

Aggies Are "Dark Horses"

TCU, Rice SWC Choice During Reconstruction



Jim McNichol

Red-headed Jim McNichol, who has the distinction of being the most tired man on the squad, awoke at the end of the season to prove he knew how to do other things besides sleep. Possessing a fine jump shot, Jim hails from Philadelphia, Pa. He's 6-5 and lettered last season.

While the echo of Texas University's "Smokey, the Cannon" still roars in the ears of Texas Aggies, the basketball season—with promises of improvement on the Cadets' part—comes booming in to the picture with the Aggies opening the season against St. Mary's University tomorrow night at 8.

The Southwest Conference welcomes a new initiate in Texas Tech, who will officially become members of the conference this season.

The years 1957-1958 appear to be rebuilding years for most of the league, with only Rice and TCU able to field proven teams.

The Owls, led by able coach Don Suman, still possess Temple Tucker, whom they claim to be the "hardwood answer to John Crow and King Hill." Besides the 6-10 Tucker, Suman boasts of such rebounding and shooting strongmen as 6-9 Tom Robitaille, 6-6 W. A. Preson and 6-2 Gorry Thomas. No doubt this will be the finest team the conference will see—unless it

happens to be TCU.

The Horned Frogs, after a promising season last year, appear on their way to next year's championship, fielding an entirely junior team—all lettermen. The biggest of the Horned Frogs is 6-10 H. E. Kirchner, a strong 230-pound giant that will control the Froggie pivot. As if his height weren't impressive enough, coach Buster Brannon is able to start three

other men over the 6-4 mark. They are 6-6 Don Williams, 6-4 Darrell Nippert, and 6-5 Ronnie Stevenson. It might be well to add these TCU tall men are not of the slender variety. They're not only tall, they're well-muscled.

In one big group comes Arkansas, Baylor, Texas A&M and SMU, who are the next level below Rice and TCU. The Porkers are traditionally tough, but they lack the all-important tall man.

Baylor's losses were heavy, and they face a heavy rebuilding task. True, they're inexperienced; but they're also tall and have some fine sophs.

The Ponies of SMU are dangerous, if for no other reason than they were conference champions last year. Such old stand-bys as Jim Krebs, Larry Showalter, Bobby Mills and Bob MacGregor will be sorely missed by coach "Doc" Hayes. In fact, the Mustangs, with their new basketball coliseum can be compared to a man all dressed up with no place to go.

The Longhorns' cage squad resembles a great deal their football team. They're all young, talented and eager. Once again, the lack of a man of great stature may spoil their hopes.

Texas Tech will be tough for one reason only—this is their debut into a tough conference, and they don't want to become known as the conference "patsy." Overall, the Red Raiders will be rather lofty in height. Their new field house and an enthusiastic student body will furnish them added advantage.

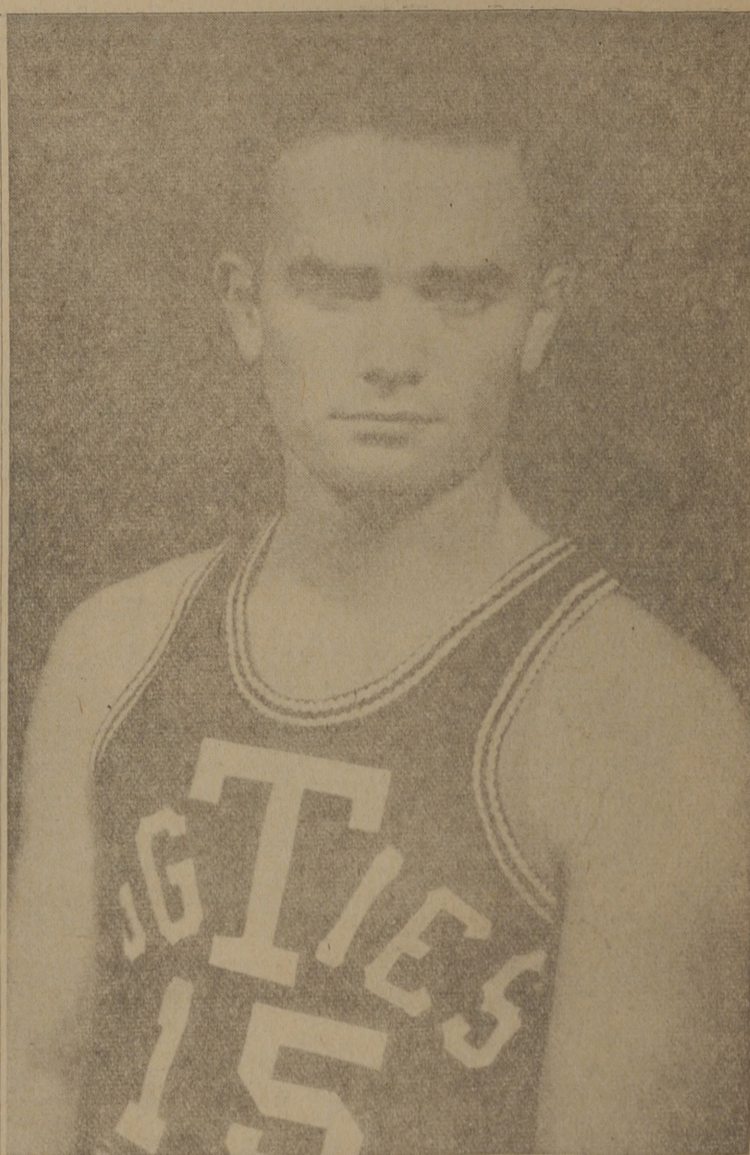
The Aggies, of course, are seeking to improve. Last season they shared the dank, cold cellar with Texas, but a sudden flux of talented sophs and a few returning "old heads" will give them enough strength to name them the conference "dark horse."

Graduation of last year's conference scoring leaders leaves plenty of room for new stars. Some names have already been mentioned in Texas' Arnette, M. Williams of SMU, Arrington of Texas Tech, D. Williams of TCU, Turner of Baylor, Rankin of Arkansas and Lawrence and Corson of the Aggies.

The conference schedule will open in January, shortly after the Southwest Conference Tournament in Houston.

The predicted 1958 finish: Rice, 11-3; TCU, 10-4; Arkansas, 8-6; Baylor, 7-7; SMU, 6-8; A&M, 5-9; Texas Tech, 5-9; Texas 4-10.

All squads will begin their traveling tours before the Christmas holidays.



Kenneth Hutto

Hard-shooting six-footer Kenneth Hutto returns for his third year to aid the Aggies' cause against the rest of the conference. As a soph, he was a conference scoring leader, but his performance dropped rather sharply last season. He's a two-year letterman from Amarillo.

Cadets Run, Schedule Set; Practice Begins Next Week

Coach Paul Bryant announced that Texas A&M would officially resume practice next week for the Gator Bowl game with Tennessee Dec. 28.

The Cadets, who have been idle since the 9-7 loss to the University of Texas November 28, began informal running yesterday and will continue to do so this weekend. Official workouts will begin around the middle of next week.

The Aggies will work continuously through Dec. 21, when they will begin the Christmas holidays.

On Dec. 26, the squad will return to Aggieland, where they tentatively plan to work out here

At the 1956 Saratoga summer sales, Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Lunn took an \$87,000 fancy to a gray colt by Hyperion-Deodora. The colt is Rise 'n Shine.

that day and then journey to Jacksonville, Fla. by plane. Travel arrangements may alter the schedule slightly.

Houston's Wicand Traded To Redlegs

The Cincinnati Redlegs today acquired three righthanded pitchers, including veteran Willard Schmidt in a five-player trade with the St. Louis Cardinals.

The Reds gave up outfielder Joe Taylor and outfielder-infielder Curtis Flood to get Schmidt, Marty Kutyna and Ted Wicand.

Kutyna and Wicand were in the minor leagues last year.

Wicand, whose real given name are Franklin Delano Roosevelt, has pitched for Houston of the Texas League for the last two seasons. He had a 16-9 record in 1956.

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Archie Carroll

Archie Carroll, a 6-5 junior College transfer, will give the Cadets that much needed scoring punch. He plays both center and forward. He's a junior from Redlands.

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