 points, but just like the last game against the Longhorns, he was the Aggies' only consistent offensive threat.

Earlier in the season against Texas he scored 23 points, the only Aggie scorer in double figures.

Freshman forward Jesse King joined Bernard King on the offensive end Tuesday, scoring 10 points as the first man off the bench for the Aggies.

Bernard King led the Aggies with six rebounds and was the only Aggie to play longer than 30 minutes, despite going to the sidelines and being slowed by what appeared to be his left knee.

Inside the paint, freshman forward Nick Anderson played just 20 minutes before fouling out with 5 points.

The Aggies' inside presence made up of Anderson, sophomore forward Keith Bean and freshman forward Nolan Buttrifras combined for just 15 points and committed 11 fouls.

Kelly led the Longhorns with 19 points, leading four Texas players in double figures. Chris Owens dominated inside with 15 points, along with James Thomas who had 11.

Maurice Evans hit all four of his attempts outside the arc for the Longhorns in scoring 14 points. Brandon Mouton also knocked down all three of his attempts from 3-point range, for nine points.

The Aggies stayed with the 'Horns early as Texas struggled with ball control. Coming off a timeout with the score tied at 18, Texas scored nine straight.

A&M would never get closer than four during the remainder of the game.

Texas opened the second half on a 10-0 run, while A&M missed its first 10 shots, not getting on the scoreboard until Bernard King made a pair of free throws 4 1/2 minutes into the period.

King threw up a half-court shot at the buzzer that banked off the board and into the net, narrowing the margin to 20.

The Aggies have yet to win on the road this season, dropping eight matches in opponents' arenas. A&M remains winless in league play, while the 'Horns have yet to lose in Erwin Center this season.

A&M has now lost 16 straight games against Texas.



FILE PHOTO/THE BATTALION

A&M senior forward Jaynetta Saunders has been the pacesetter for the Aggies this season, leading the Big 12 with 23.4 points per game.

Ags attempt to reach 200th home victory

By BRIAN RUFF
The Battalion

The Texas A&M women's basketball team looks to make the record books tonight at Reed Arena.

With a victory, the Aggies will earn their 200th all-time victory at home. Unfortunately, a red-hot Oklahoma team that just broke the Associated Press top 10 stands in their way.

The Aggies are coming off a disappointing 85-69 loss to the Oklahoma State Cowgirls on Saturday in Stillwater.

Senior forward Jaynetta Saunders led the Aggie squad with 31 points, despite the team shooting a mere 29 percent from the floor in the first half.

"Oklahoma State was one of those games where I think our defense just went away," said A&M women's basketball coach Peggie Gillom. "It wasn't a bad loss for us, but it was one we thought we could get."

The Sooners come in with a No. 10 ranking, on the heels of an upset victory over the then-No. 8 Texas Tech Lady Raiders, 84-66, in Norman.

With the win over Tech, OU moved into a three-way tie for first place in the Big 12 Conference.

The Sooners have also won 10 of their last 11 contests and six games in a row.

See SOONERS on Page 8.



BERNARDO GARZA/THE BATTALION

Keith Bean goes up for a shot over Texas' Brian Boddicker. The Aggies fell to the Longhorns, 81-61, on Tuesday in Austin.



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