



Wilmer Cox

The 6-3 guard from Houston has added tremendous strength to the Aggie defense as well as the offense. Cox has averaged 11 points per game in 10 outings.

Cadet Fortunes Rise During Yule Period

Last minute victories and a stingy defense have established the Texas Aggie cagers among the elite of the Southwest Conference.

The long Christmas recess found the Cadets annexing the consolation prize in the Birmingham Classic, capturing the coveted pre-season Southwest Conference Tournament, and stopping Southern Methodist in the conference opener.

Only Alabama has had any measure of success in the rise of Coach Bob Rogers' quintet as they halted the Ags in the opener of the Birmingham Classic, 66-62.

Since that reversal, the Aggies, with a defense that ranks 12th in the nation and some clutch closing second performances, extended their season record to 9-1.

With Wilmer Cox riding herd on Texas Tech ace Gerald Myers and holding him to but one field goal, the Aggies began their underdog march to the SWC Tournament title with a 66-58 triumph over the Red Raiders. Neil Swisher carried the offensive load as he netted 22 points.

In the second round, a goal tend-

ing foul by Rice and a free throw by Wayne Lawrence gave the Ags a 56-53 margin with but 3:41 left to play as they eked by the Owls, 60-59. Swisher, who was nominated to the all-tournament team, again paced the Cadet attack with 13 points. Archie Carroll, who along with Lawrence was placed on the second team, followed with 11.

Jim McNichol held the tournament's most valuable player, H. E. Kirchner of TCU, to but 13 points as the Ags roared past the Frogs, 61-45, to take the championship. Lawrence was the big noise in the Cadet offense, dunking 17 points. McNichol and Carroll added 12 more as the Cadets took top honors for the first time in the 11-year history of the tournament.

In the conference opener, 15-degree weather failed to cool the Aggies as they slipped past the Mustangs on a bucket by Lawrence with three seconds left to play. The elusive Cox had knotted the contest at 63-all with 2:02 to play, then stole the ball with but 1:17 left to set up the field goal by Lawrence.

Ags Seek Second Win Against Rice Tonight

The red hot Aggies, paced by sharpshooting Neil Swisher, tangle with the Rice Owls tonight in their first Southwest Conference home game of the season at 8 p.m. in White Coliseum.

The Aggie Fish meet the Rice Owlets at 6:15 p.m. to open the double-header.

A&M enters the game with a 9-1 record and the SWC Tournament crown, while Rice laments its 6-5 showing, including a tournament loss to the Aggies by the narrow margin of 60-59.

Leading the Owls onto the hardwood tonight will be the SWC's leading scorer, Tom Robitaille, and Guard W. A. Preston. Robitaille, 6-9 center, has been named to the all-SWC team for the past two seasons and looks like a sure thing to repeat this year.

Preston, second tallest Owl at 6-6, has been doing heavy duty for Rice at forward both in scoring and rebounding. The slender senior hit for 12 points in Saturday night's losing game with Texas University.

Another good hand with experience, E. Jay McIlvain, is Rice's outstanding threat at the guard position. The lanky McIlvain hit for 11 points against the Steers.

Rounding out the Rice team will be Dale Ball, 6-0 senior at the other guard position, and 6-2 senior Steve Galloway at forward.

Crafty Neil Swisher, with his 16.3 points per game average, will lead the Aggie attack. The 6-0 senior has scored 163 points in 10 games from his guard position.

On the other side of the court, Swisher's running mate, Wilmer Cox, will be on hand to fill out the top guard combination in the SWC. Cox has averaged 11 points per game with a total of 126, the Ag's third high scorer.

At forward for the Farmers will be lanky Wayne Lawrence, hero of Saturday night's win over the SMU Mustangs, with 21 points to his credit. Lawrence has averaged 13.7 points per game and is the team's leading rebounder with 86. His basket with three seconds left enabled the Ags to top SMU, 65-63.

Opposite Lawrence will be senior Archie Carroll, the second leading rebounder with 72. Carroll has averaged 12.6 points per game.

The fiery-headed Jim McNichol will hold down the center position with 54 rebounds and a 6.3 per game average in the point-making department. McNichol held Robitaille to half his scoring average in the SWC tournament.

Coach Shelby Metcalf's freshman basketball team will open the night's play when he pits his squad against the Rice Owlets.

The Fish, paced by Carroll Broussard, 6-5 scoring ace from

Port Arthur, have split two games with Kilgore Junior College and defeated the Houston Kittens.

Broussard is averaging 24.3 per game and his 31 of 50 field goal attempts gives him a hot 62 per cent. It is his latest outing against the defending national college champs from Kilgore, Broussard hit 12 of 19 from the field and 28 points. He hit 21 against Kilgore at Kilgore and 24 at home

SWC Standings

SEASON STANDINGS						
Team	W	L	Pct	Pts	Op	
Texas A and M	9	1	.900	656	672	
Texas Christian	8	2	.800	672	623	
Texas Tech	7	4	.636	761	677	
Southern Methodist	6	5	.545	736	729	
Rice	6	5	.545	797	647	
Arkansas	4	6	.400	626	641	
Baylor	4	6	.400	693	697	
Texas	3	7	.300	575	618	
CONFERENCE STANDINGS						
Team	W	L	Pct	Pts	Op	
Arkansas	1	0	1.000	61	57	
Texas A and M	1	0	1.000	61	58	
Texas Christian	1	0	1.000	62	72	
Southern Methodist	0	1	.000	63	65	
Rice	0	1	.000	58	61	
Texas Tech	0	1	.000	57	61	
Baylor	0	1	.000	57	61	
Last Week's Results						
Texas A and M 65, Southern Methodist 63						
Texas Christian 72, Baylor 62						
Texas 61, Rice 58						
Arkansas 61, Texas Tech 57						

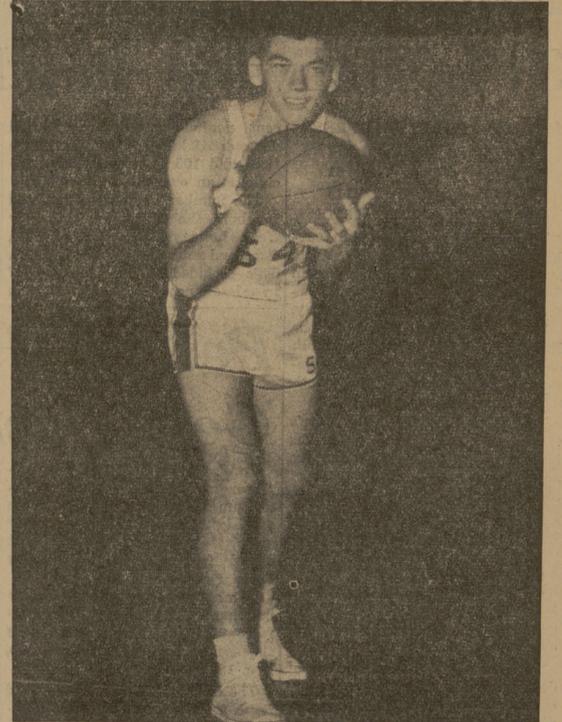
against the Houston frosh. He also leads in rebounds with 37.

Gary White of Milwest City, Okla., Ron Sheldon of Woodstock, Conn., Don Riggan, 6-10 center from Del City, Okla., and John Keller of Terrell round out the starting five and the scoring in that order.

White, a 6-5 forward, has scored 43 points while Sheldon, who played against Metcalf in German service ball, has tallied 34. Riggan has 25 points and Keller, 6-5 forward, has 19. Keller is second in rebounds with 34.

Riki Wagborne of San Antonio Jefferson is the first alternate and if his play in the last game was pleasing enough to Metcalf he may break into the starting lineup against the Owlets.

Broussard hit eight of 10 field goal tries in the second half against Kilgore this week for an 80 percent shooting effort. Most were jump shots from 15 feet. The Port Arthur all-stater and all-American also is tops in foul shooting with 11 of 14.



Carroll Broussard

Broussard is averaging 24.3 points per game for the Aggie Fish and also leads the squad in rebounding with 37. The 6-5 freshman hails from Port Arthur where he was a high school All-American netter.

SPORT SLANTS

By BOB WEEKLEY

Santa Claus wears a suit, a rather conservative suit, and smokes a black cigar. The popular giver of gifts visited A&M on the Brazos two years ago and liked it so well that he decided to stay.

"These people need me," he boomed, "and here I'll make my home next to the beautiful coliseum."

The first Christmas he was here Santa couldn't do much for the Aggies. His reindeer were tired, and besides, he was busy putting new shoes on their worn feet and teaching them new tricks of the trade that would fool people in the years to come.

Ah, but this year is a different matter. He started early in December, on the 5th to be exact, and gave the Cadets a present—the University of Houston. Not satisfied, he added Sam Houston, Wyoming, Trinity and Centenary to their stockings. He grew a little careless somewhere along the way, though, and let Alabama slip through his gift bag.

But Old Santa didn't give up, presenting the Aggies with the Southwest Conference Tournament crown along with victories over Rice, Texas Tech and TCU. He then wrapped it all up in a colorful bundle—their first conference victory, over the SMU Mustangs.

Now St. Nicholas is swinging into the pace. Called Bob Rodgers by the uninformed, he drives his sleigh full of basketball tricks into White Coliseum tonight where he'll try them out again against the Rice Owls.

Pulled by his five reindeer (three were benched) he'll field a combination that's hard to beat. If you'll listen closely you can hear his call:

"Up Carroll, up Lawrence, up Cox and McNichol; go faster Neil Swisher, give help there, friend Turner." And the fearless five will move around the floor with a poise the old master has taught them.

It's a great sight to see the old boy on the job. The day will come when rival coaches of the conference will rue the day the bustling Rodgers came to grace the coliseum of A&M.

The day may be now. It looks like it!

Ags Rated 19th Nationally

The Aggie basketball team last night finally broke the long drought as far as national recognition goes when the Associated Press named them to 19th place in the national standings.

The Cadets presently boast a

9-1 record plus the Southwest Conference Tournament Crown won in December. Their lone loss was a 4-point squeaker to Alabama in the Birmingham Classic tournament.

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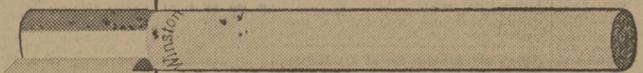


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