A&M swats MSU

Men's basketball begins

FOR THE WICHITAN

The Texas A&M men's basketball team used a 12-0 run early in the second half to break open a tight game with the Midwestern State University Mustangs, then cruised to a 79-54 victory.

MSU battled during the first half, trailing 28-25 at the break.

But foul trouble caught up with the Mustangs, as senior Eric Dawson picked up two quick fouls and left the game near the 17 minute mark in the second half. That's when the Aggie inside game took over and built a lead MSU could not recover.

Dawson led MSU with 14 points and five rebounds, while Chad Rickett collected 11 points.

Drew Coffman dished out six assists to lead MSU in that category.

Texas A&M got a double-double from Antanas Kavaliauskas who got 24 points and 10 rebounds, while Dominque Kirk added 15 points and seven boards.

"I'm proud of the way our guys competed against a very talented Big 12 team," said MSU coach Jeff Ray. "We got a lot out of the game."

MSU has one more exhibition game next Thursday when it hosts Oklahoma City at D.L. Ligon Coliseum.

A giant billboard supporting Ross Harrison and Daniel Polk's quest for the MSU career rushing record was created to keep fans updated. The record is currently held by Indianapolis Colt's running back, Dominic Rhodes. Harrison has been battling a foot injury but Polk only needs 208 yards to beat Rhodes' 2,541 yard record.

ADRIAN MCCANDLESS | THE WICHITAN

Romo in for Boys

MCCLACHY TRIBUNE
STAFF REPORTER

Don Meredith helped shape the image of the Cowboys. Roger Staubach took it to greater heights.

Troy Aikman polished the image and continued the organization's success.

And now the Cowboys' starting quarterback is Tony Romo, who, until weeks ago had not thrown a pass in a regular-season game in his four NFL seasons.

Coach Bill Parcells announced that Romo would be his starter, replacing veteran Drew Bledsoe, whose inconsistency has played a part in the Cowboys' horrible start.

"I just need to make an attempt to do something that alters kind of what we have been," Parcells said.

Parcells met with Romo and Bledsoe individually.

"There's no doubt this is an extremely disappointing situation for me," Bledsoe said after the announcement. "This is not how I would have ever imagined things going."

Romo was not available for comment.

Parcells told the rest of the team of the move in a meeting.

"If they had an opinion on it, they would be wise to keep it to themselves," Parcells said.

Quarterback controversies are nothing new to the Cowboys, starting with Eddie LeBaron and Meredith in the franchise's early years, and continuing with Craig Morton and Staubach in the 1970s, Danny White and Gary Hogeboom in the `80s and Aikman and Steve Walsh in the early `90s.

"The thing we've been trying to prevent is a split in the locker room over the quarterback situation," linebacker Bradie James said. "The best thing for us is to embrace whoever it is."

Earlier this season, Bledsoe became the 13th quarterback in NFL history to throw 250 touchdown passes in a career. His 44,611 passing yards is seventh all-time.

"Bledsoe is my guy," said receiver Terry Glenn, who has caught 31 touchdowns from Bledsoe. "I wish things weren't going the way they are, but obviously the coaching staff sees something. If it's time to make a change, then I guess it is. I'm not coaching the team. I'm just out here playing, and I want to win, whoever's out there. Let's play and win."

Despite his lack of regular-season experience, Romo, who joined the Cowboys as an undrafted free agent in 2003, does not lack confidence.

His teammates like his swagger and ability to get rid of the ball. Part of the reason for the switch is his ability to scramble away from pressure, something Bledsoe could not do as well.