

# Ags Enter Stretch Run Against Tech Saturday

By JOHN PLATZER  
 Coach Shelby Metcalf's Aggie basketballers roar into the stretch run in their quest for the 1969 Southwest Conference championship Saturday night at 8 when they invade Lubbock to battle the Texas Tech Red Raiders.

A capacity crowd of over 10,000 is expected to attend the game in Lubbock's Municipal Coliseum. The Aggies take a two game SWC lead into the contest following their 86-74 victory over the Baylor Bears Tuesday.

A&M stands 9-1 in league play while Baylor and Southern Methodist are tied for second with 7-3 records. The Baptists and Methodists will be hooked up in a duel

at Dallas while the Aggie-Tech game is in progress.

This has been a rebuilding year for the Raiders as they start three sophomores, a junior and a senior but they are still capable of giving the front runners a scare. They have already defeated Baylor in Waco and fell by only one point to the Aggies in College Station, 85-84. Coach Gene Gibson's team suffered a severe blow following their game with Baylor when they lost the services of

sophomore guard Clay Van Loosen for the remainder of the year because of scholastic difficulty.

TECH STARTS one of the smallest teams in the conference

with their tallest player at 6-5 (Steve Hardin). Other starters are expected to be senior Jerry Haggard (5-11), and sophomores Steve Williams (6-1), Jerry Turner (6-3) and Pat McKean (6-3).

In the initial meeting between the two clubs, Williams led a late rally that got the Raiders to within one point of the Aggies. Hardin

paced Tech for the night's points while the now Aggie Van Loosen scored 18. Williams had 14 and substitute Mike (6-5).

Rebounding has been a problem for the Red Raiders far this season with the 6'4" Turner the team's top rebounder. Against the Aggies in College Station, Turner had 10 rebounds while Hardin had 9.

Expected to counter for will be seniors Billy Bob Barnett (6-5), Ronnie Peret (6-9), Benfield (6-1), Junior Mike Mann (6-4) and sophomore Niles (7-0). The top reserves the conference leaders are senior Harry Bostic (6-6), Bill Brown (6-1) and sophomore Bill Cooksey (6-2) and G. Smith (6-4).

BARNETT, a rugged forward from Brenham, continues to Coach Metcalf's cagers in season while Peret, a 6-9 Plainview product, is the club's top rebounder. Barnett has scored at a 17.3 per cent for the season and an 18.2 in SWC action while Peret has averaged off 9.8 rebounds per game the season and 10.3 in conference.

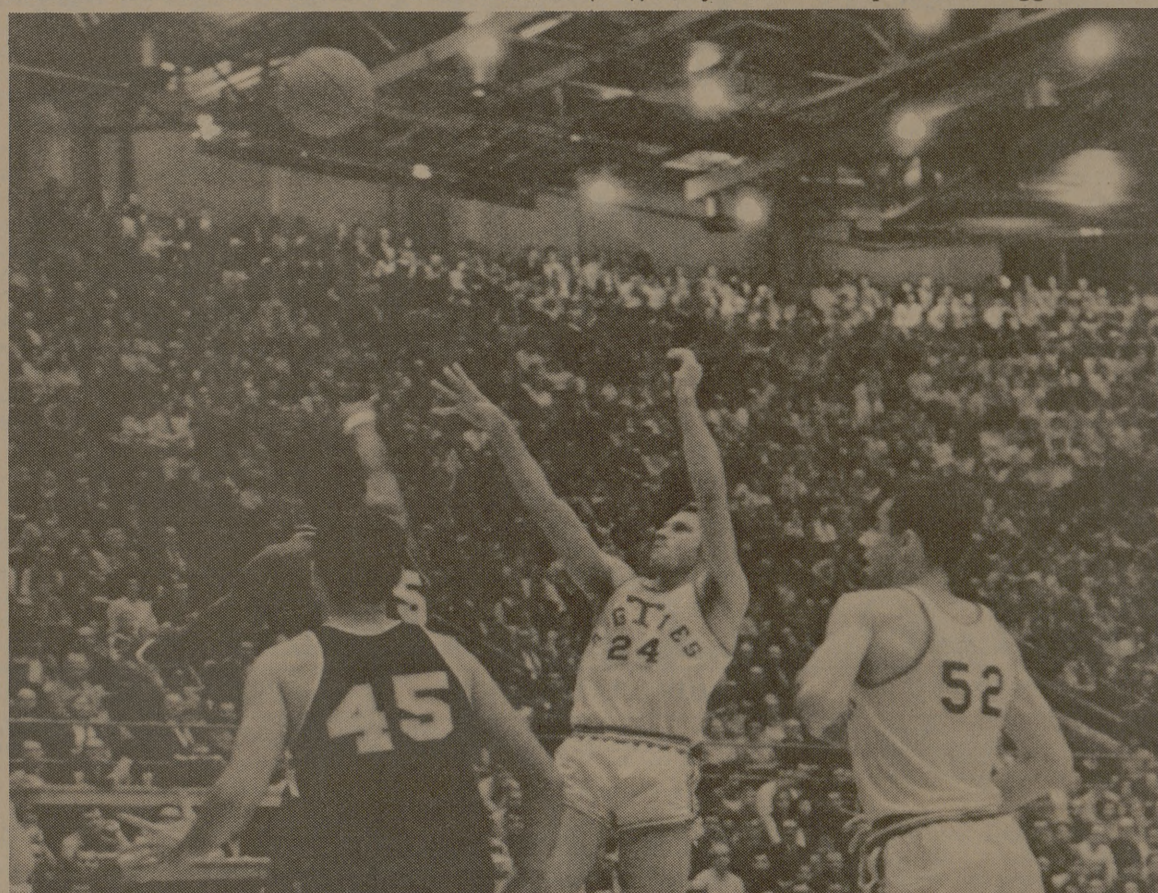
Also scoring in double figures for A&M thus far in conference play has been Peret with 11.1 points per game average. Heitmann with a 15.7 average. Benfield has contributed 10.3 points per outing in SWC competition.

Following Peret in the rebounding column has been Barnett with 8.1 per contest while Niles and Bostic have each grabbed 4.4 outtings and Heitmann is averaging 4.5.

THE AGGIES have hit an amazing 279 of 544 shots in the field in SWC play for a shooting 51.3 per cent while connecting on 65 per cent of free shots. They are averaging 46 rebounds per contest while holding their opponent to 33.

Five members of the team have hit for better than the magic per cent mark from the free line. Peret has hit 59 while Barnett at 57.9 to lead the Aggies. Heitmann is at 54.3, Chuck Smith at 55 and Bostic at 53.

Benfield is the team's lead free throw shooter with a 70.6 degree of accuracy while Bostic is at 72.7 and Heitmann has 70.6 per cent mark.



**UP AND OVER**  
 Billy Bob Barnett (24) puts a jump shot up and over the outstretched arms of Baylor's Tommy Bowman in this second half photo. A&M's Steve Niles (52) gets set to battle the Bears' David Sibley (45) as the Aggies blasted Baylor 86-74. Next action for the SWC-leaders is Saturday night in Lubbock. (Photo by Mike Wright)

## Winter Contacted About Tech Job

SEATTLE (AP) — Tex Winter, completing his first season as head basketball coach at the University of Washington, is considering an offer from Texas Technological College.

Winter, who came here from Kansas State after winning eight big Eight championships said Thursday he probably will give Texas Tech his answer Friday.

Coaching Texas Tech's basketball team now is Gene Gibson, whose Southwest Conference team has a 9-11 record.

"There is a possibility Gibson will resign," Tech athletic director Polk F. Robinson told the Seattle Times when contacted by telephone. He said he had visited Winter with the permission of Washington's athletic director, Jim Owens.

"I don't feel I am in any position to make a switch after one year here," said Winter, 47, whose record this season is 11-10. He added, however, that he had not given Robinson an answer. "I am still considering."

"Polk called me a couple of days ago. He was just feeling me out. I told him I would give it some thought. He is supposed to call me tomorrow."

Winter's mother lives in Lubbock, where Texas Tech is located. The coach, however, attended Southern California.

## Gymnasts Drop Match, But Future Bright

The Texas Aggie gymnastics team showed marked improvement Saturday afternoon in Houston in a triangular meet with San Jacinto and Abilene Christian College although falling 109.75 to 97.75.

Their 97.75 points did outscore ACC's 91.25 as the Aggies beat them on almost every apparatus. It was actually an off day for the Aggies as the sixteen-man San Jacinto team took the overall honors.

The high score of the day for the Ags was 7.5 points awarded Rex Stratton for a fine long horse vault. Rex's score was well

above the 5.43 average the team posted for the day. Side horse competition, still the low scoring event for A&M, turned out to be San Jacinto's big weakness also. In this event, Mike Kyler and Tom Cooper finished second and third respectively behind Moore of ACC with scores of 5.2 and 5-1.

Though the Aggie ringmen, Mickey Stratton, Mike Kyler and Barret Smith had an off day, they all scored within one point of the first place winner and managed to take a third and a fifth place in the process.

Bill Wood turned in a 5.95 point

performance in free exercise—his best thus far this season—despite the fact that the competition was held on a bare floor. Lee Reeves, kept from competing in the event by a sprained ankle sustained in last week's competition against Sam Houston, is expected to have to sit out for another couple of weeks.

Karley Kuntz, a first year competitor for the Ags, has improved his free exercise routine noticeably since the Sam Houston meet. Karley is expected to continue his improvement as the season progresses.

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