

Conference Title On Line

Weatherman Obliges As Ags Invade Ozarks

By GERALD GARCIA
Battalion Sports Editor
FAYETTEVILLE — The Texas Aggie basketball team arrived here early Wednesday afternoon and found the weatherman was again on their side.

A&M has won nine conference games when the weather was miserable and has suffered only one defeat during bad weather — to the Southern Methodist Mustangs in Dallas last week.

The weatherman is predicting severe thunderstorms for Thursday and the Aggies couldn't be happier.

The game begins at 7:30 p.m. and will be broadcast over radio KORA with Mike Mistovich announcing, starting at 7:25 p.m.

The Aggies, currently occupying the top spot in the Southwest Conference race with the Mustangs — both with 10-3 marks — will end regular season here. SMU will also close out their season play tonight against the Texas Tech Red Raiders in Dallas.

At the beginning of the season, Coach Shelby Metcalf predicted the conference race would be decided in the hills of Arkansas, and his prediction could come true.

Arkansas has lost only one this season here, and that was a one-point squeaker to SMU, a win which started the Ponies on their current 10-game win streak.

If both SMU and A&M, win or lose, a playoff to determine the conference representative to the NCAA regional playoffs in Lubbock March 11-12 will be played in Waco's Heart O' Texas Coliseum Monday night.

If one wins and the other loses, the winner will be the conference champ.

Rumors have been circulating throughout the hills the last few days that Glen Rose, 62-year-old Razorback basketball coach, would announce his retirement before tonight's contest, but as of late Wednesday night the rumor has not been confirmed or denied.

Rose, who will be starting five seniors playing their last game in Razorback uniforms, would not comment on the retirement rumor.

A decision by Rose would be a great factor in the game. If he announces his retirement, Arkansas could be sky-high for the game.

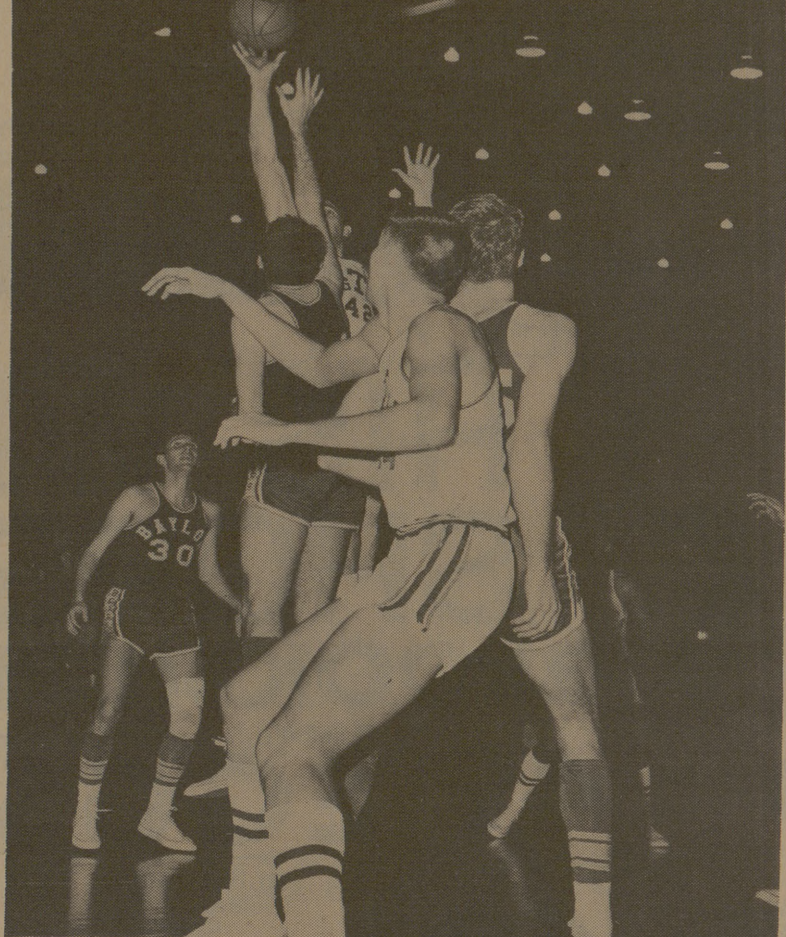
"I don't think the retirement will be a big difference in the game," Metcalf said. "I think Arkansas will be high because they will be playing five seniors

for the last time."

Metcalf will go with his usual starting five — John Beasley, Randy Matson, Dick Stringfellow, Eddie Dominguez and Dick Rector.

Aggie reserve Wyley Jenkins might not see action tonight. The Aggies sophomore suffered indigestion all day Wednesday and Metcalf considers him doubtful for action.

The team is expected to return to Easterwood Airport about 1:30 a.m. Friday.



RANDY FOR TWO
Randy Matson drives into the lane for two of his 13 points against the Baylor Bears in the Aggies' final home game of the 1966 campaign. John Beasley and an unidentified Bruin jostle for position under the basket.

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