

Crimson Tide Clobbers Aggies, 89-68

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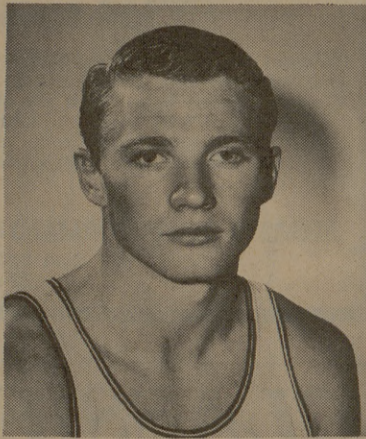
By GARY SHERER
The Aggies looked like a basketball team for 18 minutes of their 89-68 loss to Alabama last night. For the final 22 minutes the Aggies looked like the Crimson Tide's biggest fans as they handed the ball game to the Alabama five.

Playing in the consolation game of the Southern Mississippi Invitational Tournament, the Aggies could not cope with a tight zone defense put up by Alabama.

The Crimson Tide pulled away to a 25-point lead in the first four minutes of the second half. The zone press plus some loose play by the Aggies, contributed to the hot-shooting Alabama's lead.

The Aggies had grabbed the early lead with the shooting of Buzzy Myatt, who finished with 21 points. The Maroon and White were moving the ball well and adapting to the changing Alabama defense. Then, the cold shooting hand reared its ugly head for the Aggies and Alabama started to close the gap.

Alabama finally took the lead, 19-18 on a 22-footer by Guy Turner, who continually broke through the Aggie defense for crucial baskets. At this point, Alabama started using the effective zone press. The Aggies kept pace as the lead saw-sawed back and forth but the constant Tide pressing caused the Aggies to make many mistakes in the final two minutes of the half and Ala-



BILLY BOB BARNETT
... high point man.

abama grabbed a halftime lead of 35-31.

Despite the Alabama lead, this was by far the Aggies best first-half production this season. They shot 42.9 from the floor and out-rebounded Alabama 26-22.

The best first half-performance gave way to their worst second half-performance, as Alabama put the game away in the first four minutes of the half.

Led by Turner and Mike Nordholz, Alabama picked the Aggies apart with several 20-foot-plus shots and, aided by a complete Aggie breakdown, pulled out to a 59-33 lead and the game was all but over.

The first terrible four minutes for the Aggies revealed some unfortunate occurrences. In addi-

tion to Alabama running up the lead, the Aggies threw the ball away a total of nine times, including three interceptions by Nordholz and Turner.

Coach Shelby Metcalf substituted freely, trying to find the right combination to cope with the Alabama onslaught but was unsuccessful. The Aggie fate was sealed when, with 10 minutes to go in the game, Ronnie Peret fouled out. Peret, the Aggies' leading scorer thus far this season did not enjoy a good shooting night, managing only four points, all in the first half. His one valuable contribution was on the boards where he had pulled down a dozen rebounds and, as he sat down, the Aggie cause was just about through.

The loss of Peret though, seemed to put a spark into the Aggies. With the shooting of Billy Bob Barnett and the hustling of Terry Trippet, the Aggies shaved the Alabama lead to 15 points and a comeback was possible.

Alabama's scoring draught only lasted two minutes. Led by Jerry Elliott, they pulled the lead back to 20 points again, where it stayed until the end.

Aggie defense and foul shooting had been the team's best features in the first three games of the season. Their defense fell apart completely and their missed foul shots added to the Alabama pull-away early in the half, as nothing went right for the Aggies in their fourth straight loss.

Barnett and Myatt split game scoring honors for the Aggies with 21 apiece, while Nordholz and Turner led the Crimson Tide

with 22 and 19, respectively. Elliott added 12 to the Alabama cause.

This game ended the Aggies' unsuccessful road trip and their next game will be at G. Rollie

White Coliseum when they host Stephen F. Austin College Tuesday night. The following Thursday, they will entertain the North Texas State Eagles for the final game before the Christmas break.

Fish Basketballers Worth Watching

By JERRY GRISHAM

The Texas Aggie Fish basketball team will bear watching this season, according to Coach Jim Culpepper who calls them the best freshman team he's coached in the three years he has been at A&M.

According to Culpepper, the Fish have two qualities necessary for a winning team: size and speed.

"For a freshman team we have good speed," Culpepper said, "and we have enough size to go with the speed so that we don't get hurt on the backboards."

"We are fortunate," he continued, "that we have boys who can run, and yet they are so well coordinated for freshmen that they do everything pretty well."

THE FISH demonstrated their ability to shoot in the first game of the season, Dec. 1, as they hit on 29 of 68 shots for a 42.6 percentage to down Lon Morris Junior College 78-61. They also bested the Bearcats on the backboards as they out rebounded them 59-46.

Culpepper singled out Mike Heitmann and Bill Brown as two of the key players in the victory. He termed Heitmann "the most consistent boy on the squad."

Mike notched 28 points in the opener, and the 6'4" forward is considered to be a rugged rebounder.

Bill Brown, a 6'1" guard, was credited by Culpepper with making the team go by his ball handling.

CULPEPPER TERMED his team's performance against Lon Morris as exceptional for this early in the season, but he hesitated to call it a sure sign of things to come.

"I hope this is an indication that we have a good ball team," he commented, "but on the other hand, last week's performance may have been just a flash in the pan."

The Fish will not have a better time to verify their potential than Tuesday night in G. Rollie White Coliseum when they square off against the Ravens of San Jacinto Junior College. The Ravens are 11-0 thus far in the season and will have a lot of momentum behind them.

"San Jacinto has, if not the best, at least one of the best teams we'll face all year," pointed out Culpepper.

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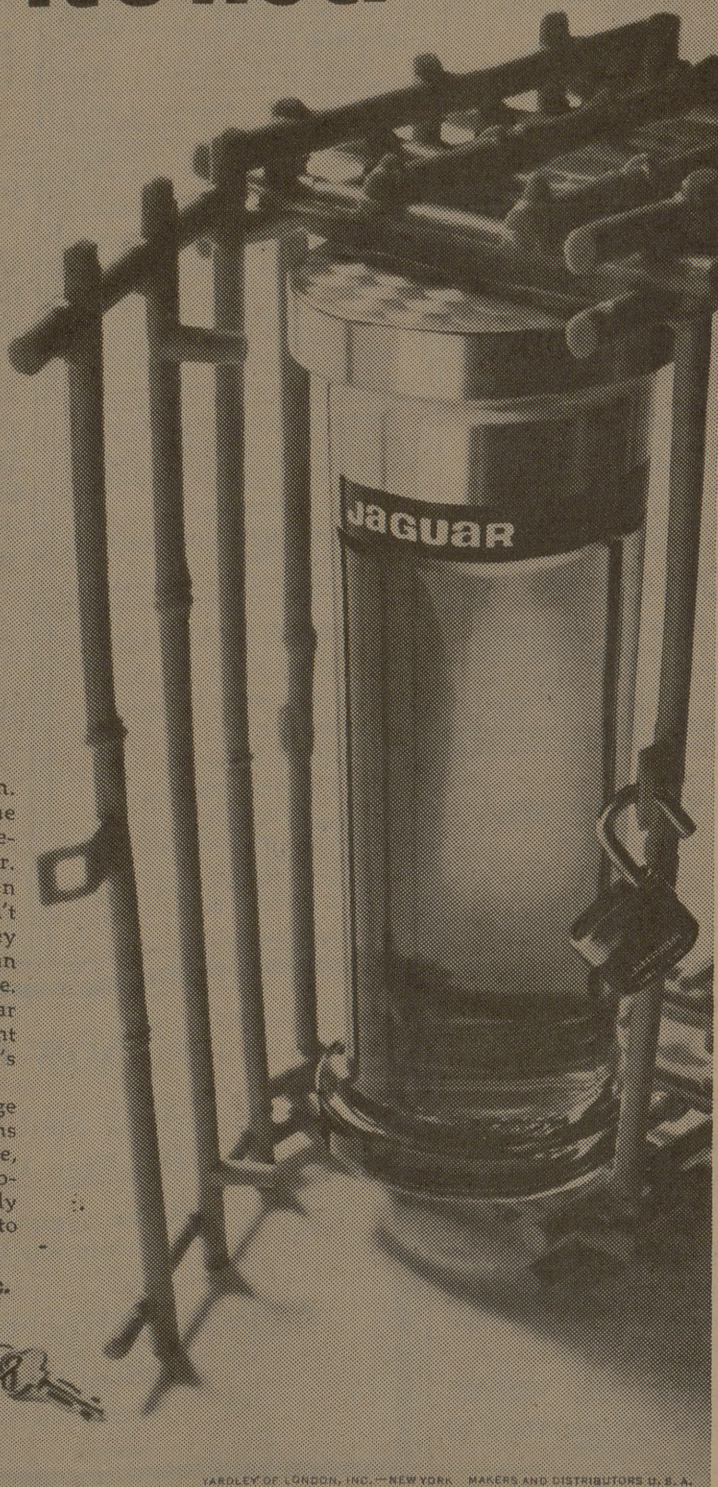
SWC Makes New Rulings

By HAROLD RATLIFF

DALLAS, Tex. (AP) — Southwest Conference football coaches and athletic directors issued a statement Thursday that efforts would be continued to prevent abuses of any sort against football players.

This was the upshot of a day-long discussion of the situation at Southern Methodist University where Negro player Jerry Levias had been subjected to racial barbs from opposing players and had received abusive letters and telephone calls from the public.

Jaguar. Tame it's not.

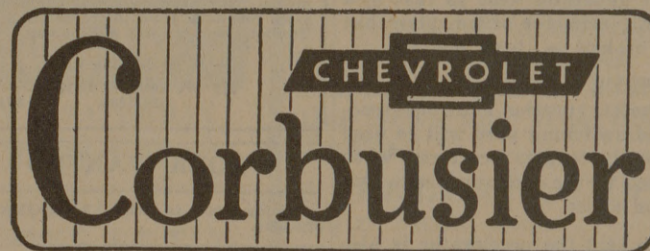


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