

the sports

Aggies face Owls in Autry

By SEAN PETTY
Battalion Staff

The Texas Aggies will be in the television spotlight for the second time in a week Saturday when they travel to Rice University's Autry Court to take on the Rice Owls.

The Aggies will have their hands full as the Owls have won some big games this year and have been tough at Autry Court. The Owls have beaten SMU, Texas Tech and TCU. But those victories were before the Owls suffered a rash of injuries. The Owls will not be at full speed against the Aggies with the loss of their 6-10 center, Brett Burkholder.

"I'm really disappointed that we will not be full speed against Texas A&M," said Rice head coach Mike Schuler, whose Owls will tip off against Texas A&M at 12:40 p.m. "Burkholder is definitely out (with a bad ankle) and that really hurts because he was just getting his game in gear."

Schuler attended the Texas A&M-TCU game Wednesday night to see the Aggies for the first time this season and the team he would face Saturday.

"Texas A&M is as good as everyone said they were," Schuler said after watching the Ags beat TCU. "They have super talent, they're strong, fast and physical."

Schuler also saw the effectiveness of the TCU stall which held the Aggies to only 18 points in the first half. It is possible the Rice coach may have learned a valuable lesson from the Horned Frogs. Yet, he would not say whether he would try and slow the Aggies down or go head-to-head with them.

"I just can't answer that at this time," Schuler said, "if I knew how I was going to defense A&M, I wouldn't have any worries right now. All I know is that we are going to have to play a fantastic game Saturday to beat the Aggies."

While the TCU stall was a minor success and there's a possibility the Owls may use it against A&M, the Aggie players are hoping the Owls will come out running.

"I hope the game against Rice is better than this one," said Aggie center Rudy Woods after the Ags beat TCU. "I was disappointed that I fouled out so early. I just hope they (Rice) come out to play."

"Rice has beaten some good teams this year," said Rynn Wright. "We are going to play them just like we would play anyone else. It doesn't matter if they stall or not."

The Owls have plenty of scoring ability in senior forward Elbert Darden, who is averaging 22.1 points a game and guard Bobby Tudor, averaging 13.3 points a game. Darden is closing in on most points scored in Southwest Conference games by a conference player.

Schuler's biggest problem is the age of his team. Most of the Owls have just hatched into the South-

west Conference basketball world this season.

"We've played very well at times," Schuler said. "We haven't progressed as quickly as I wanted but were are getting better every game. It's been a long time since the Rice Owls have won two games on the road and we've already done that this year." The Owls defeated Texas Tech and TCU on the road.

"I think we can have an outstanding team by the end of February," he said.

The Rice Owls are obviously in a rebuilding year but the crowds have been good this year and another large crowd is expected Saturday.

"I don't know if the game is sold-out yet but there will be pretty many people here," Schuler said. "The interest is picking up here."

"I just wish we could build an atmosphere at Rice like there is at A&M. I can really get fired up and get into the whole feeling at A&M. The fans are exciting and G. Rolie White Coliseum is a great place to play."

The Owls will start Darden and Glen Rieke at forwards, Tudor and Willis Wilson at guards and Larry McGage at center in place of Burkholder. The Owls will be starting four freshmen and one senior against the Ags who are a little older.

The Ags will probably go with the same starting lineup they had against TCU. Rudy Woods will start at center, Vernon Smith and Rynn Wright at forwards and Dave Goff and Tyrone Ladson are the guards. Ladson will start instead of previous starter David Britton.

"The statistics speak for themselves," said Metcalf. "Ladson is shooting 48 percent from the field and Britton is shooting 33 percent. David is not playing as well as he did in December and maybe not starting him will shake him up a little. He can help us too much to be sitting on the bench."

Southwest Conference Standings

Texas	6-1	.857
Texas A&M	5-2	.714
Baylor	4-3	.571
Arkansas	4-3	.571
Texas Tech	4-3	.571
Rice	3-4	.429
Houston	3-5	.375
SMU	2-4	.333
TCU	0-6	.000

SATURDAY: Arkansas at Rice; Texas Tech at Baylor; Texas at TCU; Houston at Texas A&M (day-tv).

Tech-Arkansas game moved

United Press International
FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. — Arkansas and Texas Tech have agreed to switch the date of their 1979 football game to Oct. 13, both athletic departments said earlier this week.

The teams originally were scheduled to play Dec. 1 at Lubbock, Texas. However, both the Razorbacks and Red Raiders had

open dates on Oct. 13 and agreed to play the game on the earlier date in Lubbock.

"This change was made at the suggestion of both coaches, Lou Holtz and Rex Dockery," said Arkansas Athletic Director Frank Broyles. "When Houston came into the league it moved back our Tech game by one week. We now close the season in either

late November or early December. A game that late hampers attendance, particularly when the weather is poor, sometimes hampers bowl selection."

The switch of the game dates the open date in Arkansas schedule the week prior to Texas game.

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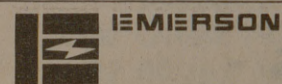
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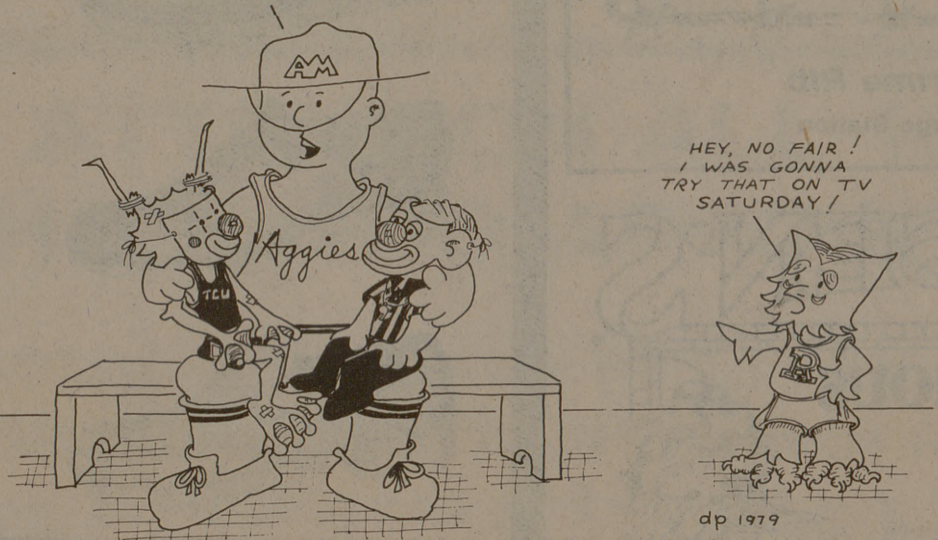
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Finley offered \$12 million for A's

United Press International
NEW ORLEANS — Ohio sports magnate Edward DeBartolo Sr. has offered \$12 million cash to Oakland A's owner Charles Finley to buy his beleaguered club and move it to Louisiana Superdome, and a spokesman says the deal could be finalized quickly.

"If the offer is accepted and approved by the league, in our estimation it would take 96 hours to consummate the deal and move the team to New Orleans," said Vincent Bartimo, DeBartolo's representative in the franchise negotiations, in a telephone interview Wednesday night.

Bartimo, the general manager of DeBartolo's National Hockey League Pittsburgh Penguins and Louisiana Downs race track in Bossier City, La., said the cash offer was made last week to Finley.

Sources close to the negotiations said Finley is interested in selling the A's for \$9 million, with an additional \$4 million going to the Oakland Coliseum Authority as compensation for breaking the

baseball team's remaining nine-year stadium lease.

Sources also said the extra \$1 million would be paid by the American League baseball teams and the National League San Francisco Giants, all of whom have an interest in seeing the low crowd-drawing A's leave California.

Bartimo would not speculate on how much money it would take to release the A's from their long-term lease. Last year, after Denver oilman Marvin Davis bought the A's, Oakland Coliseum officials rejected a reported \$3 million cash settlement to break the lease and filed suit blocking the shift.

But sources also say chances for a settlement are better this year because the Oakland Raiders are pressuring officials to expand the stadium by at least 10,000 seats. The Raiders reportedly are considering a move to Los Angeles in 1980 if the stadium is not expanded.

Bartimo, however, said the city could support major league baseball and cited DeBartolo's financial stability, which includes multimillion-

dollar real estate holdings and three thoroughbred race tracks across the country.

Bartimo refused to indicate if DeBartolo was negotiating with any other teams for a possible shift to New Orleans.

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