

TO ALL GOOD AGGIES

Lou would like to take this opportunity to thank you for trading with him during this past semester.

He wishes all graduating seniors the best of luck and success in the future.

To those coming back to Aggieland next semester, have a safe and wonderful vacation and we'll see you in the Spring.

J. E. LOUPOT

Aggies Set For Rice Tilt After Capturing Squeaker

By LANI PRESSWOOD
Sports Editor

The Aggie cagers turned the screw of suspense to the last notch before wrapping up a tingling, 72-71 victory over surprising TCU Tuesday night.

Dickie Stringfellow iced a pair of tension-riddled free throws to give A&M what proved to be the winning margin.

The thread-thin triumph was A&M's first in conference play and left them tied with four other clubs for fourth place. The next hurdle will be furnished by the Rice Owls in Houston Saturday night.

If the Owls run true to form they will turn in an inspired performance against the Cadets, who have encountered this in each league tilt to date.

TCU was no exception. Showing complete contempt for the prognosticators, the youthful Frogs carried the fight to the Aggies and were in the contest right down to the final, frantic second.

The first half ended, 34-33, and was just that close. The score was tied on three occasions and the lead changed hands ten times. A&M was cold, hitting only 14 of 45 shots before intermission.

The Aggies remained frigid the last half but made up for it by outbattling the Frogs on the boards. For the full game the Cadets were outshot, 46 to 33 per-

cent, but claimed 53 rebounds to TCU's 47.

A&M threatened to break open the game when they mounted a 63-58 lead with 5:26 left. TCU insisted on keeping all 4,000 spectators around for the finish, though, and took a 69-68 lead at 1:49.

Captain Paul Timmins then raced down the court and fired in a jumper to give the lead back to the Cadets. A&M proceeded to pull in a missed TCU shot and shift into their stall pattern. Rich Sauer fouled Stringfellow with 26 seconds left and the junior guard meshed both charity shots, giving A&M a three-point edge.

The final 15 seconds of play were hectic ones. They found the Cadets calling three time outs, and missing three free throws. Meanwhile, TCU soph center Stan Farr eased in a layup to shave the Maroon lead to 72-71.

Play ended on a frenzied note with TCU in possession of the ball with four seconds left. Gary Turner arched a long, desperate pass into frontcourt but time had run out on the struggling Christians.

Beasley paced the Ag point production with 19, in addition to clearing 11 rebounds. Timmins had 17 points, Stringfellow 13, and Norman 12.

Forward Sonny Fethkenher displayed a fine effort in his first starting role for the Aggies. He pulled down six rebounds and hit one of his two field goal attempts.

The sophomore-laden Frogs were led by Farr's 22 points. He pulled down rebounds, one short of Turner's total. The high-scoring Turner was held to nine points.

A&M Coach Shelby Metcalf thought the Aggies played "their best game on defense and best game on the boards."

"We didn't shoot as well as we have been," he continued, "They

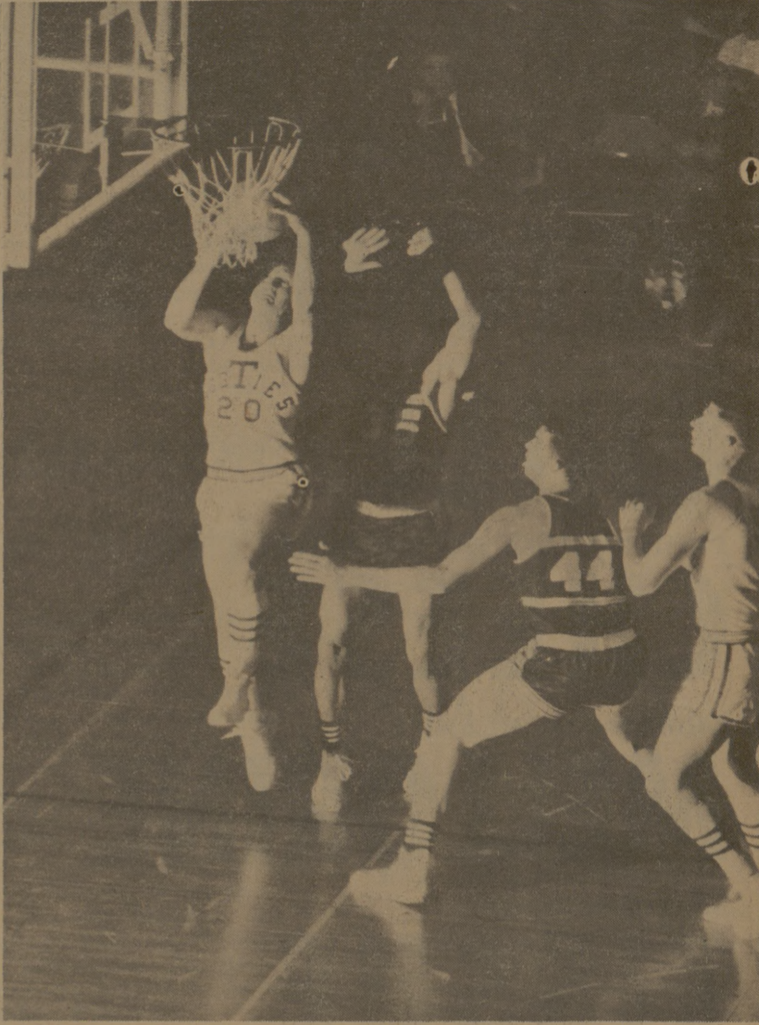
(TCU) never buckled under pressure.

"We did a couple of things different tonight. We wore knee socks to try and change things up some. And we changed ends so that we'd be shooting the last half at the goal in front of the stands."

"There was some armwaving when Baylor was shooting their free throws down there and it

brought some bad publicity, even though I don't think any of our students were doing it. We did this to try and upgrade our sportsmanship here."

The TCU verdict leaves the Aggies with a 1-2 record in SWC play, identical to Saturday-night opponent Rice. The Owl contest will be staged in Rice Coliseum beginning at 8 p.m.



DICKIE STRINGFELLOW DRIVES ... TCU's Stan Farr and Rodney Chitsey look on.

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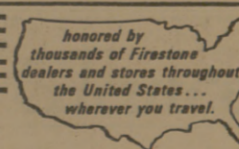
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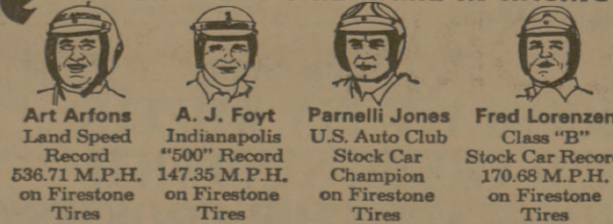
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