



FROM THE
Sidelines
By JIM BUTLER

From the depths of the form charts to the rarified atmosphere of Southwest Conference leadership comes the Cinderella team sporting Maroon and White uniforms and the poise of pro veterans.

Sweeping up soot far below the aura of big sisters Texas and Rice dressed in the spangles of pre-season predictions, A&M opened the season with a surprise win over a strong University of Houston squad. But the Aggies were playing at home and that fact wiped away any momentary fears held by conference observers.

Shelby Metcalf's squad then journeyed to the frigid north to suffer losses to Utah and Utah State by a total of 50 points. Those two teams have since lost only four of 25 games. And Utah holds a win over 5th ranked Cincinnati.

Eight games later, the Cadets boasted a 7-4 record and 2-0 league slate. Decker out in question marks that had shrunk from huge to barely visible, the Aggies made their appearance at the annual brawl . . . er . . . ball in Austin.

The slipper fit; the Ags won and set out in quest of a more valuable prize—the conference crown.

The mythical benefactor in this folksy fable is a man well-qualified to bear the comparison. Head Coach Metcalf wears a pixy type smile and waves a magic wand like a master virtuoso.

Metcalf played under ex-Aggie cage coach Bob Rogers at East Texas State and led his team to three straight appearances in the national tournament, winning the title in 1955.

The little East Texas town of Cayuga gave Metcalf his first tutoring opportunity and Shelby responded with a 33-10 record.

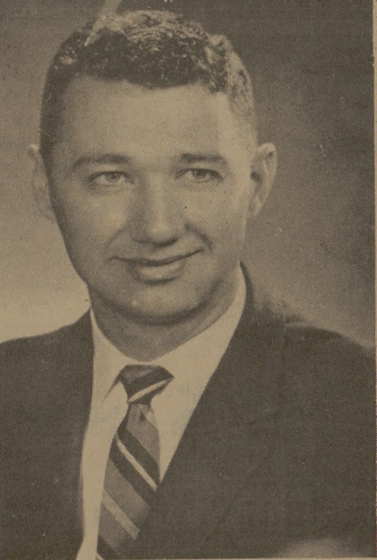
Following a stint in the army in which his service teams won the Germany district title twice, Metcalf came to Aggieland as Fish basketball coach. Metcalf took the frosh to a 41-19 record. In five years he won the SWC crown once and tied for the honor twice.

In the spring of 1963, Rogers stepped down as head coach and Metcalf moved up. He was bequeathed a team that had graduated the top three rebounders and the four top scorers with the exception of Bennie Lenox.

Granted, Lenox would make a good nucleus for any ball club, but without boys to get the rebounds and help out on cold nights, Bennie would be about as potent as a Hollywood spectacular with an all-male cast.

Metcalf took his top Fish players from last season, two junior college transfers, five lettermen and the fabulous Lenox and started waving his wand.

With his infectious personality and easy manner, Metcalf gave the team confidence and taught them teamwork, an important factor that was often lacking under the Rogers' regime.



SHELBY METCALF

That's why no one close to the personable East Texan was surprised when the Aggies beat Texas in Gregory Gym for the first time since 1959 and only the fifth time in Austin since 1923.

Metcalf truly has the winning touch. If Shelby had been present at Cinderella's ball, the clock would have stopped at 11:59.

CRIB SHOTS . . . alternate cage captain Bill Robinette is a Distinguished Student majoring in physics . . . Bennie Lenox, a business major, moves his office to the golf course in the off season, shoots in the 70s. Lenox is also open to pro basketball offers . . . five Aggie cagers follow another coach away from the hardwood court. The married men are Lenox, Paul Timmins, John Beasley, Bill Gasway and Cecil Ferguson.

A lack of flailing arms and a stopped clock seem to have a jinx on sophomore center Tim Timmerman this season. He has hit on only three of 12 free throw attempts for a .250 percentage, far below his accuracy in the heat of battle—14-18 for .778. "I hit free throws all the time in practice and I'm not nervous at the line in a game," Timmerman says. Metcalf's solution: "We're gonna make Tim jump up in the air on his free throws."

'Aggies Not At Peak Yet' Metcalf Says Of Cagers

Coach Shelby Metcalf, taking a realistic view at the situation, sees a rough road ahead for his Aggie basketballers.

At the midterm break, and halfway through the 24-game season, the Aggies sport an 8-4 overall record and a 3-0 SWC mark.

"I'm very pleased with the team's progress," Metcalf declared, "but I still don't believe we've hit our peak yet."

METCALF SAID he felt the Aggies' early success in SWC play came about because the foes "took us too lightly."

"It won't be that way the rest of the season. Everyone will be pointing at us. We're on top and, naturally, we're the team to beat now."

BEFORE THE SEASON began Metcalf claimed that the Aggies' Bennie Lenox was a bonafide All-America candidate. He feels more strongly about it now. "Bennie gets better every game. He hasn't hit a peak yet, despite that 53-point outburst against Wyoming in the All-College tournament." As to the 2-point production Lenox had against Utah State in the sea-

son's second game, Metcalf says "All good athletes have a bad game once in a while. I believe Ted Williams once went 0-for-5, didn't he?"

THE AGGIES TODAY are more than just a one-man ball club and Lenox would be the first to admit it.

Metcalf, in summarizing his club's early success, says junior Paul Timmins and senior Bill Robinette are "playing the best basketball of their collegiate careers." . . . "our two junior college transfers—Bill Gasway and Ken Norman—have fit in nicely and now seem to have been around here as long as the seniors" . . . "our three

sophomores—John Beasley, Tim Timmerman and Dick Stringfellow—are making great progress."

THE AGGIES matured during the All-College tournament in Oklahoma City where they won third place. They beat Washington, lost to Wichita and then beat Wyoming. "We went up there with a group of boys and returned with a squad of men," Metcalf says.

Despite the youth and inexperience on the squad, the Aggies have shown a lot of poise and character throughout the season. They passed the sternest test of 'em all at Austin when they beat Texas, 65-60, before a packed house, mostly Texas partisans.

Foldberg Gives Varsity Letters

Head Football Coach Hank Foldberg has announced that 32 members of the varsity football squad earned letters during the 1963 season.

The seniors are Ronnie Carpenter, end from Marshall; James Craig, tackle from Jasper; George Hargett, halfback from Linden; Jim Keller, quarterback from Terrell; Ray Kubala, center from West; Jim Linnstaedter, quarterback from Brenham; Travis Reagan, halfback from Wichita Falls and Jerry Rogers, fullback from Corpus Christi.

The juniors are Yancy Bounds, guard, Carthage; John Brotherton, end, Mineola; James Drennan, end, Hooks; Budgie Ford, halfback, Taylor; Ray Gene Hinze, tackle, Waco; Dan McIlhany, quarterback, Pasadena; Ken McLean, fullback, Stinnett; Tommy Meeks, halfback, Bryan; Ronney Moore, guard, Brownwood; Andy Overton, end, Palestine; Mike Pitman, halfback, Dallas; Melvin Simmons, guard, Odessa; Mike Swan, guard, Athens; Billy Uzzell, halfback, Eagle Lake; Waylon Ward, tackle, Mt. Pleasant and Jim Willenborg, halfback, Clifton.

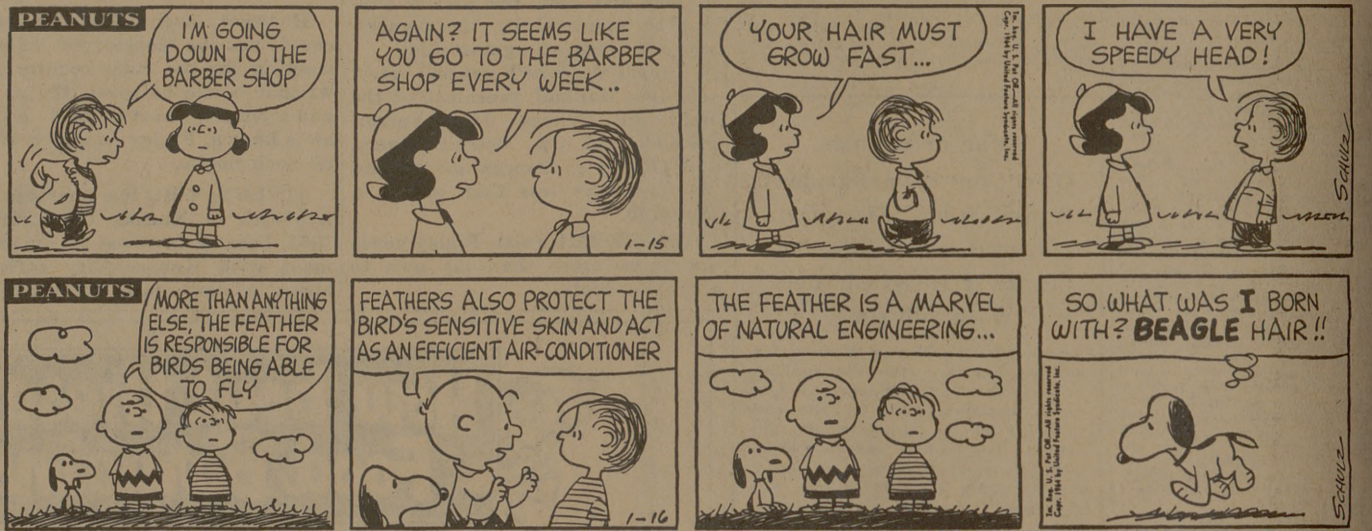
The sophomores are Jerry Kachtik, fullback, Rio Hondo; Charles LaGrange, quarterback, Rio Grande City; Bobby Lee, kicking specialist, San Antonio; Tom Murrain, guard, San Antonio; John Nilson, guard, El Campo; Bill Ward, tackle, Austin; Joe Wellborn, center, Tomball and Ricky Whatley, end, Port Lavaca.

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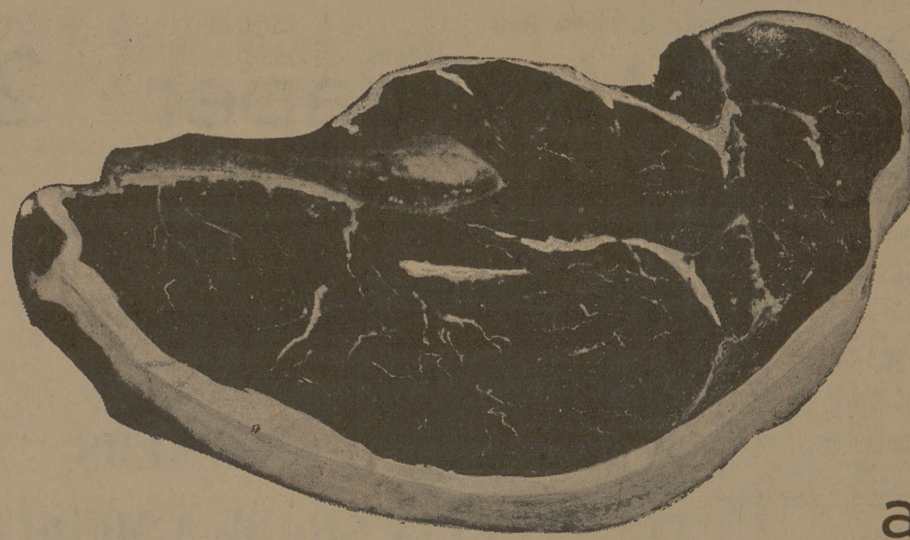


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