THE BATTALION College Station, Texas Thursday, January 9, 1969 Page 8 **Palmer Is Back**

At Favorite Course

By BOB MYERS

Associated Press Sports Writer LOS ANGELES (AP) - Arnold Palmer is back at one of his favorite golf courses, the Ranch municipal course in West Los Angeles, hopeful of winning the \$100,000 Los Angeles Open.

The 72-hole winter fixture gets underway Thursday and the opposition for Arnie and his California army is formidable.

There is Billy Casper, the de-fending champion; U. S. Open champion Lee Trevino, and many

Curtis Hits Only On Field

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) -Someone once quoted Baltimore Colts' linebacker Mike Curtis as saying, "When I'm off the field I'm a gentleman. When I'm on the field I'm an animal."

Curtis was asked about that Wednesday during a practice for Sunday's Super Bowl game between the National Football League champion Colts and the American Football League champion New York Jets in Miami.

"Gee, I guess I said it, but I was only joking," Then, thinking for a few seconds, the 232-pound left linebacker added, "I guess it's apropos."

Curtis has the reputation of a killer on the field. He doesn't limit it to the opposition. If a teammate riles the one-time Duke fullback in practice he's just as liable to pop him.

"I don't know what makes me

When it was pointed out he

"I can recall," he said, "always

of the top professionals who dominate the sport.

A year ago Casper, on his 13th attempt, finally won the Los Angeles Open, and went on to win more money for the year than anyone else-about \$205,000.

But Casper's victory was registered on another golf course, Pasadena's Brookside municipal layout, a site chosen by the pros because certain improvements demanded at Rancho had not been made.

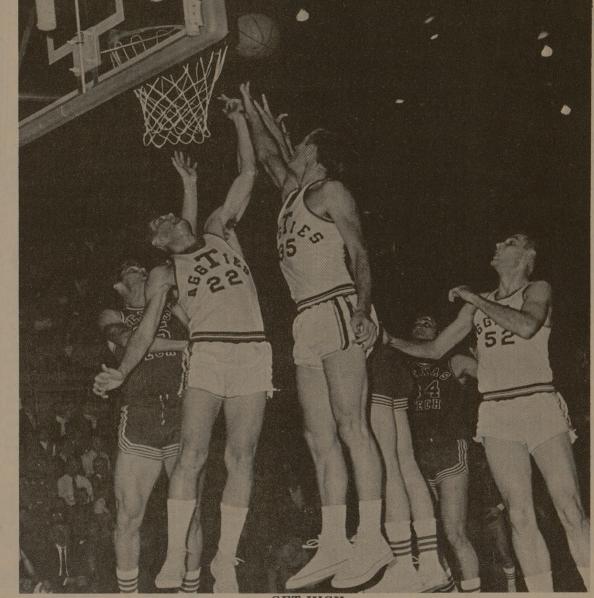
So Casper has yet to conquer Rancho while Palmer, who finished three strokes behind California's Casper in Pasadena and was publicly critical of the course there, guns for triumph No. 4.

Palmer made it No. 3 in 1967 with rounds of 70-64-67-68-269, 15 shots under part for Rancho's 6,800 par 71 test. He won the event the year before and in 1963. Casper tamed Brookside's par

71, 7,021-yard layout with 70-67-68-69—274 and picked up the \$20,000 winning purse. Palmer's 277 was worth \$12,000.

Palmer, whose last tournament was the Hawaiian Open last November, has been in Palm Springs in recent days doing television commercials and sharpening his game.

He was sidelined temporarily by the flu and didn't decide to enter here until the deadline Sunday night. Palmer won only two tournaments in 1968, the Bob Hope Classic in Palm Springs in February and the Kemper Open in Sutton, Mass., in September.



GET HIGH Harry Bostic (35) and Mike Heitmann (22) of the Aggies both leap high for a rebound in the first half of Tuesday's initial conference win over the Texas Tech Red Raiders, 85-84. The next action for the Aggies will be Saturday afternoon against Arkansas in Fayetteville. (Photo by Mike Wright)



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