JADE EAST

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## Elvin Hayes Gives Rockets Something To Cheer About

By RON ROACH Associated Press Writer

SAN DIEGO (A) — Few teams in the National Basketball Association could cheer about a record of six wins in 13 games. But it's a genuine happening for the San Diego Rockets.

The Rockets won only 15 times in their freshman season and the difference this year, of course,

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is Elvin Hayes, college basketball's player of the year in 1967-

"Hayes," said Coach Jack Mc-Mahon Thursday, "has got to be the cinch Rookie of the Year in the NBA."

The 6-foot-9½ former Houston star scored the current NBA season high of 54 points Wednesday as the Rockets snapped a fourgame losing streak and defeated Detroit, 122-120.

It was the fourth time in six days that Hayes played the entire 48 minutes, and he was exhausted at the end. He grabbed 22 rebounds and blocked several shots to complement his offensive fireworks.

"I felt woozy," said Hayes after his 17-point fourth quarter.
"I was unsteady. I could have gone down because it was a tremendous grind. I'm glad I can help the team."

McMahon defends his strategy of keeping Hayes in the game. "In this league you go with your best hand. Elvin's my big horse. When you have one like

him you use him all you can."

The Rockets have been "clobbered," as McMahon put it, only twice in the early season. The games were against the Los Angeles Lakers and Wilt Chamberlain and the Boston Celtics of Bill Russell.

The young Rocket center was outplayed in both games, which was not entirely unexpected by McMahon or Hayes.

"Hayes is coming around," said McMahon. "But until he knows the people around the league he's going to get burned on occasion."

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**BOMBS AWAY** 

Aggie Aerial Ace Edd Hargett, cocks his arm and readies to unleash one of the record 58 passes he threw against the SMU Mustangs. On this play he hit Jimmy Adams for a 12-yard gain in the first quarter of the 36-23 loss Saturday in the Cotton Bowl. (Photo by Mike Wright)

Aggies tangle with Rice on Ky Field, time 1:30 p. m.

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#### **AGGIES CLOSE**

(Continued From Page 1)
Harris are expected to start at
end for A&M on offense with
Jimmy Kazmierski and Tom Buckman at the tackles, Jim Parker
and Rusty Stallings at the guards
and Jack Kovar at center.

For one of the few times this season quarterback Hargett, tailback Larry Stegent, fullback Wendell Housley and wingback Bob Long should be in the same backfield for the Aggies.

STEVE O'NEAL will provide the kicking chores for A&M in the game. The senior from Hearne has averaged 41.5 yards on 52 kicks thus far this season.

Among the top offensive threats for the Owls thus far this season have been Tony Conley, Larry Davis and Butch Robinson. Robinson is the conference's leader in kickoff returns with a 20.5 average on 19 attempts.

CONLEY, WHO Coach Stallings says the Owls "get a lot of mileage out of", is number eight in the SWC rushing statistics with 541 yards on 144 carries for a 3.8 average. Davis is well up in the pass receiving race with 24 catches for 323 yards and 4 touchdowns.

The Aggies top the Owls in both offensive and defensive team statistics going into the contest. A&M's offense has gained 360.5 yards per game while Rice has picked up 272.3 a contest. On the defensive side the Aggies have allowed opponents 372.5 yards per contest while the Owls' foes have averaged 451.7 yards per game.

The game will mark the first time the series has been played in College Station since 1957 when Stallings was an end on a Paul "Bear" Bryant Aggie squad. The Aggies, who have won the last three games of the series, hold a 27-22-3 game edge.



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