

# Aggies Face Rice In 'Must' Game

BY JIM BUTLER  
Battalion Sports Editor

Rice Field House is a bland brick building that looks like it is laid out for indoor tennis, or maybe hall hockey. Into this horseshoe-shaped arena, 6,200 fans will be crammed, probably with a shoe-horn, to see if the Rice Owls can slow down a Maroon and White drive toward the Southwest Conference cage championship.

A full house, the first in the memory of A&M Coach Shelby Metcalf, is practically a cinch to watch the important Owl-Aggie clash Saturday night at 8:15.

THE AGGIES take an 8-5 season slate into the contest while Rice is 9-4. The Cadets are currently pacing the SWC with a 3-0 record with the Owls a game behind at 2-1.

The game will feature two rookie coaches — Metcalf of A&M and George Carlisle of Rice. Carlisle surveyed the situation from his second-story office in the field house and called the upcoming battle a "must" game for both teams. "If A&M wins, it is just about in," Carlisle said. "This is definitely the big game in the conference."

IT COULD BE suspected that Carlisle's knowledge of Aggie sharpshooter Bennie Lenox — gained from watching and coaching Lenox for nine years at Clear Creek — might give Rice a little edge in stopping the Lynx. Carlisle emphatically denies this. "Oh, I know the things Lenox does best," Carlisle said, "but that won't give us an advantage."

Asked whether or not the home court advantage will be a factor Carlisle commented: "I don't think it will be. There will probably be as many Aggies there as Rice students since we have a much smaller student body. A&M will have a little edge in rebounding. Our boy Rhine (Kendall) will hold his own, but A&M's height advantage should make up for the difference. It should be an even game."

CARLISLE SAT on the sidelines watching the University of Houston hand the Aggies a 73-65 loss Tuesday night. While the Cougars left most of the fans laughing, Carlisle looked like a man with a problem. Color Carlisle's problem Maroon.

In A&M's dressing room after the Houston game, thoughts had already turned to the Rice clash. A determined John Beasley commented, "This ought to help us

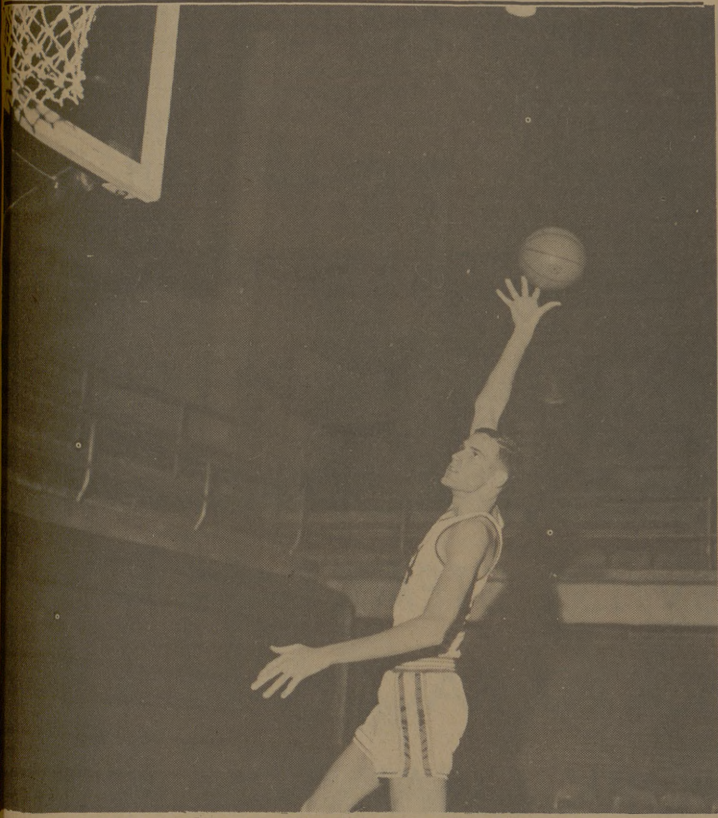
against Rice." Sophomore guard Dick Stringfellow typified the squad's spirit. "They said we wouldn't win all our games. Well,

we've had our loss; we're going to win the rest."

THE TEST WILL come Saturday night. The Aggie Fish open

the night's action at 6:15 against the Rice Owlets. The Fish have yet to win a game in five starts.

Bennie, paces the Fish in scoring with 17.6 per game. J. C. Smith is hitting at a 13.8 clip followed by Curley Lenox, young brother of Larry Kirk at 11 points per game.



RICE ALL-AMERICAN CANDIDATE  
Rhine will aim his potent shooting eye at Aggies Saturday

## Ken Rhine Means Trouble For A&M

BY BILL WHITMORE  
Rice Publicist

At the midway point of his senior season, a recap of the stats would indicate Rice's brilliant Kendall Rhine is doing quite well. The fabulous 6-10 senior Owl certainly qualifies as one of the nation's finest cagers and decidedly rates as a top candidate from the Southwest for All-America honors this season—at least on performance to date.

With 12 games to go, the tall Owl from little Dupro, Illinois is the top scorer of Southwest Conference players with 284 points for a 23.7 per game average. He trails the Aggies' splendid outside shooting star Bennie Lenox — another top SWC national honors candidate—in league scoring to date, but Owl partisans are hopeful Kendall is about ready to bust loose with some big nights in the mere 11 SWC games he has left to play before he finishes at Rice.

At his present pace of 23.7 per game for points and 14.8 per game for rebounds, Rhine would improve not only on those league marks of his own, but add a few more Rhine entries in the SWC and Rice record books. Owl head coach George Carlisle is hoping the big fellow will be playing better than ever in the Owls' stretch drive. It is quite apparent Rhine has to be "up" and playing well each time out for the Rice club to hang in the tight SWC race.

On an average-per-game basis, Kendall already is Rice's best scorer ever, but a coveted mark would be to pass the total of 604 points in a single season established for Rice by Gene Schwinger a decade ago in 28 games. To match that mark in just 24 outings, Rhine would have to average about 27-per-game from here in—or help the Owls into the NCAA post-season playoffs for a chance at a couple more games or so.

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