

Second half outburst nets A&M 91-70 win

By BRIAN RUFF
THE BATTALION

Coaches have only a few minutes to talk to their team between halves in collegiate basketball. Texas A&M head coach Melvin Watkins made the most of those minutes, causing a change in his team's performance and allowing the Aggies to coast to a 91-70 win over Texas A&M-Kingsville Monday night at Reed Arena.

"We didn't have the right attitude coming out," Watkins said. "We wanted to come out more aggressive, and when we started doing that it became contagious."

The Aggies lit up the scoreboard with 60 points in the second half, their highest scoring output in a single half since the 1988-1989 season.

"He got on us," said A&M junior guard Bernard King. "He came in and said it was time to play. The intensity was high in the second half. We just really played."

A&M-Kingsville out-hustled the Aggies early in the game, getting second chances on most of its shots and capitalizing on 14 Aggie turnovers in the first half.

Just four minutes into the game, A&M-Kingsville guard Kendall Garland hit two consecutive three-pointers, his second after two-straight Javelina offensive rebounds, to give A&M-Kingsville a 12-11 lead.

The Aggies kept the Javelinas within reach, and with less than 2:00 in the half, King rifled a pass in the paint to junior forward Brian Brookhart, who

layed the ball into the basket and was fouled by freshman forward Richard Gonzalez. Brookhart made the free throw, giving the Aggies a 31-30 lead.

The Javelinas jumped back on top to close the first half, scoring three points in the final minute to take a 33-31 lead into the locker room.

The Aggies came out confident, going on a 10-2 run that was all the spark they needed.

Four A&M-Kingsville turnovers started the half and allowed the Aggies to pull away, capitalizing on 13 Javelina turnovers in the second half.

Junior forward Keith Bean led the Aggie charge in the second half, scoring 17 points and going a perfect eight-for-eight from the floor.

"I felt great," Bean said. "I tried to score every time or kick it out when they double-teamed me. I felt like Bernard [King] a little bit."

With 11:00 left in the game, Bean began his scoring streak, hitting a shot while being fouled. Bean was unable to convert the free throw, but King came down with the rebound and found Bean near the basket. The 6-foot-8-inch Bean layed the ball in for his fourth-straight point.

Bean's streak was not complete and he was fouled once again on a lay-up on the Aggies next possession and this time, converted on the free throw to give the Aggies a 59-48 lead.

After pulling down a defensive rebound, Bean found his way under the basket again, where he scored on a lay-up off an assist by King for his ninth-



Junior forward **Keith Bean** gets fouled going up for a shot during A&M's 91-70 win over Texas A&M-Kingsville Monday night at Reed Arena. Bean led the Aggies in scoring with 20 points.

See DOMINATE on page 10.

A&M volleyball earns host site for NCAA tournament

By DOUG FUENTES
THE BATTALION

The No. 15 Texas A&M volleyball team received its ninth consecutive at-large berth to the NCAA Championship and will host the first and second rounds, the NCAA announced Monday.

The Aggies (23-5), seeded 11th in the 64-team field, face the University of Texas-

Arlington (22-11) in first-round action Friday, Nov. 30 at 7 p.m. at G. Rollie White Coliseum.

Northeastern University (23-10) and the University of Texas-Austin (16-13) also have been sent to College Station and will meet at 5 p.m. Friday. The winners of the first-round matches will square off Saturday at 7 p.m. at G. Rollie.

A&M, making its 13th overall

NCAA appearance, enters the tournament riding a two-match winning streak after sweeping both Texas and Texas Tech last week in College Station to finish second place in the Big 12 Conference with a 16-4 mark.

The Aggies, who have never lost an NCAA first-round match under ninth-year head coach Laurie Corbelli, sport a 13-12 all-time record in the

NCAA tournament.

A&M's best finish in the NCAAAs was in 1999 when the Aggies advanced to the Elite Eight after sweeping both Stephen F. Austin and North Carolina in College Station and then upsetting No. 3 Hawaii, the top seed in the Mountain Regional, in four games in Honolulu.

The Aggies were eliminated

by No. 6 and Final Four-bound, Long Beach State.

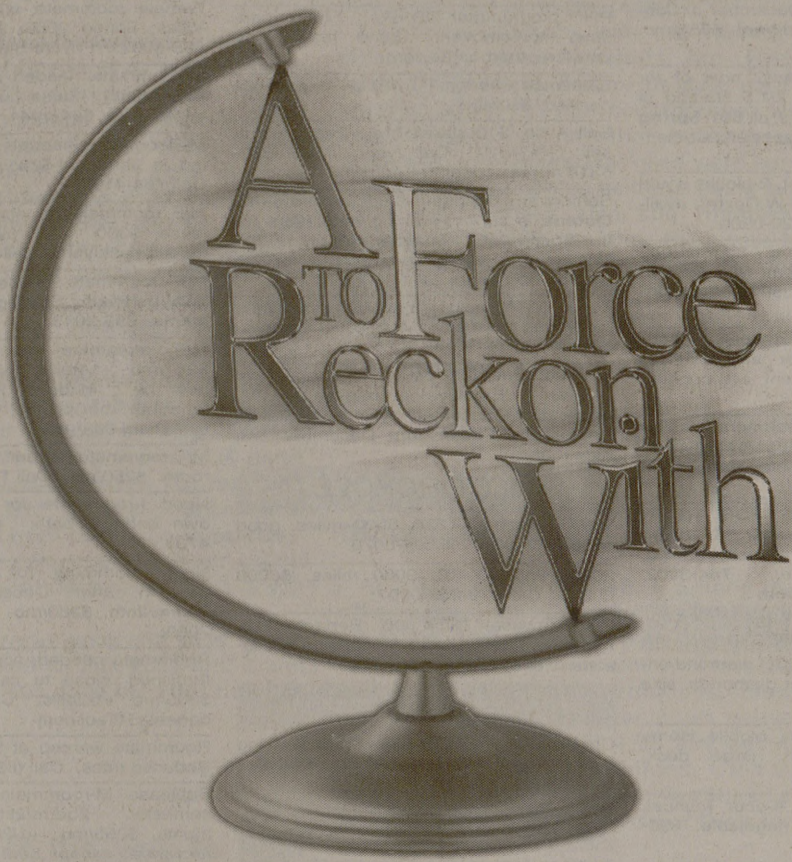
Last year, A&M was sent to Stockton, Calif., where the Aggies defeated Houston in the first round and were eliminated by host Pacific in the second round.

UTA, which received an automatic berth by winning the Southland Conference tournament, is making its seventh appearance in the NCAAAs and

its first since 1990. The Northeastern Huskies are headed to their first NCAA Volleyball Championship after receiving an automatic bid by winning the America East Conference tournament.

The winner of the second round match will advance to regional play, Dec. 6-9, at one of four campus locations yet to be determined.

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