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Football is a hush-hush affair at Texas A&M, at least from the fans' viewpoint.

Two of three Sbis Dining Hall cafeteria patrons who correctly forecast the score of the Aggies' Cotton Bowl win over Alabama didn't show up to collect a free 16-ounce steak.

Patrick J. Decker, English instructor who graduated in 1959, was the only steak-taker. Jim Richards, who also wrote down 20-16 before Jan. 1, didn't show. The other winner signed himself only as Robert Z. on his winning entry.

The entry form also carried a ballot asking whether Food Service Department officials should announce the secret of success in predicting the results of A&M's last seven games.

Customers voted 2 to 1 not to announce the secret. Decker wouldn't explain how he decided on 20-16 and said he would have to wait awhile before trying his hand on the A&M-LSU 1968 opener September 20.

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# Aggie Five Returns Home With TCU

By JOHN PLATZER  
After a month on the road, the Aggie basketballers return to G. Rollie White Saturday night to play Texas Christian University in the second Southwest Conference battle for each team.

T.C.U., a big, strong team with excellent rebounding, has reeled off three victories in a row to even their season mark at 5-5 and 1-0 in conference play.

**THE KEY MAN** in the Horned Frogs' attack is 6-5 senior forward Mickey McCarty. McCarty, a 240 pounder, is averaging 17.5 points per game while pulling down 136 rebounds in his team's 10 games. James Cash, a 6-6 center, and Tom Swift, a 6-5 junior college transfer from Fullerton, California, give the Frogs their strength inside. Cash is getting about 13 rebounds a game while Swift brings down about 8 per outing.

Starting outside for T.C.U. are Carey Sloan and Bill Swanson. Sloan, a 6-0 senior, has averaged 8.3 points while Swanson, a 6-0 sophomore, has averaged 6.9. Tommy Gowan leads the reserves.

T.C.U. opened up their conference season with a win Wednesday as they defeated Rice 84-75. Cash was the Frogs' big man in the win as he scored 29 points. Swanson contributed 15 points to the T.C.U. total and substitute guards Rick Wittenbraker and Jeff Harp each had 11 point nights. The win put the Frogs in a first place conference tie with Arkansas, Baylor and Texas who also scored opening conference wins Wednesday.

**THE FROGS** had warmed up for the Rice game by winning the Holiday Classic Tournament in Storrs, Connecticut. In their first game in the tournament they defeated the University of Massachusetts 63-56 and then topped the University of Connecticut host team in the championship game 72-65.

Following T.C.U. into town two nights later will be the Texas Tech Red Raiders, one of the conference's pre-season favorites, in a rare Monday night game. Tech is paced by 6-7 forward Vernon Paul. Paul is one of the finest players in the conference.

The Red Raiders were shocked Wednesday when they were upset by Texas 84-72 on their home court in Lubbock, Texas, which didn't arrive there until three

hours before the game because of bad weather, jumped into a 46-34 halftime lead in the game. After Tech had narrowed the margin to four points in the first five minutes of the last half, Texas once again pulled away.

Texas Tech cut the lead back down to six with 6:35 left but the Steers went into a stalling game forcing the Red Raiders into fouls which allowed the Longhorns to stretch their lead to 12 points.

**PAUL**, A SENIOR from Oklahoma, led the Raiders in the contest with 19 points and 10 rebounds. Jerry Haggard, a 5-10 junior guard from Lubbock, had 17 points in the game while Joe Dobbs, a 6-5 junior from Lubbock, had 11 and Randy Sherrod, a 6-5 sophomore guard, contributed 10.

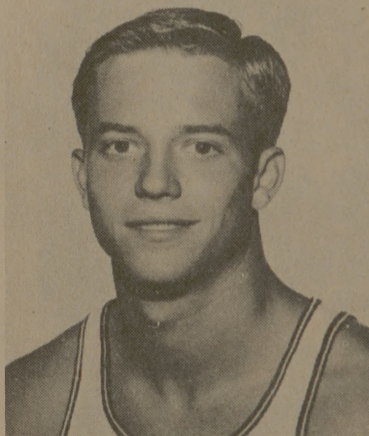
Texas Tech was outrebounded in the game 35-33 and hit on only 44.6 per cent of their field goals.

The Red Raiders' second conference game is Saturday night in Waco against the red-hot Baylor Bears. If Tech is to uphold their pre-season rating they will have to make a comeback in the Baylor game setting up their game with the Aggies Monday.

After two impressive wins gave the Aggies the championship of the Seattle Legion Invitational Tournament over the holidays, they were tripped up Wednesday in their Southwest Conference opener by Arkansas 75-70 in overtime.

After the Razorbacks seemingly had the game wrapped up in regulation time, Ronnie Peret sank an easy layup for the Aggies as time ran out to knot the score at 60-60. A&M had the ball out of bounds with only one second left and trailed by two when Peret got loose underneath.

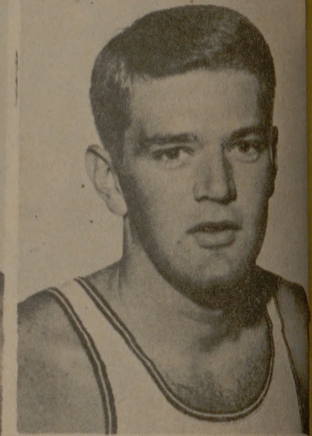
**ARKANSAS** sank nine free throws in the overtime period to put the game away. The Aggies came from 10 points behind in the second half to take a 49-43



JOHN UNDERWOOD



BILLY BOB BARNETT



MIKE HEITMANN

lead before the Razorbacks came back to retake the lead. Arkansas led 35-29 at the half.

Peret led the Aggies in the contest with 19 points and 18 rebounds while Billy Bob Barnett added 17 points and Mike Heitmann and John Underwood each had 14. Arkansas' Robert MacKenzie was the game's top point maker with 21.

Barnett and Underwood were each continuing on their fine performances in the Seattle Tournament where they both were named to the all-tournament team as the Aggies took home the first place trophy.

The Aggies edged San Francisco University in the tournament's championship game 77-75. San Francisco, the alma-mater of Boston Celtic great Bill Russell, is an annual power which gave the Aggie win even more meaning.

**THE GAME** was a see-saw affair with the Aggies never able to pull to more than a four-point lead in the second half while San Francisco was able to tie the game only once at 65-65. After the tie Mike Hazel stole the ball

for a two-pointer to give the Aggies a lead they never lost. Free throws played a major part in the contest as A&M hit on 19 of 24 from the line and San Francisco hit 19 of 26.

Barnett paced the Aggies' scoring for the night with 25 while Underwood contributed 19.

In their first game of the tournament the Aggies upset the hosting Seattle Chiefs, alma-mater of Los Angeles Laker star Elgin Baylor, 80-72. Harry Bostic hit four straight points with two minutes left in the game to break a 70-70 tie and assure the Aggies of the win. A&M was hot from the free throw line with 30 of 36.

**DESPITE** fouling out with 7:48 left in the game, Mike Heitmann led the Aggies' scoring in the game with 21 points. Heitmann hit for 20 of his points in the first half.

Also scoring in double figures for the winners for the night were Barnett and Terry Trippet with 15 apiece and Underwood with 12.

The two tournament wins broke a three game losing streak for the Aggies and combined with

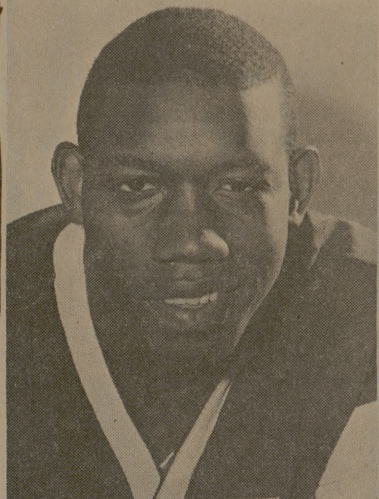
the Arkansas loss gives the 6-4 season mark going into Saturday's 8 p.m. game.

The Aggie Band will be on hand at the game which opens the home conference season. A must to put the Aggies in the thick of the conference chase.

**PRECEDING** the varsity game, the Aggie Fish will begin their conference season against the T.C.U. Wogs. The Fish has a 1-1 record on the season. Fish will play Temple College in a preliminary to Texas Tech game Monday.

Pacing the Fish in their first two games have been Bill Cooksey, a guard, and Chuck Smith, a forward. Cooksey is scoring a 23.5 clip while Smith has a 22.5 mark and leads the team with 12.5 rebounds. Steve Niles, a 6-11 center, has averaged 12.5 points and 7.5 rebounds. Other key freshmen players have been Rod McAlister and Donny Berry.

The Fish began their season with a 77-70 victory over Henderson County Junior College and then lost to strong Longhorn Junior College 92-81.



JAMES CASH



MICKEY McCARTY



TOMMY GOWAN

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