

Ags outlast Bears, 63-60

Bean keys big win by Aggies

By True Brown
THE BATTALION

Saturday's win by the Texas A&M men's basketball team may have been the biggest of the season. The 63-60 victory over Baylor was not only A&M's first in nearly a month, it was also the first conference win for the struggling Aggies (7-11, 1-3 Big 12).

"This win is so important," said A&M head coach Melvin Watkins. "The guys have been working hard in practice, and the best reward is to get a win. We've been going some tough places to get that win and it may have been too much for them, but to be at home with a great crowd surely helps."

How the Aggies got the win is equally important.

A&M had four players score in double figures, including junior forward Keith Bean's double-double. The Aggies posted their fifth highest field goal percentage of the season, hitting on 47.9 percent. Meanwhile, Baylor (12-6, 2-3) had just one player score more than 10 points.

Bean led A&M with 15 points and 12 rebounds.

"If you look at the last two or three games, Keith has been playing pretty good," Watkins said. "We need to keep him going. We've talked to him about being aggressive and being ready. He's starting to listen and good things are starting to happen for him."

The Aggies held Lawrence Roberts and John Lucas, Baylor's two leading scorers, to a combined 11 points. Junior guard Bradley Jackson played 33 minutes, blanketing Lucas and holding him to his lowest point output since Dec. 21.



A&M senior guard Andy Leatherman tries to pass around Baylor's R.T. Guinn during the Aggies' 63-60 win Saturday. Leatherman scored eight points and had four assists.

"We challenged [Jackson] before the game to come out and be aggressive," Watkins said. "He did an excellent job of being very conscious of where [Lucas] was and making sure that if he got something, he had to work for it."

Baylor started the game hot, taking an early 20-10 lead. A&M found its shooting touch in the closing minutes of the first half and trailed by six points at the break, 34-28.

Sophomore guard Dylan Leal

gave the Aggies their first lead when he hit a 3-pointer six minutes into the second half, and the Aggies never trailed again.

Roberts, Baylor's biggest inside threat, was hampered by foul trouble throughout the game and fouled out with 8:46 remaining. Roberts' limited play allowed the Aggies to dominate the Bears in the paint, out rebounding

See **Bean** on page 6B

Offenses come up big in divisional playoffs

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Bill Cowher's forte as a player was special teams. His area of expertise as an assistant coach was defense.

So what did the Pittsburgh coach want to talk about Monday? The Steelers' offense.

"We've always been a team that says, 'We're going to run the football.' There was never any question we could do that," Cowher said as he began preparation for Sunday's AFC title game against New England. "But if we have to throw the football, there's a confidence about that now. The confidence that's always been there on defense is there on offense right now."

That was one of the anomalies about this weekend's games to determine the conference finalists: The Steelers and Rams, the heavy favorites to be playing in the Super Bowl a week from Sunday, both won thanks to top production from

their perceived weaknesses.

The offensive-minded Rams play much better defense than they're given credit for. Similarly, the defensive-minded Steelers are good on offense, too.

St. Louis, playing in its dome, was an early 11 1/2-point favorite over Philadelphia, which it beat in overtime on the road on opening day. The Steelers were 7 1/2-point favorites over New England.

Both seem to be peaking at the right time.

The Rams beat Green Bay 45-17 Sunday, but the surprise wasn't so much the 45 points as the way they came: 28 off six interceptions on a day when the offense had its worst game statistically this season, with just 292 yards from scrimmage.

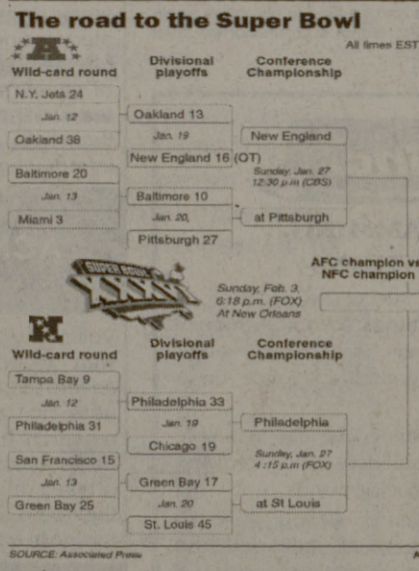
"It's a great luxury when you don't always have to make big plays," said Kurt Warner, who usually makes a bundle of them.

The Steelers held Baltimore to just 150 yards — under 100 in the first three quarters — in their 27-10 victory, which eliminated the defending champions.

That kind of defense is standard from these Steelers.

But Pittsburgh also made big plays on offense — particularly early, helping it open a 20-0 lead. Amos Zereoue, pressed into service when a shot to relieve the pain in Jerome Bettis' injured groin hit the wrong nerve, ran for 12 yards on the first play from scrimmage. That set the tone for a game in which the Steelers moved the ball well.

"A lot of people don't understand what we can do with the offense," said Hines Ward, whose 94 receptions



See **NFL** on page 6B

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<p>GET A GREAT JOB WITH REC SPORTS</p> <p>•Maintenance Assistants—Help maintain Rec Sports facilities. Applications available in room 202.</p> <p>•Personal Trainers Needed—Help shape healthier Aggies! Applications are available in room 202 and current Personal Trainer/CPR Certification is required.</p> <p>•Intramural Officials—No experience necessary. Make money working flexible hours, meeting new people, and receive paid training! Attend an orientation clinic to be hired.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Orientation Clinic</th> <th>Date/Time/Location</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Basketball</td> <td>Jan. 22/7:00pm/281 Rec</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Slow Pitch Softball</td> <td>Jan. 28/7:00pm/281 Rec</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Outdoor Soccer</td> <td>Jan. 28/7:00pm/281 Rec</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sand Volleyball</td> <td>Feb. 11/7:00pm/281 Rec</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4-on-4 Flag Football</td> <td>Feb. 18/7:00pm/281 Rec</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>•Multimedia Marketing Assistant—Powerpoint, Photoshop and other multimedia skills sought. Applications in room 202.</p> <p>•Photographers Needed—Great portfolio building opportunity! Applications available, room 202, 845-1001 for more info.</p> <p>•Lifeguards Needed—Get a great job in a setting you love! Applications are available in room 202. For more information contact Elizabeth Caraway at 862-4968.</p>	Orientation Clinic	Date/Time/Location	Basketball	Jan. 22/7:00pm/281 Rec	Slow Pitch Softball	Jan. 28/7:00pm/281 Rec	Outdoor Soccer	Jan. 28/7:00pm/281 Rec	Sand Volleyball	Feb. 11/7:00pm/281 Rec	4-on-4 Flag Football	Feb. 18/7:00pm/281 Rec	<p>MAKE A SPLASH WITH AQUATICS</p> <p>•Adult Learn To Swim—Learn to swim in a comfortable environment. Register January 14th-March 17th. Classes will be held March 18th-28th or May 13th-23rd from 7:30-8:15 p.m. Cost starts at \$25 for Rec Members.</p> <p>•FREE! Polar Bear Club—The 'Polar Bear Club' is a self-paced aquatics fitness program.</p>	<p>EXPLORE WITH TAMU OUTDOORS</p> <p>•UNIQUE Spring Break Trips!—Sign up today at TAMU! Outdoors for these unique and competitively priced vacation packages.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Upcoming Events</th> <th>Registration</th> <th>Event Date</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Intro Rock Climbing</td> <td>Jan. 16-Jan. 24</td> <td>Jan. 26</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Late Nite Rock Show</td> <td>Night of Event</td> <td>Jan. 29</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lead Climbing</td> <td>Jan. 22-Feb. 4</td> <td>Feb. 5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Women's Rock Climbing</td> <td>Jan. 22-Feb. 14</td> <td>Feb. 16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Backpacking Trip</td> <td>Jan. 22-Feb. 19</td> <td>Feb. 22-24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Caving Day Trip</td> <td>Jan. 22-Feb. 19</td> <td>Feb. 23</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>•Rec Center Rock Wall—Come climb to the highest point in the Texas A&M University Rec Center. One of the tallest climbing walls on any university campus is waiting for you!</p> <p>Hours of Operation</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Day</th> <th>Hours</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Sunday-Thursday</td> <td>climb from 2:00pm-10:00pm</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Friday</td> <td>climb from 2:00pm-8:00pm</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Saturday</td> <td>climb from 12:00pm noon-6:00pm</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>In order to take advantage of this resource, you need to sign up for an orientation class or skills check, depending on your climbing experience. Classes are taught Mondays-Thursdays 3:00pm-7:00pm or on Fridays at 3:00pm. If you are an experienced climber, you may take the short skills check instead. Visit the Rock Wall Desk at Equipment Etc. for more on-site information.</p>	Upcoming Events	Registration	Event Date	Intro Rock Climbing	Jan. 16-Jan. 24	Jan. 26	Late Nite Rock Show	Night of Event	Jan. 29	Lead Climbing	Jan. 22-Feb. 4	Feb. 5	Women's Rock Climbing	Jan. 22-Feb. 14	Feb. 16	Backpacking Trip	Jan. 22-Feb. 19	Feb. 22-24	Caving Day Trip	Jan. 22-Feb. 19	Feb. 23	Day	Hours	Sunday-Thursday	climb from 2:00pm-10:00pm	Friday	climb from 2:00pm-8:00pm	Saturday	climb from 12:00pm noon-6:00pm
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