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# Dynamic duo zaps Rice

## Thornton, Joseph team to pace Aggies

By KEVIN COFFEY  
Sports Editor

HOUSTON—A&M's new found dynamic duo put the zap to the Rice Owls here last night 96-82 as the Ags posted their first Southwest Conference road win this season.

Being philanthropic as Bruce Wayne himself, John Thornton and Cedric Joseph each shared the spotlight with an outstanding half of basketball apiece.

Thornton hit 19 of his 24 points in the first stanza when the Aggie offense seemed to be spinning its wheels. The 6-7 forward cash-

ed in for five points on technicals and pumped in six of nine shots.

Joseph dipped in 23 of his 25 tallies in the second period as the Ags finally broke open a close contest midway through that stanza. Joseph, taking advantage of his speed advantage over 7-0 Dave Kisker, hit a variety of hook shots and short jumpers to pace the A&M scoring attack.

Joseph and Thornton were not without able assistance as Mike Johnson and Ray Roberts chipped in clutch performances.

Johnson hit 14 points and handed out five assists while handling the Rice press with ease. The Chicago native and Charlie Jenkins lead A&M attack with only 12 turnovers, the lowest total of the season.

Roberts hit eight points in each half to turn in the most consistent performance by an Aggie. Jerry Mercer added 10 points for A&M.

The Ags trailed most of the first half by three points. They managed to tie the score at 28-all with 5:29 before intermission but Rice managed a 43-42 half-time lead.

Play was slow and sloppy the first six minutes with Thornton supplying almost all the A&M punch.

Second half action started with another five minutes of dull basketball, then A&M exploded. Johnson, Joseph and Thornton pulled the Ags to a 51-61 lead with 14:32 remaining. Stretching the lead to 55-67 two minutes later, everything looked rosey for the Maroon and White.

A&M then went scoreless for three minutes, enabling Rice to score 10 straight points. The Owls rode the hot outside shooting of Scott Fisher and strong inside play of John Kabbes in their comeback attempt. It was to no avail.

Joseph then went to work on Kisker. Forced to seek help from

the bench due to foul trouble, Rice coach Don Knodel never found it. Joseph turned Kisker every way but loose and when the smoke cleared A&M had the contest iced away.

Johnson, a freshman, handled the team like a senior. With Mike Floyd still ailing and Jenkins in need of a breather, the Chicago native took full command.

"I felt like I had control of the tempo," said Johnson. "A win on the road sure will make the ride home seem shorter."

Leading scorer Randy Knowles was held to three points. Saddled most of the game with foul trouble, the 6-6 senior managed just five shots, two coming in desperate attempts to avoid 30 second violations.

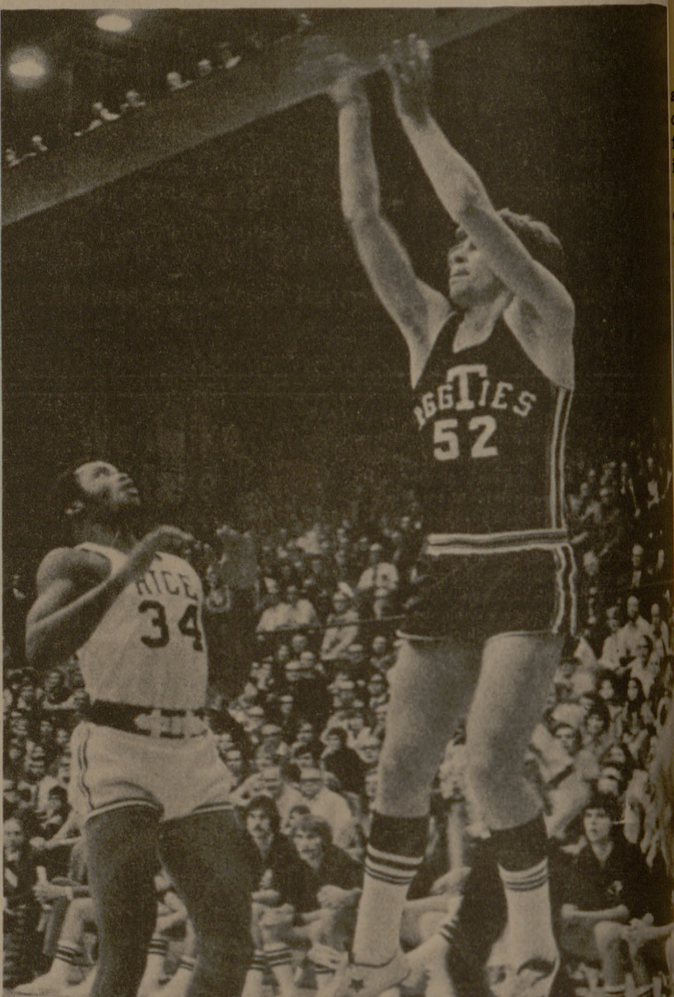
"He (Kisker) was just too slow," said Joseph. "I could move around him and everybody got me the ball. Just being big isn't enough, you got to be able to move."

A&M out rebounded the Owls 42-40 with Thornton's seven carous leading the way. Danny Carroll had eight for Rice.

Moriarty hit 25 points for Rice. Fisher chipped in 19.

A&M ran its record to 14-9 with a 6-5 conference mark.

Rice is now 10-14 and 4-7.



SMASH, POW ZIP and it's two points for John Thornton (52). Thornton hit 19 points in the first half to team with Cedric Joseph in leading the Aggie charge past Rice. (Photo by Alan Killingsworth)

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### Yell practice set Friday

A yell practice will be held Friday night at 10:00 to support the streaking Aggie basketball team before Saturday's big game with Texas. The morale booster, first since 1969, will be held in the civilian quad between Moore and Moses Halls.

The Yell Leaders urge everyone to attend and support the team in their quest to finish the season without a loss.

### Netmen shutout SHS

The A&M Tennis team, forgetting to lose a consolation match for the fifth time this season, left Huntsville with another shutout over Sam Houston State.

In a return match with the Bearcats, the Ags prevailed with only one match going three sets. Bill Wright was impressive in singles competition winning over Mike Long, 6-0, 6-0. Mark Silberman and John Kirwan, both won in straight sets, all going 6-2. Tom Courson took Mark Handel

### Intramural Results

- Class A Racquetball**  
H-1 over K-1  
L-2 over A-1  
F-1 over Squadron 4
- Class C Softball**  
Davis-Gary over Leggett  
Hart over Hotard  
Crocker over Walton  
Law over McInnie  
Dunn over White  
Puryear over Schumacher
- Class G Softball**  
Krueger over Squadron 5 Girls
- Class Z Softball**  
BSU No. 1 over Leggett No. 3  
Magical over Puryear Z
- There will be a fast pitch softball league managers meeting at 5:00, Feb. 27 in room 230 of G. Rollie White Coliseum. The league is open to faculty, staff and students. Entries will be taken at the meeting only.

### Top twenty

The Top Twenty, with first-place votes in parentheses, season records through Saturday and total points. Points tabulated on basis of 20-18-16-14-12-10-9-8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1:

1. N. Car. St. (30)	20-1	1,034
2. Notre Dame (22)	20-1	1,018
3. UCLA (3)	18-3	842
4. Vanderbilt (1)	20-1	698
5. Maryland	17-4	655
6. N. Carolina	18-3	602
7. Pittsburgh	21-1	493
8. Alabama	18-3	383
9. Marquette	19-3	379
10. Indiana	16-3	296
11. Providence	21-3	285
12. Southern Cal.	18-3	280
13. Long Beach St.	20-2	249
14. S. Carolina	16-4	80
15. Creighton	19-4	62
16. Kansas	16-5	41
17. Utah	17-5	40
18. Kansas St.	17-5	35
19. Michigan	16-4	21
20. Louisville	15-5	19

Other receiving votes, listed alphabetically: Centenary, Cincinnati, Jacksonville, Maryland-Eastern Shore, Memphis State, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Oral Roberts, Oregon, Oregon State, Penn., Purdue, Southern Alabama, Southern Illinois.

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