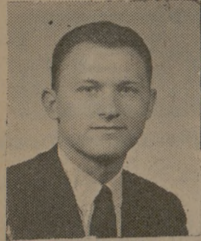


Sports Desk



Ag Cagers Not Out

by John Platzer

Despite their one point loss at the hands of the Baylor Bears in Waco Tuesday, the Aggies remain in the forefront of the SWC championship cage race.

A&M and Baylor are currently tied for the top spot in the league with identical 5-1 slates, while SMU is close behind with a 4-2 mark. A pair of factors still seem to favor the Aggies in the stretch run. For one A&M's remaining schedule is the best of the three with road games remaining only with Rice, Texas Tech and TCU and for another most writers in the state seem to feel that SMU, which is a game behind, and not Baylor will provide the Aggies with their stiffest competition.

Ball control and turnovers continue to plague the Aggies and turn their otherwise brilliant performances into narrow victories. The team continues to shoot close to 50 percent from the floor and they have out rebounded every team they have played in conference thus far. Even free throw shooting which hurt them at the beginning of the season, is beginning to come around as Coach Shelby Metcalf's cagers connected on 81.5 per cent against Baylor.

In fact A&M was able to outplay the Bears in all statistical areas except ball control and it was that one facet of the game which cost them a win. The Aggies are averaging close to 15 turnovers per contest and in the Baylor game committed a grand total of 25 in comparison to 9 for their opponents.

One particularly encouraging sign in the Baylor game (we hunt for them), was the huge number of Aggies who made the trip to Waco. The Heart O'Texas Coliseum was packed with the largest crowd (8,500) in the history of basketball in Waco and approximately a quarter of the attendance was made up of Aggies.



A LONG NIGHT

It was a long night for Coach Shelby Metcalf and his Aggie basketball players Tuesday in Waco as they suffered their first defeat of the Southwest Conference. The Aggies continue their quest for their first championship since 1963 Saturday afternoon when they host the Rice Owls. (Photo by Mike Wright)

Texas Aggie Rugby Club Seeks Members To Form Touring Team

The Rugby Club of A&M is looking for members. You have heard of the game, but what do you know about it?

Rugby is the forerunner of American Football. It was introduced to this country by the British around 1860, but in 1882 "downs" and "yards to gain" were inserted into the game. Thus football was born and has since become the prominent sport in America.

Essentially Rugby is a completely amateur sport. Because of its amateur standing it has had little publicity.

There are fifteen players on each team; seven backs and eight forwards. A player wears shorts, a shirt, high socks and studded boots, and no padding. All members are expected to run with the ball, tackle or score.

The field is 110 yards long by 50 yards wide with two goal posts, similar to those used in football, standing at each end.

A team may score in various ways. A "try" (3 points) occurs when one member crosses into the goal area of the opposing team and touches the ball to the ground in that area. A goal is scored if the team can convert the "try" by kicking the ball through the goal posts as in football. This adds two points, making a total of 5. However, a drop kick through the goal posts or a penalty kick through the posts count 3 points each.

Play commences with a kickoff from center. The ball, once caught, cannot be passed forward. The idea is that a player runs as far as he can to draw the opposition onto himself, then passes the ball laterally to a teammate. In this way the ball is contin-

ually moving.

The opposition is permitted to tackle the player with the ball, but that player cannot be protected by blocking. If a player is floored with the ball in his possession, he must release it immediately and it is still in play. The game does not stop after a tackle.

Essentially the ball may be kicked ahead, run with or passed, and any player may score. Various infringements will call for a scrum or lineout, but to learn about these you will have to come to the field in front of the De-Ware building every Sunday at 3:00 p.m. We need members and can explain the rules better there.

Call Greg Schwei, Room 1-4, Walton Hall, 845-4760, or Roger Boos, W-3-L, Hensel Apts. 846-5673, for further information.

QB Chooses A&M

HOUSTON (AP) — Lex James, considered one of the top school-boy quarterback prospects in the state, said Wednesday night he will enroll at Texas A&M next fall.

The 6-foot, 175-pound Houston Sam Houston High School signal caller connected on 128 of 261 passes last fall for 1,738 yards and 17 touchdowns.

Also disclosing he will attend A&M was Thomas Burke, a tight end on the Sam Houston team. Burke was James' prime target, catching 41 passes for 455 yards as Sam Houston rolled to a 9-1 record.

The two will follow their coach to Aggieland. Texas A&M said last Sunday that Bobby Marks, a former A&M star, had been hired as an assistant coach.

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