

# Aggies Open Cage Era With Talented Sophs

By GARY ROLLINS  
Battalion Sports Editor

A new area in basketball will begin Saturday night in San Antonio for the Texas Aggies when they tipoff with St. Mary's University at 8. Last year, in the second game of the season, the Farmers downed the Rattlers by a 69-60 score.

Coach Bobby Rogers, new head basketball coach—recently of highly-successful East Texas State College—will send his quintet into the season's opener in his debut to the SWC coaching ranks.

Rogers established a very impressive record as cage mentor for the Lions of East Texas. He led them to the national championship of the NAIA at Kansas City during the 1954-55 season, with an overall record at East Texas of 113 wins as compared to a meager 32 losses.

One characteristic of the Lions was they liked high-scoring contests, averaging 78 points per game. This is somewhat of a breakaway from the defensive and ball-control style of play Rogers learned under Hank Iba at Oklahoma A&M.

The Aggies, with only two senior lettermen returning in Ken Hutto and Fritzie Connally, will have to depend on their great abundance of sophomores and juniors for their main scoring strength.

Potentially, there are quite a number of "scorers" on the club, but their ability to jell into a scoring threat and remain as such will probably decide the fate of the team for the rest of the season. The picture is anything but dismal, however, for Coach Rogers inherits a very high-talented bunch of sophomores left over from the Loeffler dynasty.

Receiving the most acclaim is Wayne Lawrence, a 6-9 all-purpose basketball player whom Loeffler called "the best player since Tom Gola." At one time last year, Lawrence was even considered the former LaSalle star's equal—at least when Gola was a freshman. Wayne averaged 23 points per game as a freshman.

Dave Corson, a strong "bull-

like" center from New Orleans will supply the Cadets with the much-needed rebound strength they have needed for so many years.

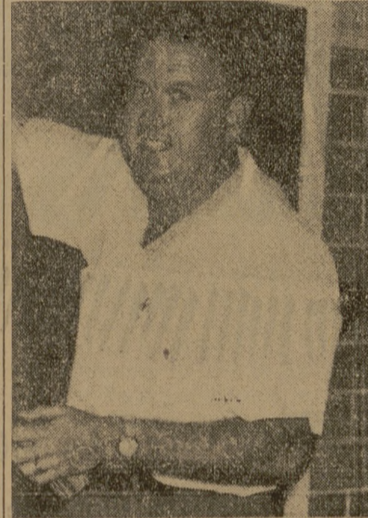
Returning from the service is a letterman from the 1952-53 Aggies, Bob Johnson, a 6-1 junior from Pleasant Grove has worked his way into the starting lineup and will no doubt see plenty of action this year.

Also due to play a lot is junior college transfer Archie Carroll, 6-5 junior center-forward from Redlands. He's probably one of the best shots on the squad.

Of course, Neil Swisher, the spark-plug of the 1956 Cadets will return as starting guard along with Johnson. Neil averaged 12 points per game last season and was high scorer for the team.

Ken Hutto has shown signs of returning to the form of his successful sophomore year, and his ability to score in the clutches will make him invaluable to the squad.

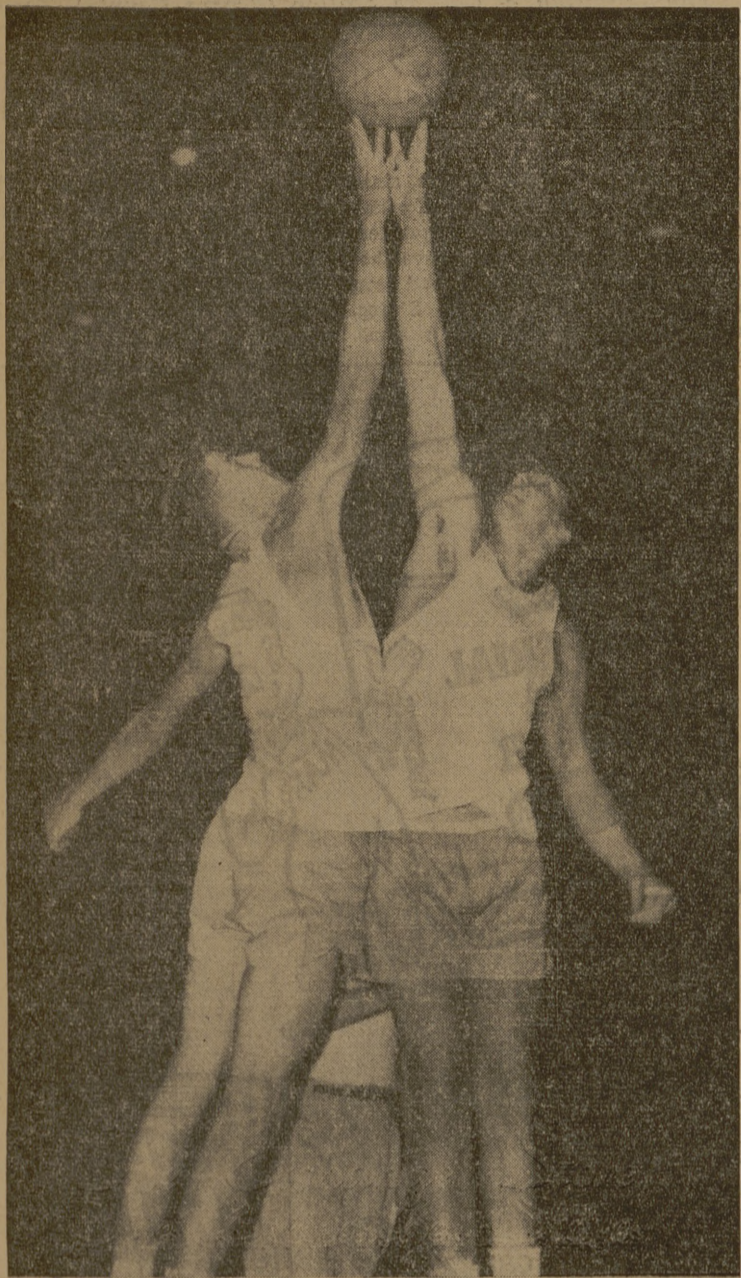
Other returning lettermen are Ernie Turner, junior forward from Beaumont; Jim McNichol, junior center-forward from Philadelphia, Pa.; and Jack Schwake, junior forward from LaGrange.



Bob Rogers

## A&M Varsity Basketball Schedule

Dec. 6	St. Marys University at San Antonio	Jan. 4	TCU at Fort Worth
Dec. 9	Memphis State at Memphis	Jan. 7	Texas at College Station
Dec. 11	Wake Forest at Winston Salem	Jan. 10	Rice at College Station
Dec. 12	Univ. of Richmond at Richmond, Va.	Jan. 14	Baylor at Waco
Dec. 14	Univ. of Ohio State at Columbus, Ohio	Jan. 17	SMU at College Station
Dec. 17	Temple University at Philadelphia, Pa.	Jan. 28	Arkansas at Fayetteville
Dec. 26-27-28	SWC Tournament at Houston	Feb. 1	Texas Tech at College Station
		Feb. 4	University of Houston at College Station
		Feb. 7	Baylor at College Station
		Feb. 11	Rice at Houston
		Feb. 15	Texas at Austin
		Feb. 22	Arkansas at College Station
		Feb. 25	Texas Tech at Lubbock
		March 1	SMU at Dallas
		March 4	TCU at College Station



—Battalion Staff Photo

### Slender Sophs Tipoff

Dave Corson, 6-6 soph from New Orleans is shown matching stretch power with Wayne Lawrence, 6-9 soph from Pawcatuck, Conn. These two will lead the young Aggies against St. Mary's Saturday night in San Antonio in the season opener.

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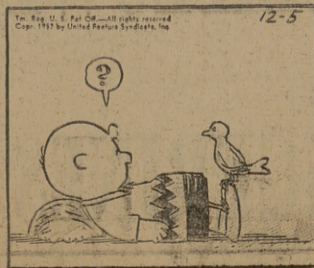
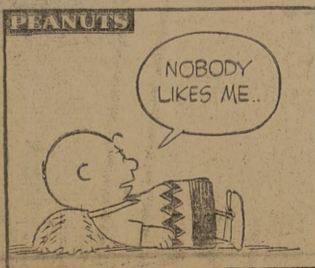
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