

SPORTS

THE BATTALION

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Aggies fall to No. 12 Kansas 71-65

Wright scores 25 points to lead Aggies in close home loss

By Troy Miller
THE BATTALION

Out-playing one of the best programs in college basketball history has never been a Texas A&M tradition. Losing, however, as the Aggies (8-6, 0-2 Big 12) lost to No. 12 Kansas, 71-65 Saturday, is still a tradition that is intact — at least for now.

"I think that (the Aggies) have the pieces," said Kansas head coach Bill Self. "They totally dominated us physically. I knew that they had athletes, but they were far superior athletically today than we were."

According to the history of A&M basketball, the Aggies aren't supposed to play this well. The Aggies out-rebounded Kansas 40-35 and had more assists than Kansas, which boasts Aaron Miles as one of the premiere point guards in the nation, 20-19. A&M also committed three less turnovers than the Jayhawks.

In the end, though, it was the Aggies' shooting that did them in. A&M shot just 36.4 percent from the floor, and hit only six of 28 three-point attempts.

"Some of the guys' shots didn't go down that they normally hit," said A&M sophomore guard/forward Antoine Wright. "I don't think it was because of the contested shots, I think it was guys rushing shots. I think it was more us than (Kansas)."

Kansas' shooting had far better success. The Jayhawks hit two more field goals than the Aggies despite shooting 15 fewer shots, including an astounding

six of 10 from three-point range.

After picking up two quick fouls and watching much of the first half from the bench, Kansas junior guard Keith Langford re-entered the game with just more than four minutes remaining in the half. He immediately scored 10 straight points for the Jayhawks, including two three-pointers, to give Kansas its first lead of the game since the 18:58 mark.

Langford led the Jayhawks with 21 points, missing just one shot from the field.

"I've (picked up two early fouls) before this year at Michigan State and against TCU," Langford said. "It's all about keeping your head in the game."

The beginning of the second half saw Kansas freshman guard J.R. Giddens take over where Langford left off as he buried three three-pointers to push the Jayhawks out to a 10-point lead. Giddens finished the game with 14 points and four three-point field goals.

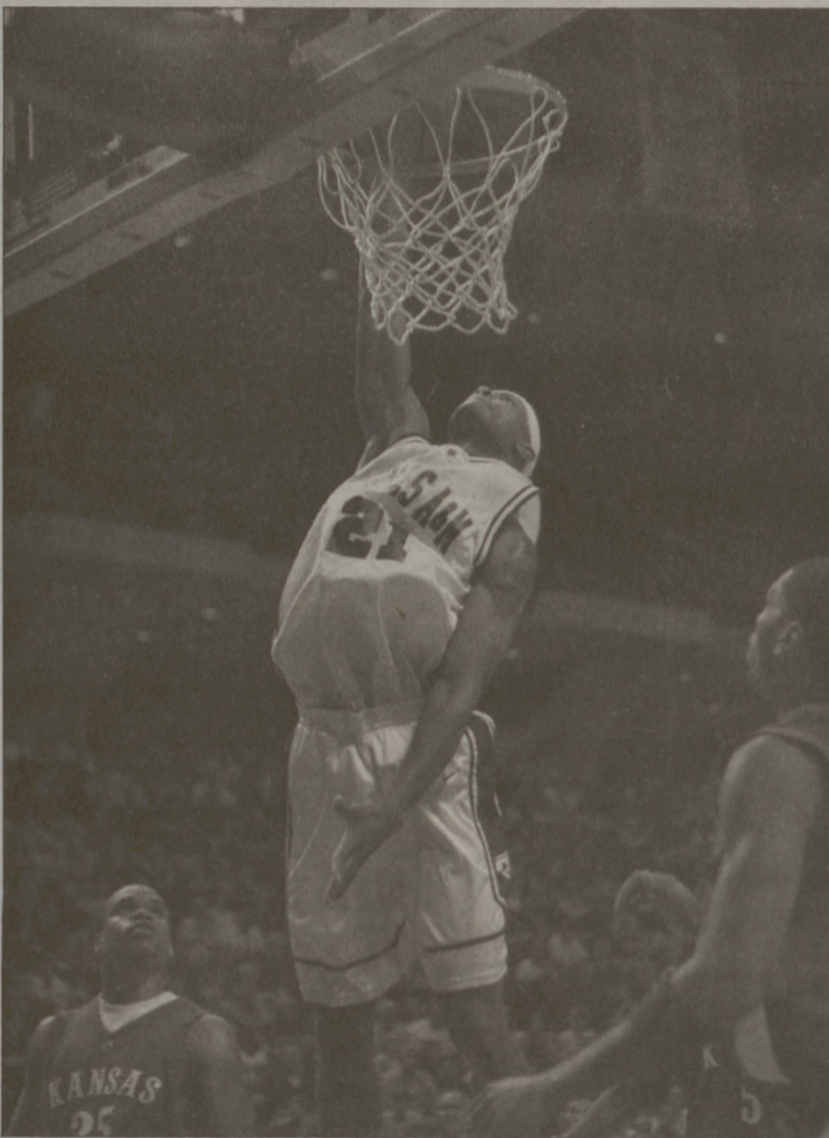
Although the Kansas lead never diminished, the

Aggies were certainly never out of it due largely to Wright's 25 points and 12 rebounds and senior center Andy Slocum's control of the paint.

Slocum held Kansas' post duo of senior Jeff Graves and junior Wayne Simien to 17 combined points and just eight combined rebounds while collecting 14 rebounds of his own.

"I personally love Slocum," Self said. "He's a guy I'd love to have, and Antoine Wright is as good a scorer as there is in the league."

Despite the effort, the Aggies never



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Sophomore guard/forward Antoine Wright dunks while Kansas players look on in the Jayhawks 71-65 win over the Aggies. For more game photos visit www.thebatt.com.

got within four points after missing two key three-point attempts in the final minute that would have gotten the Aggies within striking distance.

"We had a game plan to collapse inside and take away easy buckets on the

inside," said A&M head coach Melvin Watkins. "Their perimeter players stepped up and hit some big buckets. That's what good teams do, you take away one thing and they find another way to beat you."

Cassidy takes job at Nebraska

By Troy Miller
THE BATTALION

After serving as recruiting coordinator for the Texas A&M football team for 15 years, Tim Cassidy has accepted the associate athletic director for football position at the University of Nebraska.

Cassidy is the latest addition to

Nebraska's rebuilding efforts. The university recently hired new football coach Bill Callahan, who was head coach of the Oakland Raiders in the NFL last season.



CASSIDY

Cassidy will serve as the head of Nebraska football operations, coordinate on-campus recruiting efforts and work closely with Nebraska Athletic Director Steve Pederson as a member of Pederson's executive team.

"Administration of a top college football program takes an organized, thorough and intelligent person," Pederson said. "Tim Cassidy brings all those things to the table."

Going to Nebraska is a bit of a homecoming for Cassidy and his family. Cassidy is a native of Omaha. His wife Nancy, an accounting lecturer at A&M, is also originally from Nebraska.

Cassidy will join an athletic department that A&M Athletic Director Bill Byrne knows well. Byrne served as athletic director at Nebraska for 10 years before leaving to take over at A&M.

"Tim has been a valuable member of our senior staff and we would like to

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