SWC-Leading Aggies Hit Houston For Clash With Ow

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See The Entire





By JOHN PLATZER What a difference a few days

Only three short days ago the Aggies were lustily cheering the exploits of the Rice Owls who had just boosted A&M into the undisputed lead in the Southwest Conference cage chase with a 75-73 victory over the Baylor Bears in Waco.

The time for thank-yous has now passed, however, as Coach Shelby Metcalf's cagers square off against the upset-minded Owls Saturday night at 8 in Houston hoping to hang onto their lofty position.

After a slow start, Coach Don Knodel's Owls have become one of the hottest teams in this section of the country. Rice followed their surprise victory over the Bears with a close run at the nation's 17th rated basketball power, Dayton, Thursday night.

The Owls had a 55-52 lead over the Flyers following a 20-foot jumper by Tom Myer but then went the final 51/2 minutes without scoring as Dayton edged out a 58-55 victory. Myer, who led

23 points, Greg Williams and Gary Reist give the Owls three of the finest outside shooters in

At the first of the season the Owls were hurt by a lack of consistency from their inside men. This problem seems to have been solved in the past few games as Coach Knodel has received fine play from such players as Jim Naples (6-6), Steve Wendel (6-8), Marty Tendler (6-5), Terry Timmerman (6-7), and Jim Hubenak

In the last meeting between the two schools, the Aggies came away with a hard-fought 90-82 triumph before regional television cameras in College Station. The Aggies gradually pulled away from Rice in the second half of that game after leading only 38-36 at the half.

Williams, who has been among the SWC's top scorers since the opening of the season, was bottled up fairly well by the Aggie defense and was held to 14 points while Naples scored 18 and Reist added 11. The Aggies were able

Fish Seek Third Straight At Rice

By RICHARD CAMPBELL

The Texas Aggie Fish travel to Houston Saturday for a 6 p.m. contest with the Rice Owlets looking for their third straight win after thumping the Texas Yearlings here Tuesday night.

The Fish upped their season to 6-2 and their conference mark to 3-2, with an upset 89-71 victory after losing to the Yearlings by 50 points in Austin two weeks ago. In a confrontation in College Station last Saturday, the Fish polished off the Owlets, 86-72 to bounce back from two consecutive losses.

In the statistics department, Jeff Watkins continues to lead the Fish both scoring and rebounding. Through eight games this season, he has maintained a 23.1 average in scoring and 13.6 rebounds per outing. Skip Carleton backs him up in the scoring race hitting at a 15.5 clip. Fol-

lowing in order are Rick Duplantis (14.9), Robert Threadgill (10.0), and Frank Farnsworth

In rebounding, Duplantis has really come to life in the last two games to raise his average to 10.4 per contest. He is trailed by Threadgill with 7.6, Carleton with 5.0, and Farnsworth with 4.5.

In team play this year, the Fish have averaged 79.1 ppg. while their eight opponents have a 76.0 norm. They also hold a good edge in rebounding with a 51.0 per game mark to 44.6 for the opposition. The Fishs' shooting percentage is also good with a 45.7 per cent mark to 42.2 for

The Fish are expected to start Watkins, Carleton, Duplantis, Farnsworth, and Threadgill, while the Owlets will counter with Don Snyder (6-3), Leroy Martin (6-4), Ted Melady (6-6), Dan McGuire (5-10), and Mike Skaer (6-7).

Owls inside in the first meeting as Mike Heitmann and Billy Bob Barnett paced A&M with 20 points and Ronnie Peret added 18.

Peret also led the way under the boards against Rice with 14 rebounds while Barnett grabbed on the way to a 54-50 Aggie advantage in that department.

Coach Shelby Metcalf is expected to start the same five that opened in the Aggies' 70-69 overtime triumph over Texas Tuesday. Sonny Benefield (6-2), Mike Heitmann (6-4), and Barnett (6-5)

to work well against the shorter will start outside with Peret (6-9) Smith, another talented and Steve Niles (7-0) opening at

With the return of senior Harry Bostic (6-6) to action, A&M's reserve strength is in the best shape it has been in since the TCU game. Other top Aggie substitutions thus far this season have been Bill Cooksey (6-2), Chuck

Cooksey, a sophomore from Houston Sam Houston, has made a habit of taking and hitting a long jumper almost immediately upon entering the game while

has turned into one of the defensive players on the squ ENTER THE EAST GATE POOL TOURNAMENT No Entry Fee Smith (6-4), and Bill Brown (6-1). Winner receives handsome jointed

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Billy Bob Barnett (24) and Ronnie Peret (44) go high to

Contest Texas' Kurt Papp (41) for a rebound in the Aggies' sweet 70-69 victory over the Longhorns before a packed house Tuesday night. The Ags travel to Houston

Intramural Volleyball Begins

In intramural action, Class B B-1 over Sqd. 10, D-1 over Sqd. 9

results for the games thus far is not playing for a dorm or unit,

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and Sqd. 8 over H-2.

have a partner.

This year's competition in in-

tramural golf will count for points

in both Class A and C. If a player

at noon, Feb. 19. All players must

For further details, call the in-

to play Rice Saturday at 8 p. m.

volleyball started Tuesday and

the regular schedule will continue

through Thursday, Feb. 20. The

over D-2, A-2 over E-1, C-2 over

the Maroon Band, F-2 over Sqd.

4, E-1 over Sqd. 5, Sqd. 2

Sqd. 12 over A-1, A-2 over G-2, House.

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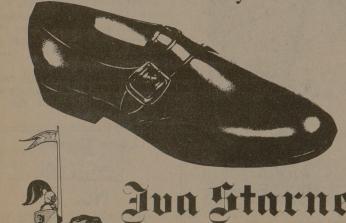
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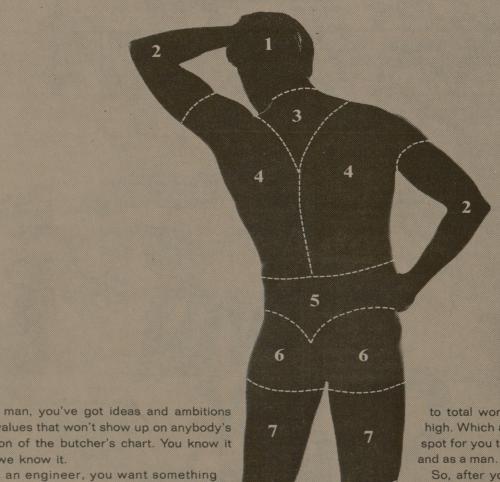
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