

Aggies Edge Hogs, 73-68; Travel To SMU Tonight

By JOHN PLATZER
With their first major road test of the young Southwest Conference basketball race successfully behind them, the Aggies travel to Dallas tonight hoping to keep their record unspoiled.
Coach Shelby Metcalf's cagers passed their first test with a 73-68 verdict over the Arkansas Razorbacks in Fayetteville Saturday to up their season record to 7-4 and their SWC mark to 2-0.
Southern Methodist, A&M's 8 p.m. opponent tonight, has posted

a 2-1 SWC and 5-6 season record. Coach Bob Prewitt's Mustangs are paced by two seniors, Bill Voight and Lynn Phillips, and sophomore sensation Gene Phillips. Other top Ponies are Gary Sibley and Woody Taliaferro, a senior and junior, respectively, who lettered for SMU last year.
Gene Phillips entered the Southwest Conference with one of the largest fanfares ever accorded a sophomore. The 6-4 Houston Jones star averaged 35.4 on SMU's freshman team last season and

has been among the top scorers in the SWC thus far this season with a 20 points per game average.

Voight was a consensus All-SWC choice last year after averaging 18.2 per game while Lynn Phillips, Gene's 6-7 older brother, averaged 19.1 as a junior. Sibley had a 12.1 average and Taliaferro contributed 7.6 per contest.

The Aggies counter with one of the veteran squads in the SWC with seniors Billy Bob Barnett, Ronnie Peret, Sonny Benefield, Harry Bostic, junior Mike Heitmann and sophomores Steve Niles, Bill Cooksey, and Chuck Smith sharing most of the action.

Arkansas led Coach Shelby Metcalf's cagers for most of the game Saturday until a pair of layups by Peret gave A&M the lead for good at 64-62 with 5:20 remaining in the game.

The Aggies played one of their better floor games of the season and continued to hit with uncanny accuracy from the floor. A&M committed only 10 turnovers in the game but the Porkers displayed great ballhandling, committing only four turnovers, none in the first half when they built up a 43-40 lead. The largest

lead in the game for either team was the final five point margin.

Going into the contest with a team percentage of 49.4 from the floor, the Aggies outdid themselves connecting on 28 of 45 attempts for a 62.2 percentage.

Barnett, who entered the game with a 16.8 average, paced A&M

with 24 points while Peret had 19, Heitmann had 11 and Benefield contributed 10. Barnett connected on 9 of 12 shots while Peret hit on 7 of 9.

Peret, A&M's 6-9 postman, led the Aggie rebounders with 9 while Barnett and Bostic each pulled down 7.

The Razorbacks, who hit on 45.6 per cent of their shots, were paced by James Eldridge with 20 points while Robert McKenzie and Donnie Watts each had 13 and Benton Cone had 11. Eldridge scored 16 of his points in the initial half.

A&M returns to G. Rollie White

Saturday for an 8 p.m. game. Texas Christian University, defending SWC champions, Horned Frogs have gotten off a slow start losing their first three SWC games but their starters back from last year provide a tough obstacle for Aggies.

Matson Picked As Amateur Of Year

DALLAS (AP)—For the third time, Olympic and world shot put champion Randy Matson has been chosen as Texas Amateur Athlete of the Year by the Texas Sports Writers Association.

Matson, now with a stock brokerage firm in Houston, said "I feel real fortunate to win the award when you consider the competition in Texas. There are a lot of good amateurs in the state in all the sports."

Others considered for the award included All-American Chis Gilbert, Texas' great back; Olympian Jim Hines of Texas Southern; basketball star Edwin Hayes of the University of Houston; and flanker Jerry Levias of Southern Methodist University.

Matson, a Pampa, Tex., product, received the Sullivan Award last year as the outstanding amateur athlete in the United States.

Matson, the world record holder in the shot put, entered the Olympics a top heavy favorite which put a great deal of pressure on him.

"A lot of people expected me to win," Matson said. "I knew that my track career would be complete if I could get the medal. It

Aggies Ink Butch Kamps

Defensive tackle Butch Kamps of Houston Bellaire, sought by more than 40 universities, has signed a letter of intent with Texas A&M, Coach Gene Stallings said Monday.

Kamps, 6-foot-3 and 235 pounds was an all-state selection as a junior on the 1967 Bellaire squad. He did not play last fall because of ineligibility due to the 10-semester rule of the University Interscholastic League.

36
24
36

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was certainly worth all my worry."

Matson, who terrorized the opposition for four years at Texas A&M, flipped the shot 67 feet 10 1/4 inches to win the Gold Medal and set a new Olympic record.

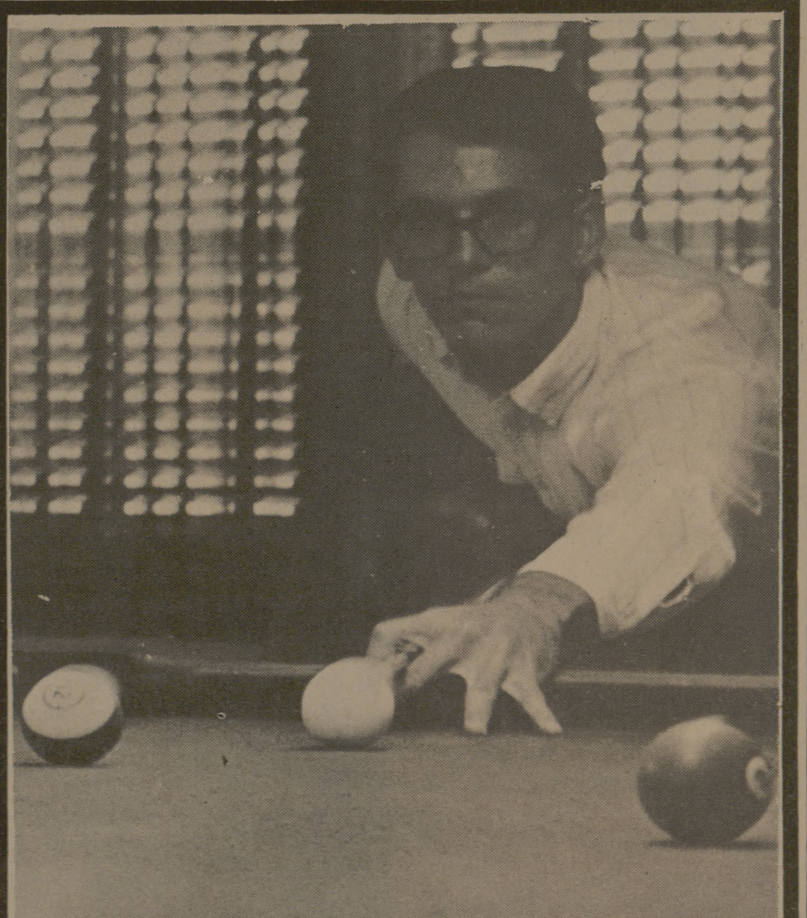
He said he hopes to be present later this winter when he receives his award at the Dallas All-Sports banquet.

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