

# Aggies Close Out SWC Season In Ft. Worth Tonight

By JOHN PLATZER

It will be the old against the new in Fort Worth's Daniel-Meyer Coliseum tonight at 8 as Texas Christian hosts the Aggies in the final Southwest Conference game of 1969.

Cochair Shelby Metcalf's Aggies were crowned SWC champions Tuesday night taking over the reign from last season's kings, TCU. The Aggies are currently sporting a 17-6 season record and a 12-1 conference mark while TCU is 4-9 in SWC action.

The game will allow A&M to get used to the Fort Worth arena surroundings as they return Saturday for their Midwestern Regional date with Trinity. If the Aggies should get past the Tigers, they would then advance to Manhattan, Kansas, to battle the Missouri Valley Conference champion.

TCU's drop to the depths of the SWC has been unexpected.

The Horned Frogs have four starters back from last year's championship team and were picked to challenge for the top spot this season.

Heading up the list of returning starters for the Christians is 6-6 senior James Cash while the others are senior Tom Swift (6-5), and juniors Rick Wittenbracker (6-2) and Bill Swanson

(6-0). Jeff Harp (6-1), a junior from Amarillo, has worked his way into a starting job this season as well as junior college transfers Norm Wintermeyer (6-5) and Doug Boyd (6-8). Wintermeyer and Boyd are both from California with Wintermeyer from Barstow and Boyd from Lakeside.

The Aggies are expected to

counter with their usual starting array of seniors Billy Bob Barnett (6-5), Ronnie Peret (6-9) and Sonny Benefield (6-1), junior Mike Heitmann (6-4) and sophomore Steve Niles (7-0).

Heitmann, a Houston Sam Houston product, enjoyed one of the most productive nights in the history of G. Rollie White Friday night as he led A&M to a record-smashing 119-98 win over Southern Methodist. It was the most points ever scored by a SWC team bettering a record shared by the Aggies and Texas Tech.

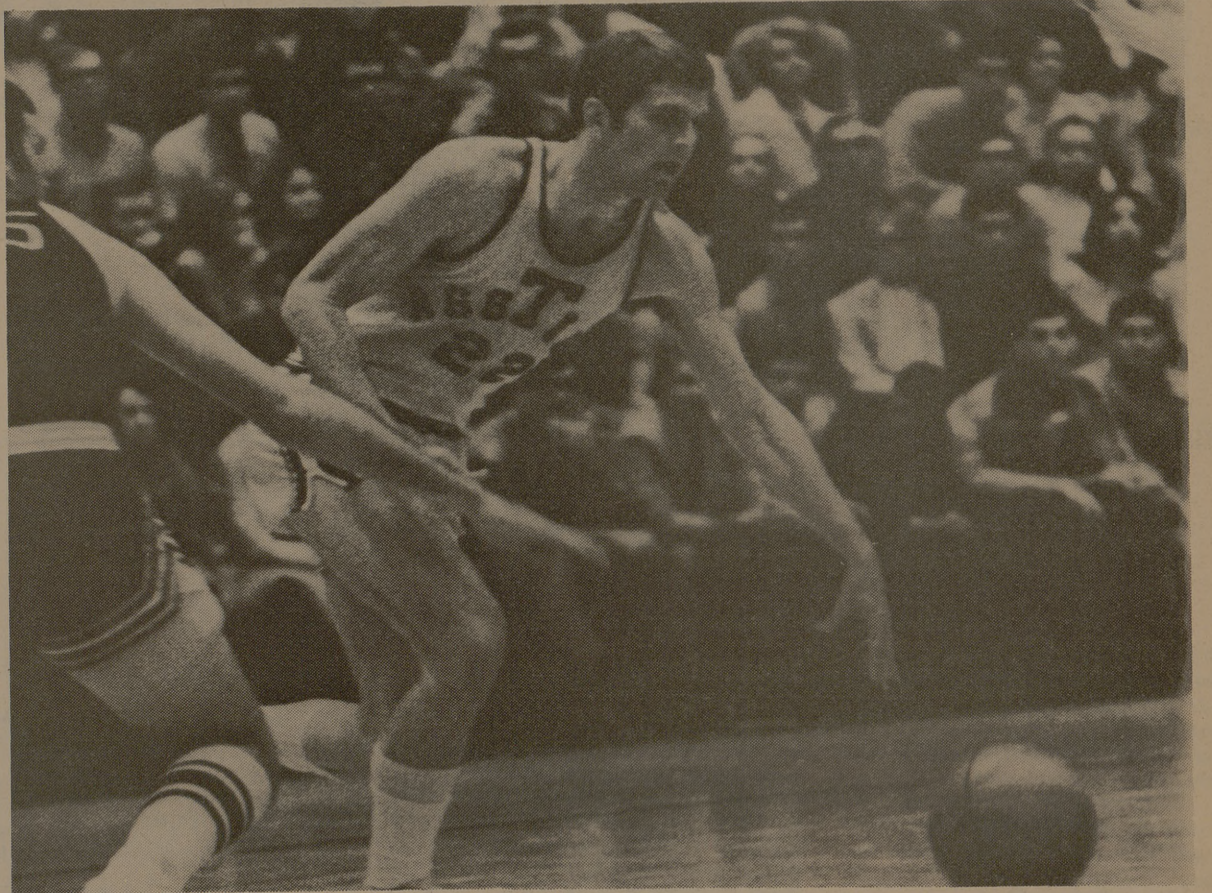
Heitmann hit with unerring accuracy from the corners as he poured through 36 points before retiring for the night with seven minutes remaining to be played. The second team All-SWC star connected on 16 of 22 shots from the floor in the game for an unbelievable 72.5 per cent.

Niles also enjoyed the finest performance of his career in the game as he scored 20 points on 8 of 12 from the field and pulled down 9 rebounds. Ronnie Peret picked up 26 points and 14 rebounds in the contest while Benefield had 13 points and Barnett combined 11 points with 9 rebounds.

The Aggies outplayed the Methodists in all phases of the game and at one point in the second half pulled away to a 25 point lead, 101-76. A layup by Niles had given the Aggies the magic 100th point while a jump shot by Chuck Smith with 36 seconds remaining brought the record with A&M's 119th point.

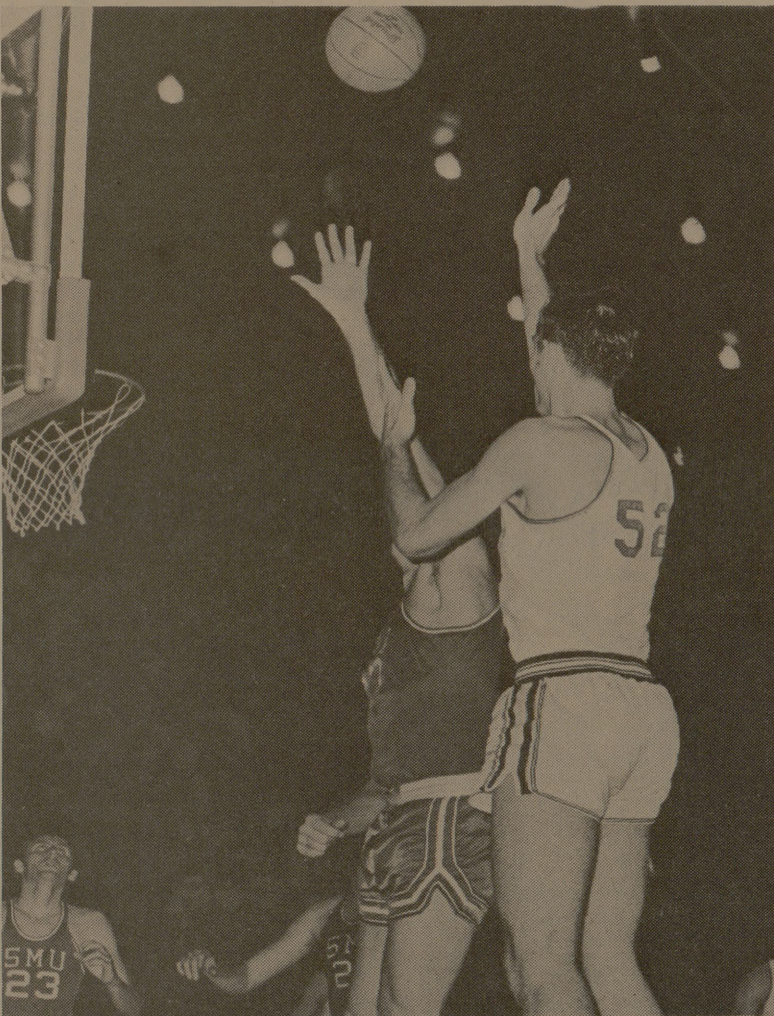
As a team, the Aggies dragged down 61 rebounds to only 48 by SMU and outshot their opponents from the field 57.5 per cent to 42.1 per cent.

SMU was paced by sophomore sensation Gene Phillips who scored 26 points while Lynn Phillips had 20 points along with Bill Voight and Donnie Berg contributed 19. Voight and Berg also did the biggest share of SMU's board work with 12 rebounds apiece.



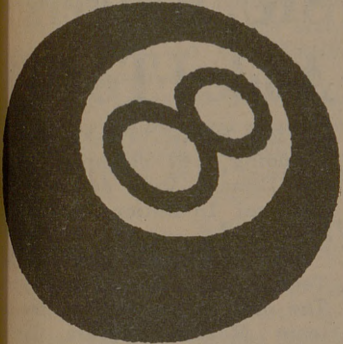
IN THE CLEAR

Mike Heitmann dribbles past SMU's Lynn Phillips on his way to two of his 36 points in Friday's 119-98 victory over the Mustangs. The 6-4 junior connected on 16 of 22 shots from the field for his best performance of the season. The Houston Sam Houston product scored 24 of his points in the first half and retired early in the game (with seven minutes remaining) when the Aggies had built up a 25-point lead. It was the first outing for the Aggies since clinching the SWC championship against Arkansas Tuesday night. (Photo by Mike Wright)



A LONG WAY DOWN

A&M's prize seven-foot sophomore Steve Niles had the finest night of his college career in Friday's 119-98 run past SMU with 20 points. The Aggies are in Fort Worth tonight to battle TCU in the final SWC game of the season. The SWC champs return to Fort Worth Saturday to battle Trinity in the Midwest Regionals. (Photo by Mike Wright)



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## Fish Dump CCSW

By RICHARD CAMPBELL

The Texas Aggie Fish basketballers upped their season record to 7-4 with a record-smashing performance Friday night as they bombed Christian College of the Southwest, 113-98.

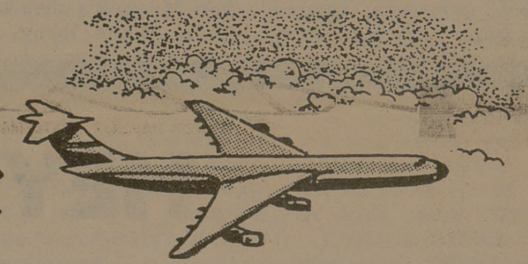
The preliminary game was only an omen of things to come as the Aggies' varsity went on to set a new G. Rollie White gym scoring record by beating Southern Methodist, 119-98. Jeff Watkins again led the Fish scoring parade by scorching the nets for 37 points, his best night this season. Big Rick Duplantis also put on quite a show as he

dragged down 25 rebounds to lead both teams in that category.

Watkins added 16 rebounds to the Fish total as the taller home team completely dominated the boards over the shorter CCSW. However, that did not dissuade CCSW from shooting 107 times, an all-season high against the Fish.

Other scorers for the Fish were Skip Carleton with 29 and Frank Farnsworth with 23. They were both hot from the field in the first half, leaving most of the second half scoring to Watkins.

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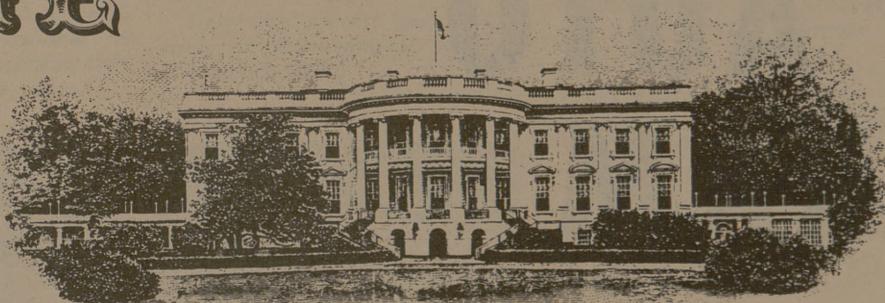
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