

Ags Ax Steers; Invade Bear Den For Showdown Tonight

By JOHN PLATZER
The biggest in a long string of big games faces the Southwest Conference leading Aggies tonight at 8 p.m. in Waco's Heart O' Texas Coliseum as they take on the second-place Baylor Bears.

Coach Shelby Metcalf's cagers won their fifth conference game without a defeat Saturday in Austin with a 65-57 verdict over the Texas Longhorns. Baylor stretched their SWC slate to 4-1 Saturday with a controversial 81-78 victory over Rice in Houston.

Visiting teams have now won 8 of the last 10 SWC games in a real switch on tradition. A&M's 8 point victory over TU was their largest margin in a SWC game this season and they have now outscored their five foes by a total of 16 points.

The Bears, boasting the best season record in the conference at 12-3, are short on height but long on shooting. Larry Gatewood and center David Sibley at 6-5, along with forward Tommy Bowman (6-4), are the Bruins' tallest starters. Guards Eddie Frazier (6-0) and Richard Scallorn (6-2) round out Coach Bill Menefee's starting five.

Gatewood enters the game as Baylor's top scorer with a 19.6 average while Bowman has scored 14 per contest. Bowman is also the Baptists' top rebounder with about 10 per game.

Menefee Raps Rice Remarks

WACO (AP) — Baylor coach Bill Menefee took issue Monday with published remarks by Rice coach Don Knodel after last week's Bear-Owl Southwest Conference basketball game.

Knodel was quoted as reflecting displeasure with the officiating in Rice's 71-68 loss to Baylor. His statement that "even the Baylor coaches were shaking their heads at some of the calls" drew a rejoinder from Menefee.

"I didn't discuss the officiating with him. There actually isn't much you can say to a coach who has just lost a game. I told him when it was over that we were fortunate to win, meaning we hit the crucial shots and made the decisive plays."

"I don't feel the game was a gift and I've telephoned the Southwest Conference office and told them the same thing."

Intramural Meet Set Wednesday

There will be a meeting of all Corps and Civilian Athletic Officers at 5:00 and 5:30, respectively, on February 5th, Room 232, G. Rollie White Coliseum.

Please have a representative from your team present. Winter and Spring activities are: wrestling, softball, swimming, golf, volleyball, tennis, and track.

Class A & C—Wrestling and Class B—Volleyball starting on February 10th with the other sports to follow.

The Aggies are expected to counter with seniors Sonny Benefield (6-1), Billy Bob Barnett (6-5), Ronnie Peret (6-9), junior Mike Heitmann (6-4) and sophomore Steve Niles (7-0).

Harry Bostic, the Aggies' 6-6 forward from Indiana, will sit out

his third straight game Saturday as a result of an injury suffered against Texas Christian. Bostic tore a tendon and twisted his ankle after sinking a jump shot in the second half against TCU. It is expected to be another two weeks before he will be able to

work out. The big play for the Aggies in their race past Texas was a second half steal by Heitmann who quickly converted it into two points, according to Coach Metcalf. At the time, A&M was trailing 48-45 with 9:09 left to

play, but Peret quickly followed with two baskets to put A&M in front to stay at 51-50 with 7:24 remaining.

Peret outmuscled the smaller Longhorns inside to end the game as the top scorer with 26 points and the top rebounder with 10. The 6-9 Plainview product connected on 9 of 11 field goal attempts and added 8 of 12 from the charity stripe.

Heitmann contributed 17 points to the winning effort while Barnett and Benefield each had 8. Chuck Smith and Heitmann were close behind Peret with 7 rebounds each as the Aggies dominated the backboards 39-26.

Peret's efforts inside and the defense Smith applied to Texas' Wayne Doyal were cited by Coach Metcalf as two of the keys to the victory.

"Our players were finding Peret open inside and the boys did a fine job in getting the ball into Ronnie. Chuck Smith did a real fine job on Doyal in the second half," Metcalf commented in the dressing room after the game.

Doyal kept the Steers in front throughout the first half as he banged home 9 of 11 from the field for 18 points in the initial half. Smith held Doyal to 3 out of 7 in the last half as the 6-6 Texas star ended the game with 25 points.

Texas came out in the game in a 1-2-2 zone which the Aggies attempted to force them out of by holding the ball at midcourt with a 5-4 lead. When TU failed to come out of their zone to challenge for the ball they were assessed a technical foul which helped build the margin to 7-4.

"We have more depth than them and we felt that if we could get them out of the zone we would have a good chance of getting their inside boys into foul trouble," Metcalf explained his strategy.

Metcalf-coached Aggie teams have now won four out of six games from Texas in Austin including the past two.

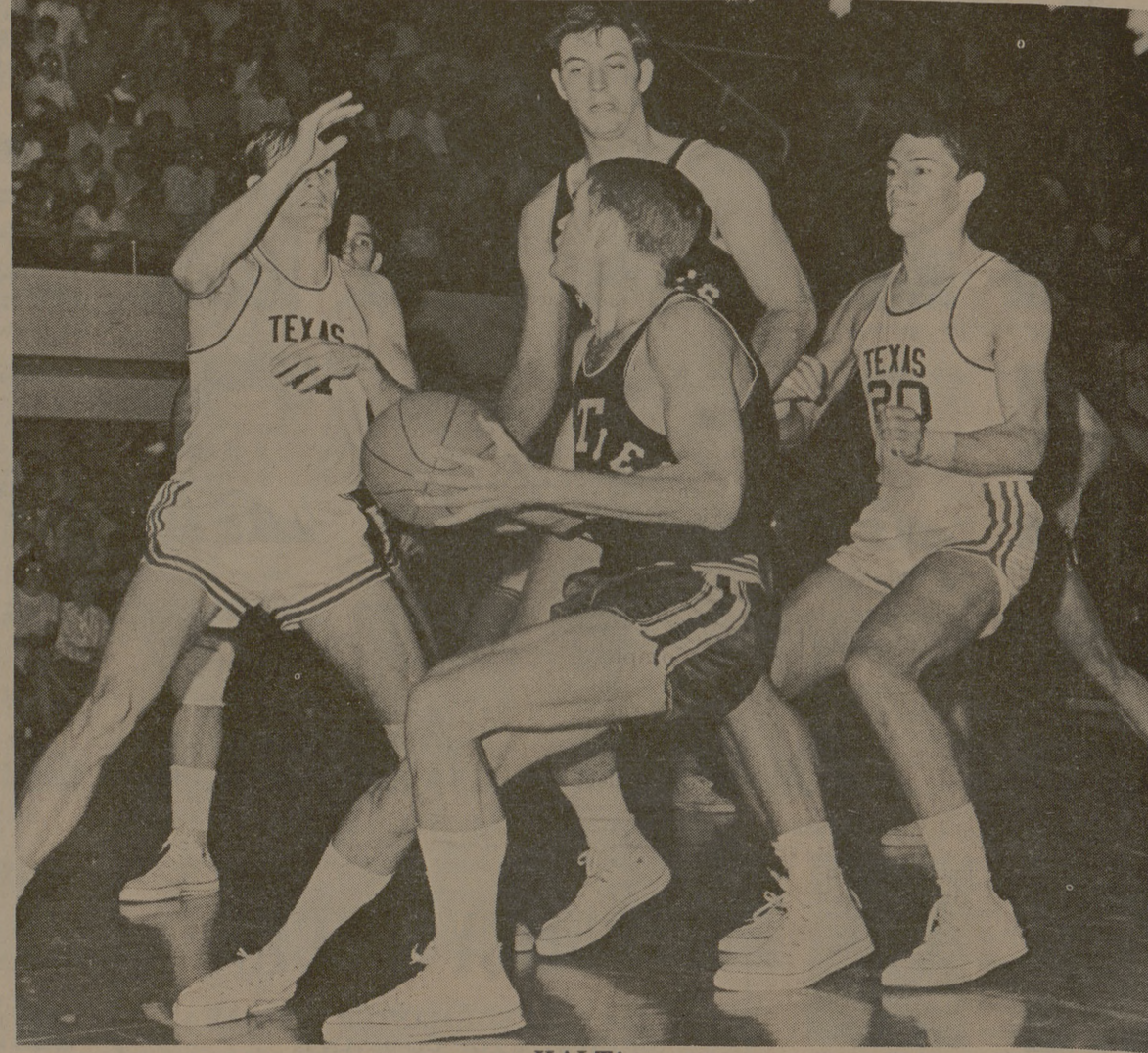
"The greatest thrill that an A&M coach can have is winning in Austin," Metcalf said after the game.

The Texas Aggie Fish basketballers will not have time to lick their wounds following their 126-76 pasting at the hands of the high-flying Texas Yearlings in Austin Saturday.

They hit the road tonight in search of their fifth victory in six contests as they invade the domain of the Baylor Cubs in Heart O' Texas Coliseum. Tip-off time is 5:45 p.m. in the prelude to the important varsity tilt.

Jeff Watkins was the only bright spot for the Fish, who fought hard but were outmanned as six Yearlings hit in the double figures. Watkins led the Fish with 23 points and also did a yeoman's job on the boards by dragging down 20 rebounds to more than double anyone else in the game.

The Fish come home Saturday to meet the Rice Owlets in an 11:45 a.m. game to precede the televised varsity match.



HALT!
Mike Heitmann comes to a screeching halt as he confronts Texas' Kurt Papp (41) on route to firing up two of his 17 points in the Aggies fifth straight conference win in Austin Saturday. (Photo by Mike Wright)

Vince Views Winning As 'The Only Thing'

NEW YORK (AP)—Success isn't just a mild affliction for Vince Lombardi. It's more like a disease.

"Winning isn't everything," the new coach and general manager of the Washington Redskins once said. "It's the only thing."

And, for Lombardi's teams, it was. In nine seasons as coach of the Green Bay Packers, his charges won 89 regular season games, lost only 29 and tied four. The Packers won five National Football League titles, six Western Conference championships and the first two Super Bowl games.

The last three NFL crowns came in succession, before Lombardi yielded his coaching duties to Phil Bengston to become full-time general manager of the Packers.

Although he firmly maintained throughout the Packers' worst season in years last fall that he had no intention of leaving Green Bay, there were indications that

Lombardi was itching for a closer piece of the action.

"I know what I'm missing — there's a rapport with the players I no longer have. And that's one of the greatest things in coaching—the closeness of the people. There's a great satisfaction in putting things together and seeing them work out."

At Washington, Lombardi faces a better situation than when he took charge of the Packers a decade ago. The Redskins had a 5-9 record last season.

The Packers had won only one game in 1958, the year before Lombardi arrived.

A member of Fordham's famed "Seven Blocks of Granite" forward wall, Lombardi in 1946 returned to Fordham as a line coach, and two years later moved on to West Point, serving under Earl "Red" Blake, a stern disciplinarian whose influence still runs deep in Lombardi.

Lombardi was 41 when he took a job as an assistant with the New York Giants. He remained there until Green Bay beckoned with the challenge of turning the worst team in the NFL into a

contender.

In his first year the Packers finished with a 7-5 mark and were on their way toward league domination.

Then at the height of success, Lombardi suddenly announced almost exactly a year ago that he was giving up coaching to become strictly a front office man. But his legacy to Bengston was far from promising. Crippled with injuries and aging veterans, the Packers had to struggle all season to avoid the Central Division dungeon.

Lombardi divorced himself from the team, leaving complete control to Bengston on Sundays while he took a seat high in the press box away from the field.

But it was obvious that this separation from the sport that had made him wealthy and famous left Lombardi restless and impatient.

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History 132	U. S. History	Wednesday
Shorthand 131	Beginners	Wednesday
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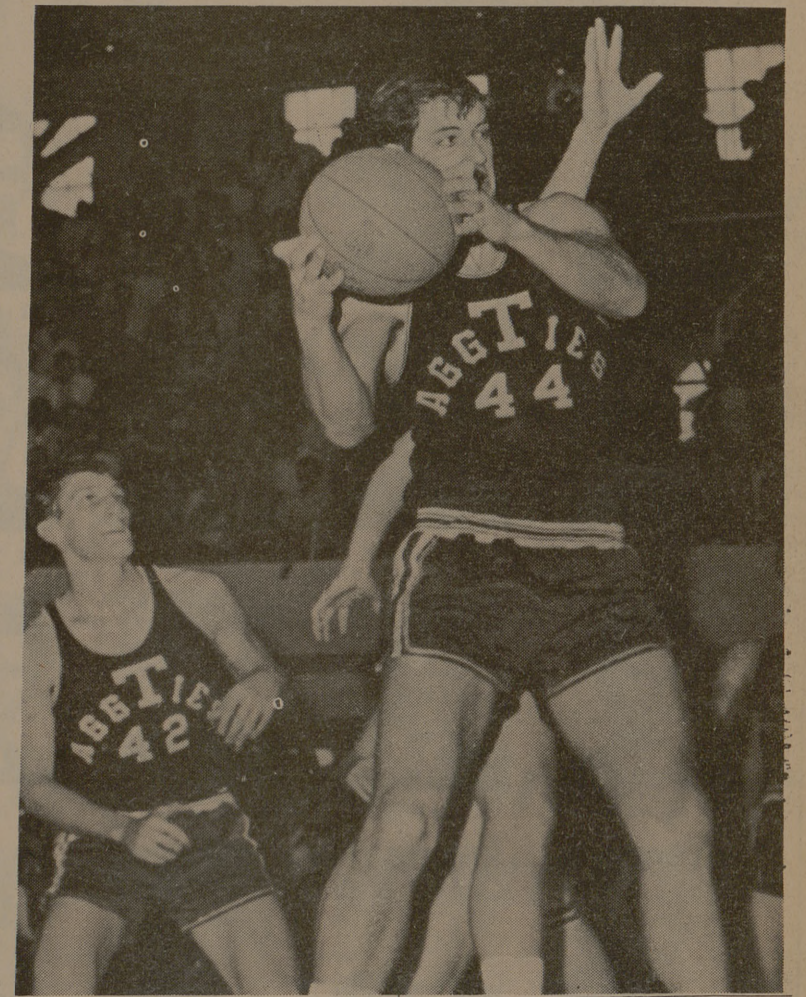
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GOT IT!
A&M's Ronnie Peret grabs one of his ten rebounds in the Aggies' 65-57 win over the Longhorns Saturday in Gregory Gym in Austin. This victory keep the Ags in first place in the conference race with a perfect 5-0 mark. (Photo by Mike Wright)

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