

SPORTS

THE BATTALION

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No. 18 Texas Tech escapes Reed Arena 80-78

Controversial no-call in final seconds leave Aggies winless in Big 12 conference

By Troy Miller
THE BATTALION

No. 18 Texas Tech escaped Reed Arena Saturday night with an 80-78 victory over Texas A&M, but not without a little bit of controversy.

With just more than 10 seconds remaining and the score tied at 78, Red Raider senior guard/forward Andre Emmett spun on three Aggie defenders, hopped into the lane and laid up a 10-foot shot that banked in off the glass to give Texas Tech (16-2, 4-0 Big 12) the win.

Emmett did all that after picking up his dribble, but the traveling violation was never called.

"I can't say what I want to say," said A&M head coach Melvin Watkins. "Yes (I thought Emmett traveled). I'm not going to let that one play get us down."

After A&M senior forward Jesse King put back a missed shot by senior guard Leandro Garcia-Morales to tie the game with 20.4 seconds remaining, all 12,124 fans in attendance knew Red Raider head coach Bobby Knight wanted the ball in Emmett's hands.

But even with three defenders on Emmett, the Texas Tech star was able to score.

"I did see an opening towards the end," Emmett said. "I dribbled into (A&M senior center Andy) Slocum and then went towards the middle. I saw a little crease so I took the shot."

Emmett led all scorers with 23 points, hitting nine of 13 in the game.

With 6.6 seconds remaining, the Aggies had one chance left.

Sophomore guard/forward Antoine Wright rebounded the ball to Garcia-Morales, who dribbled the length of the court and put up a three-point shot from the top of the key that bounced off the front of the rim as time expired.

Watkins said the play was drawn up to go to freshman point guard Acie Law IV, but he was blanketed by the Red Raider defense. The second option was Garcia-Morales.

"They denied me the ball," Law said. "We got it into Leandro. Unfortunately it fell a little bit short."

Both teams shot more than 50 percent in the game, but Texas Tech shot a season-high 61.5 percent from the floor.

"Had we lost it would have been a really tough loss for us," Knight said. "No doubt it's a really tough loss for A&M. It was obviously a real battle from beginning to end."

After A&M took the early lead, Texas Tech stormed out in front by as many as 12 points with 4:47 left in the first half. At times it looked as though the Red Raiders were ready to blow out the Aggies, but A&M fought back to within three points by halftime.

The second half was a much closer battle. Every time one team seemed to gain momentum, the other would answer right back with neither team gaining a lead of more than five.

With 3:04 left to play, the Raiders began to gain control, leading 73-68 after a pair of free throws from senior guard Mikey Marshall, but Law answered with a three-pointer 34 seconds



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later to pull the Aggies within two.

After Marshall converted on a three-point play to put the Raiders up 76-73 with 1:30 left, it was Law again who answered back by driving the length of the court to hit a basket while drawing a foul. He converted the free throw to tie the game at 76.

Law led the Aggies with 14 points in 20 min-

utes of playing time.

"That was a huge basket," Knight said of Law's three-pointer. "I thought that was the biggest basket of the game next to the bucket Emmett got at the end."

After four Big 12 conference games, the Aggies are still winless, but they have had a chance to win all of them. Just like Garcia-

Morales' last second shot Saturday, the Aggies have fallen a little bit short.

A&M will travel to Ames, Iowa, Wednesday night to face Iowa State.

"I'm not down," Watkins said. "I'm disappointed, but not down. I can feel good about what we are doing in practice and the fact that we are being competitive. We are not down."



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TOP: A&M freshman point guard Acie Law IV drives to the basket on Texas Tech junior guard Devonne Giles during the Aggies' loss to the Red Raiders on Saturday. Law scored 14 points in 20 minutes of play.

LEFT: A&M sophomore guard/forward Antoine Wright buries his head in his jersey following the Aggies' 80-78 loss to No. 18 Texas Tech. Wright had 10 points and three rebounds in 25 minutes of action.

Aggie women fall short, lose to No. 3 Texas, 64-62

Senior Toccarra Williams moves to second in steals in Big 12 conference all-time

By Brad Bennett
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M head coach Gary Blair came close to leading a student parade to the Dixie Chicken on Sunday, a reward he promised if his women's basketball team beat No. 3 University of Texas.

The lead changed hands six times during a game that was hotly contested into the final minute. In the end though, it was the Longhorns (17-2, 5-1 Big 12) who prevailed, 64-62.

"Sometimes you just survive," said Longhorn coach Jody Conradt.

The Aggies (7-10, 0-6) led as late as 4:15 in the second, but could never recover after Texas guard Heather Schrieber hit a three-point shot to put Texas up by four with 2:08 to play.

"(Schrieber) hit some key shots when she was open," said A&M senior point guard Toccarra Williams.

Williams, whose 40 minutes of playing time dominated the Aggie offense, set career highs in scoring and steals with 24 points and nine steals. Williams moved past the 400 career steal mark (403), making her No. 12 all-time in steals in the NCAA and No. 2 all-time in the Big 12. She is only the fourth NCAA player to accumulate 1,000 points, 500 rebounds, 600 assists and 400 steals in her career.

The Aggies had 13 points off 22 Longhorn turnovers while Texas only had three.

"We stayed in the game because of our turnovers," Blair said. "We only had six in the whole ball game, two or three at the half. That says a lot for one of the best point guards in the country (Texas junior Jamie Carey)."

Even though the Aggies took 26 more shots than the Longhorns, Texas scoring percentage was 48.9 percent compared with the Aggies 31.5 percent.

It was Texas freshman forward Tiffany Jackson, who came off the bench to play 32 minutes, that led Texas to victory.

Jackson had her second double-double of the year, ending the night with 15 points, 11 rebounds and four blocks — the team high in each category.

Jackson's block of A&M senior forward Janae Derrick with 19 seconds left took away hope of the Aggies making up the four point margin.

Jackson said she was able to maximize on A&M covering Schrieber outside opening up the paint.

"(A&M was) making it really hard for our guards to get the ball in the wings," Jackson said. "It opened up a lot of things down low."

Schrieber also had a double-double on Sunday with 11 points

and 11 rebounds.

Texas out-rebounded A&M 46 to 32, including a pivotal 34-to-15 margin on the Aggie half of the court.

Aggie sophomore guard Erica Roy fouled out at the 4:38 mark, ending her successful coverage of Schrieber, who leads Texas in scoring with 12.7 points a game, but was held to only two in the first half.

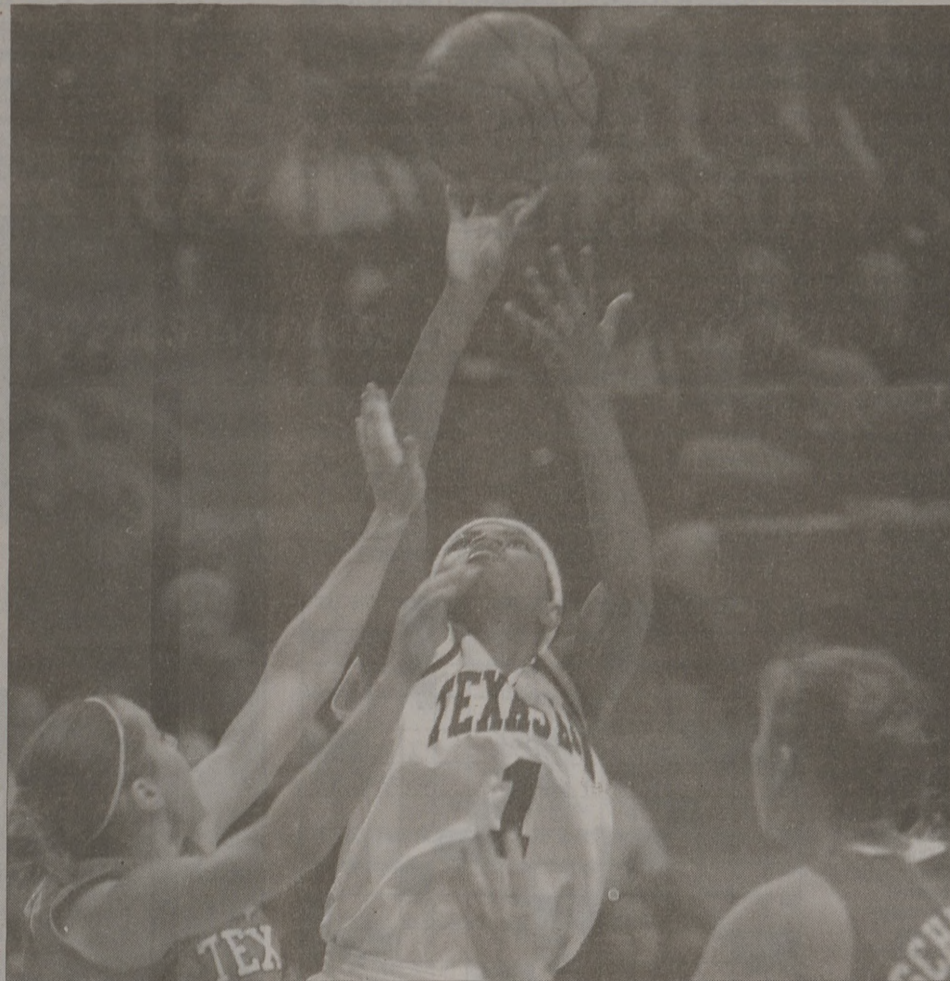
Williams' 31 attempted shots, 29 field goals and two three-pointers, was almost one-half on the teams 73 total. Blair said that he would like to see other players taking more shots, but supports Williams taking so many because of the situation.

"She is having to put up more shots because we can rebound off her shots," Blair said. "She knows she shouldn't be shooting that many times, but right now that is all we have."

The Aggies have only won a single game in their last nine tries, dropping six straight conference games.

Blair said a win is coming, and Williams said the team will be in good spirits as it travels to Lubbock to play No. 3 Texas Tech (16-2, 3-2) next Wednesday.

"We aren't going to let this game get us down, we played extremely well from start to finish," Williams said.



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A&M senior guard Toccarra Williams shoots over two Texas defenders during the Aggies' 64-62 loss. Williams became the fourth player in NCAA history to have 1,000 points, 500 rebounds, 600 assists and 400 steals in her career.