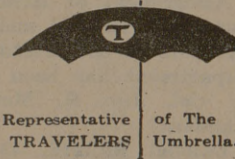


# Aggies-Rice End SWC First Round Saturday

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By JOHN PLATZER  
Hoping to keep their television record spotless and retain a share of the Southwest Conference basketball lead, the Texas Aggies host the Rice Owls at 2:10 p.m. Saturday in G. Rollie White.

It will be the second time in two weeks that the regional television cameras have been focused on the Aggies and it will be the

first time in history that a game has ever been televised from College Station. Last week in Austin the Aggies downed Texas University 65-57 before the same cameras.

A 66-65 loss to Baylor on Tuesday night was A&M's first defeat of the season and dropped the two teams into a tie for first place in the conference with identical

5-1 marks while SMU is in third with a 4-2 slate.

The Owls of Coach Don Knodel field one of the most improved teams in the SWC this season and will enter Saturday's tilt fresh from a 76-70 triumph over Texas. The Owls are short on height but they have two of the finest outside shooters in the conference in Greg Williams (5-9) and Tom Myer (6-1).

In their victory over Texas, Myer and Williams shot over the Steers 1-2-2 zone for 22 and 19 points respectively. Speed has been the strong point of the Houston cagers thus far as they run a tight zone and full court press to perfection.

Other key players for Rice are Jim Naples (6-6), a transfer from Mercer Junior College, Gary Reist (6-2) and Steve Wendel (6-8). The Owls boast more out of state players than any other team in the SWC with Williams from Portland, Indiana, Naples from Jersey City, New Jersey, Myer from Camden, Indiana, Resist from Hamilton, Ohio, Chuck Nelson from Ft. Wayne, Indiana and Marty Tendler from St. Louis, Missouri.

with 5 minutes remaining in the Baylor contest in what could have turned out to be the game's turning point.

Close behind Peret with a 16.6 average is 6-9 postman Ronnie Peret followed by Mike Heitmann with a 13.1 average and Sonny Benefield with an 11.9 average. The fifth starter is seven foot sophomore Steve Niles who has scored 4.9 points and grabbed 5.6 rebounds per contest.

Peret is the scoring leader for conference with an 18.3 mark and also leads A&M's rebounders for the season with a 9.5 average. Barnett and Harry Bostic have pulled down 8.4 and 6.8 rebounds per game.

Bostic, a 6-6 senior, was just coming into his own when he got hurt against TCU and it will be at least another two weeks before he will be ready to play. His rebounding and 7.5 scoring average have been sorely missed by A&M in their last three games.

The Aggies front line substitutes are sophomores Bill Cooksey and Chuck Smith and junior Bill Brown.

The Aggies continue to hit well from the floor as they have connected on 49.8 of their field shots in conference play and have hit on 63.1 per cent of their free throws. They have outrebounded their SWC foes 265-240 thus far.

Remaining at home Tuesday night, the Aggies start the second

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Fri. Feb. 7—MANCE LIPSCOMB and a Lipscomb festival. Anyone who wants may perform spontaneously in this festival, which is intended to give student talent a chance to perform before a Lipscomb audience.

Sat. Feb. 8—Film: "THE HANGMAN"—Discussion.

Fri. Feb. 14—GORDON and SUSAN MATTER—Susan is a really good, versatile vocalist accompanied on the guitar by her husband.

Fri. Feb. 21—Film: "NO EXIT" by Sartre—Discussion lead by Mr. Richard Stadelman.

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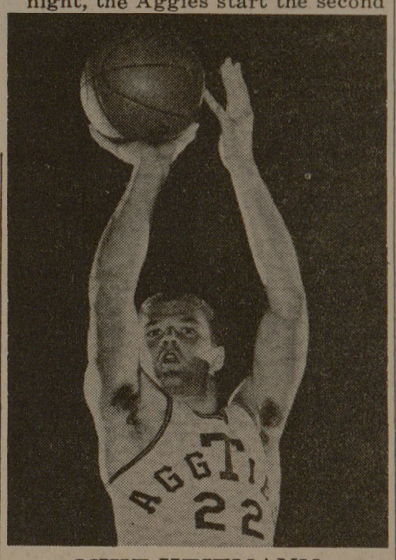
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**Fish To Battle Rice Freshmen**

BY RICHARD CAMPBELL  
The Texas A&M Fish basketballers will return to familiar surroundings Saturday at 11:30 a.m. when they host the Rice Owls to try to halt their present losing streak at two games.

The Fish will return to their home court after suffering two straight road losses, first to the Texas Yearlings, 126-76, and then to the Baylor Cubs, 79-77. They had previously beaten Henderson County JC, TCU, Wharton County, and Lon Morris.

Jeff Watkins continues to lead the Fish in scoring and rebounding with 20 points and 13 rebounds against the Cubs. In the Yearling game he scored 23 points and pulled down 20 rebounds. He is now averaging 22.8 points per game and 13.8 rebounds per contest.

Rice will field a starting five which is shorter than the Fish with Don Snyder (6-3), Leroy Marion (6-4), Dan McQuire (5-10), Ted Melady (6-6), and Dale Johnson (6-2) expected to get the nod.

On Wednesday night the Owlets edged the Texas Freshman to become the only team to beat them this season and the Yearlings were supposedly one of the strongest freshman teams in the country.

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