

SWC Race Gets Underway As Aggies Host Tech Tonight

By JOHN PLATZER

Another hectic Southwest Conference basketball chase gets underway tonight at 8 for the Aggies in G. Rollie White as they host the Texas Tech Red Raiders.

A&M, the pre-season conference favorite, returns from its holiday excursion with the Consolation Championship trophy from the All-College Tournament in Oklahoma City. Coach Shelby Metcalf's cagers enter tonight's SWC opener with a 5-4 season mark while Tech has posted a 3-4 record in non-conference competition.

After losing an opening round contest to Duquesne 93-71, the Aggies came alive to post two-point victories over University of the Pacific (77-75) and Wyoming (83-81).

Sonny Benefield, A&M's 6-1 guard from Sweeny, led his team

to the Consolation prize with a 34 point effort, the high mark for any Aggie thus far this season. Benefield hit on 16 of 22 field goal attempts against Wyoming and connected on a 20-foot jumper from the side with 8 seconds remaining to provide the margin of victory.

Steve Niles, the Aggies' seven-foot sophomore from San Antonio, turned in his finest performance of the season on the trip before being injured on the first play of the Wyoming con-

test. Chuck Smith, another sophomore, replaced Niles in the game and ended up A&M's top rebounder with 11.

In the win over Pacific, Niles poured in 16 points and grabbed 14 rebounds. Billy Bob Barnett was the leading Aggie scorer in the game with 17. The Aggies had opened their holiday tour with a 79-60 defeat at the hands of Wichita State in Wichita.

The Red Raiders from Lubbock have posted wins over Loyola of New Orleans, Houston Baptist

and Midwestern while losing to Colorado, Arizona, Oklahoma and Tulane. Jerry Turner, a 6-2 sophomore forward, has been Tech's top rebounder through their first six games. He has led his team in that department in each game pulling down 15, 18, 11, 10, 14 and 11 respectively.

A pair of guards, Jerry Haggard and Steve Williams, have been the teams top scorers with 13.5 and 11.5 averages. Turner has hit for 10.5 per game while Joe Dobbs is at 10.3 and Steve Hardin has a 9.7 average.

Coach Gene Gibson's basketballers have averaged 77.5 points per contest while their opponents are at 81. As a team they have hit on 37 of 460 from the field for 170 and have out rebounded

their foes an average of 55.6 to 49.7.

Texas Tech posted a 9-15 season mark last season and were 5-9 in SWC action but their freshman team had an undefeated 12-0 season and has provided this year's varsity with such performers as Turner, Williams, Pat McKeen and Clay Van Loozen.

Barnett, a 6-5 senior from Brenham, continues to be the Aggies' top scorer with a 17.4 average while Ronnie Peret, a 6-9 senior from Plainview is 16.9, Benefield is at 13.7 and Mike Heitman, a junior from Houston, is averaging 11.2. Niles is averaging 6.2 while Harry Bostic, a 6-6 senior, is at 5.4 and Bill Cooksey, a sophomore from Houston, is hitting for a 5.1 average.

An All-SWC pick as a junior last season, Peret is currently the team's leading rebounder with a 9.4 average while Barnett is averaging 8.3 rebounds a contest and Harry Bostic pulls down 6.3 per game. Niles is averaging 6 rebounds per game for the Aggies thus far.

Rebounding has been the strong point of the Aggies thus far this season as they have grabbed off an average on 46.8 per game while allowing their opponents 39 rebounds per contest average. The Aggies are averaging 80.1 while their opponents have averaged 81.2.

As a team the Aggies have connected on a fine 48.6 per cent of their floor shots for the year. Ronnie Peret is the top marks-

man as he has connected on 57.1 per cent of his shots while Benefield has hit on 50.9 per cent of his attempts. Barnett and Heitman each crowd the magic 50 per cent barrier in field goal accuracy with 49.5 and 49.2 marks respectively.

The next action for the Aggies will be this weekend when they travel to Fayetteville to battle the Arkansas Razorbacks Saturday night. A&M continues on the road next Tuesday with a trip to Dallas to play Southern Methodist.

A&M's freshman team which has posted a 4-0 mark plays the next game Feb. 1 when they invade Austin to take on the Texas University Yearlings, also a beaten thus far.

A&M Gymnasts Whip NTSU In First Meet

The Texas A&M Gymnastics Team got its first taste of competition Dec. 20 as it downed the North Texas State Eagles in Denton.

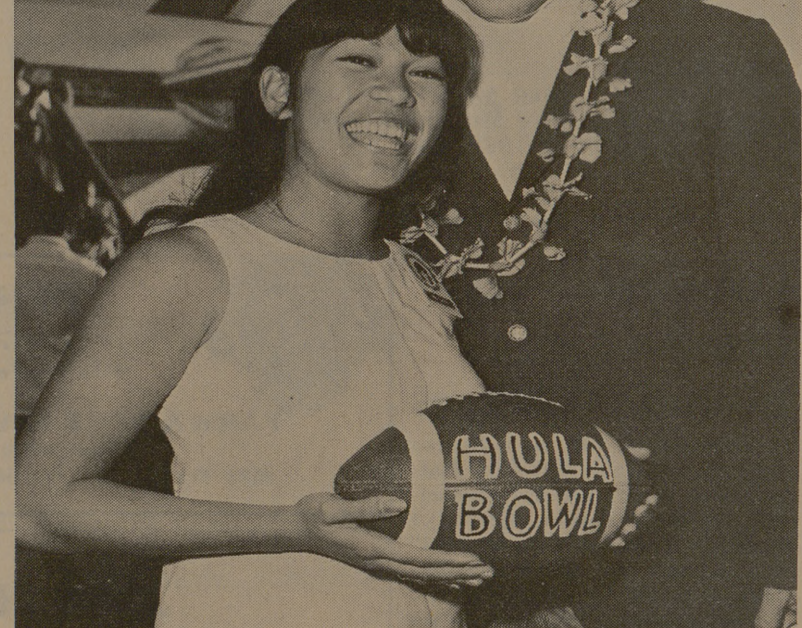
Coach Bob Mitchell's seven gymnasts accumulated 77.65 points in six events to 72.50 for the Eagles. In the first event the floor exercise, A&M's Bill Wood and Mickey Stratton finished second and third respectively to keep the Aggies even with NTSU in points.

In the side horse event, the Aggies had only Mike Kyle, who finished second, in the scoring column. In the horizontal bar, A&M dominated the event as Mickey Stratton finished first and his brother Rex took third. With a fine following performance by Kyle, the Aggies now trailed by only .5 points.

In the vaulting, the only pointmaker for the Ags was Mickey Stratton with a second place finish. But in the parallel bars, the Aggies pulled ahead to stay with the Stratton brothers dominating the event. Rex Stratton was first, Mickey was second, and younger brother Jack added the final points.

The rings were the final event and the Aggies increased their lead on a near perfect performance by Kyle which earned him a first place berth. Mickey Stratton finished second and Barnett Smith added a fine finishing routine to give the Aggies the victory.

The next encounter for the team will be in Houston on Feb. 14 when they compete in a triangular meet with San Jacinto and Odessa.



ALOHA!
Aggie All-American linebacker Bill Hobbs dwarfs greeter Milani Suan as he arrived in Honolulu for the 23rd annual Hula Bowl Classic played Saturday. Hobbs played for the South All-Stars in a losing cause at Honolulu Stadium.

Sports Programs Face Bankruptcy

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The athletic director of Oregon State University warned Monday that college sports programs face bankruptcy if costs continue at the present accelerated pace.

"Everybody is trying to keep up with the Joneses," James Barratt told a meeting of National Collegiate Athletic Association representatives studying the college financial dilemma.

"If the current trend is allowed to continue, some colleges won't be able to make it and a lot of coaches will be out selling real estate and insurance."

Barratt addressed a roundtable meeting of university administrators and with athletic directors.

Faced with skyrocketing costs, college heads are discussing means of cutting costs, including reduction of grants-in-aid, elimination of spring practice and return to limited substitution — or the so-called one-platoon system.

The proposed change in college rules, eliminating the current free substitution which permits use of full units on offense and defense, has created the greatest controversy.

There is a strong move among athletic directors and faculty representatives to return to one-platoon football, which was in effect between 1952 and 1965.

College coaches are almost unanimously opposed to the return of limited substitution and other influential college spokesmen insist such a move would return the game to the dark ages and turn the spectator appeal over to the pros.

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Time: January 9, 1969 at 9 a. m.
Place: Room 104 of Academic Bldg.
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Dissertation: THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN EXPERIMENTAL CURRICULUM PROGRAM FOR INDUSTRIAL EDUCATION.
Time: Jan. 9, 1969 at 3:00 p. m.
Place: Room 104-A, M.E. Shops Bldg.
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ENGLISH PROFICIENCY EXAMINATION
The English proficiency examination Juniors and Seniors majoring in Chemistry will be held at 7:30 p.m., January 8, 1969, in Room 231 of the Chemistry Building. For details regarding the examination, notices on the bulletin boards in Chemistry Building.

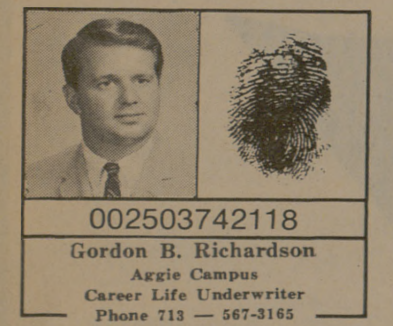
REGALIA FOR THE JANUARY COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES
All students who are candidates for degree in Philosophy in the College of Education are required to order hood and cap no later than 1 p. m., Tuesday, 14 (this will be accomplished by a representative of the University Book Store). The Ph.D. or D.Ed. hood will not be worn in the procession since such candidates will be hooded on stage as part of the ceremony.
Candidates for the Master's Degree wear the cap and gown; all candidates who are to be left at the Regalia ROTC students will wear the cap and gown. All military personnel are candidates for the degree, grad or undergraduate, will wear the cap only.
Rental of caps and gowns may be arranged with the Exchange Store. Caps may be placed between 9 a. m., Monday, Dec. 2, and 5 p. m., Friday, Dec. 26. Rental is as follows: Doctor's cap and gown, \$8.25; Master's cap and gown, \$4.25. Rental is the same as that for the hood and gown. A 4% sales tax is required in addition to these rentals. Payment is required at the time of placing order.
C. W. Landis, Chairman
Convocations Committee

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