

Ags Drop SWC Finale To TCU, 94-71

By JOHN PLATZER
It wasn't one of those nights that you write home about. In fact, Coach Shelby Metcalf's Southwest Conference champions would probably just as soon forget their first appearance of the season in Fort Worth's Daniel-Meyer Coliseum and concentrate on the one coming up Saturday.

An inspired Texas Christian team momentarily derailed A&M's NCAA bound express 94-71 last night. The Aggies will have an opportunity to rebound in the same surroundings Saturday night at 9, however, as they

the Trinity Tigers in the first round of the Midwest Regionals.

TCU had entered the game with a 4-9 SWC slate while the Aggies had posted a 12-1 mark against the same competition. The Horned Frogs, SWC champions in 1968, have been one of the most puzzling teams in the country this year.

They began the season slowly but have now turned in victories over the three top teams in the conference. Besides their victory over the Aggies, they carved

out wins over SMU in Dallas and over Baylor in Waco.

In fact, it was Coach Johnny Swaim's four point victory over Baylor Tuesday that helped give the Aggies the SWC championship.

Mike Heitmann hit a jumper to put the Aggies in front 2-0 at the outset of the game but TCU caught up at 3-3 on a free throw by James Cash. Billy Bob Barnett hit on a drive to give A&M its last lead in the game at 5-3.

The score was tied at 5-5, 7-7 and 9-9 before the Horned Frogs took the lead for good on a bucket by Cash to make the score 11-9. TCU then reeled off four straight points to up the count to 15-9 and were never headed.

Bill Swanson and Tom Swift took over mid-way through the first half as they continually hurt the Aggies from outside. Countless Aggie floor mistakes against the tough TCU zone press added to their troubles as the Horned Frogs soon enjoyed a 30-16 advantage.

The two teams virtually trad-

ed points for the remainder of the half, as TCU took a 46-31 lead into the dressing room at the break.

A&M hit on only 8 of 22 shots in the first half for 36.4 per cent while TCU connected on 46.2 per cent of their attempts. The Frogs also dominated the boards 30-21 in the initial half.

A brief four point flurry at the beginning of the second half narrowed the margin to 46-35 but a basket by Swift and two by Doug Boyd got TCU rolling once again at 52-35. The margin rapidly began to build then as the Horned Frogs enjoyed their biggest lead of the night with seven minutes remaining at 81-53.

The rest of the game was merely a formality as TCU rested on their lead. Bill Brown hit a pair of free throws for the Aggies with four seconds remaining to bring the final score to 94-71.

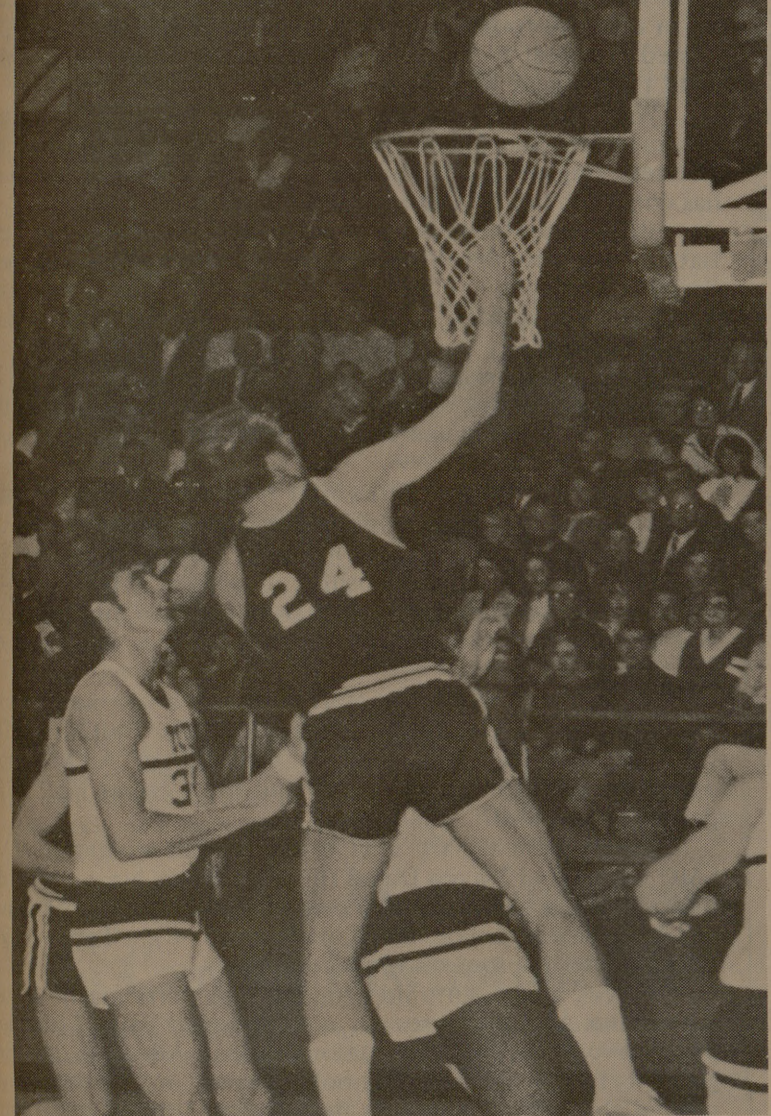
Turnovers and rebounding were the most damaging factor in the game for the Aggies. The TCU press forced the Aggies into 28 costly turnovers during the contest.

Ronnie Peret paced A&M in the game with 17 points while Bill Swanson scored 25, his career high, for the Horned Frogs. James Cash added 17 points to the TCU score sheet while Doug Boyd and Tom Swift each tallied 15.

The Aggies play their next game Saturday night at 9 in Daniel-Meyer against Trinity with the winner of that game advancing to Manhattan, Kansas, and the Midwest Regionals.

The Aggie Fish coasted to their eighth victory of the season as they thumped the TCU Wogs, 90-78, behind the combined scoring of Jeff Watkins and Skip Carleton.

Carleton hit 13 of 24 shots from the floor and totaled 28 points while Watkins made 10 of 19 for 27 points. The score was tied 43-43 at the half but the Fish pulled away handily for the victory. Frank Farnsworth added 13 points, Rick Duplantis, 12, and Robert Threadgill, 4. Ricky Hall led the Wogs with 19 points. The Fish finished the season with an 8-4 mark while TCU ended at 2-10.



BARNETT FOR TWO POINTS
Senior Billy Bob Barnett hits a basket early in the first period to tie the game at 9-9. However, TCU went on to dominate play and upset the Aggies, 94-71. The Aggies will return to Fort Worth Saturday to play Trinity in the first round NCAA elimination. (Photo by Mike Wright)

Top Knight Wins Flamingo Stakes

MIAMI (AP) — Steven B. Wilson's Top Knight, under a perfect ride by Manuel Yeaza, won the 40th running of the Flamingo Stakes before a closing day crowd of about 29,000 at Hialeah Tuesday.

Rokey Stable's Arts and Letters was second and Ogden Mills Phipps' Beau Brummel third in the field of a dozen of the best three-year-olds in the country.

Top Knight won by two lengths after running the 1 1/2 mile on a fast track in 1:47 4/5, only a shade slower than the track and stakes record of 1:47 set by Bold Ruler in 1957.

Top Knight, voted the best two-year-old in the country last year, was a 7-5 favorite and paid \$4.80, \$2.60 and \$2.20.

Arts and Letters, under Jean Cruget, was second choice and returned \$3.20 and \$2.60. Show price on Beau Brummel, with Braulio Baeza riding, was \$3. All carried 122 pounds.

Arts and Letters, winner of the recent Everglades Stakes at the same distance but under 10 pounds more in the Flamingo, finished one-half length in front of Beau Brummel. It was three-quarters of a length back to Fast Hilaris in fourth position.

White has a 13-year major league batting average of .286. He led the league in fielding as a first baseman seven straight seasons before he suffered an Achilles tendon tear of the right foot in the winter of 1966. He hit only .250 that pain wrenching year. Last season he slumped to .239.

How will he know if his 35-year-old body still has major league capability?

"The pitchers will let me know," he said. "Of course, spring training is a little different than the season. But once the season starts I'll know whether I can play or not. I expect to do as well as in the past, not the last two years, but as I have done in the past. I hope I get the opportunity to do that. This is more or less like a rookie year. I've got to make a position for myself on the team. I hope I can do that."

White isn't looking for a bench sitting role. He wants to play full time. "I see where Willie Mays is going to play 100 games. I'd like to play more than 100 games. I can't see setting a goal of 100 games, including pinch-hitting appearances and things like that. I like to play baseball and it isn't fun sitting."

The 200-pound White, who has made a new career for himself

Phillies' White Hopes For 'One More Good Year'

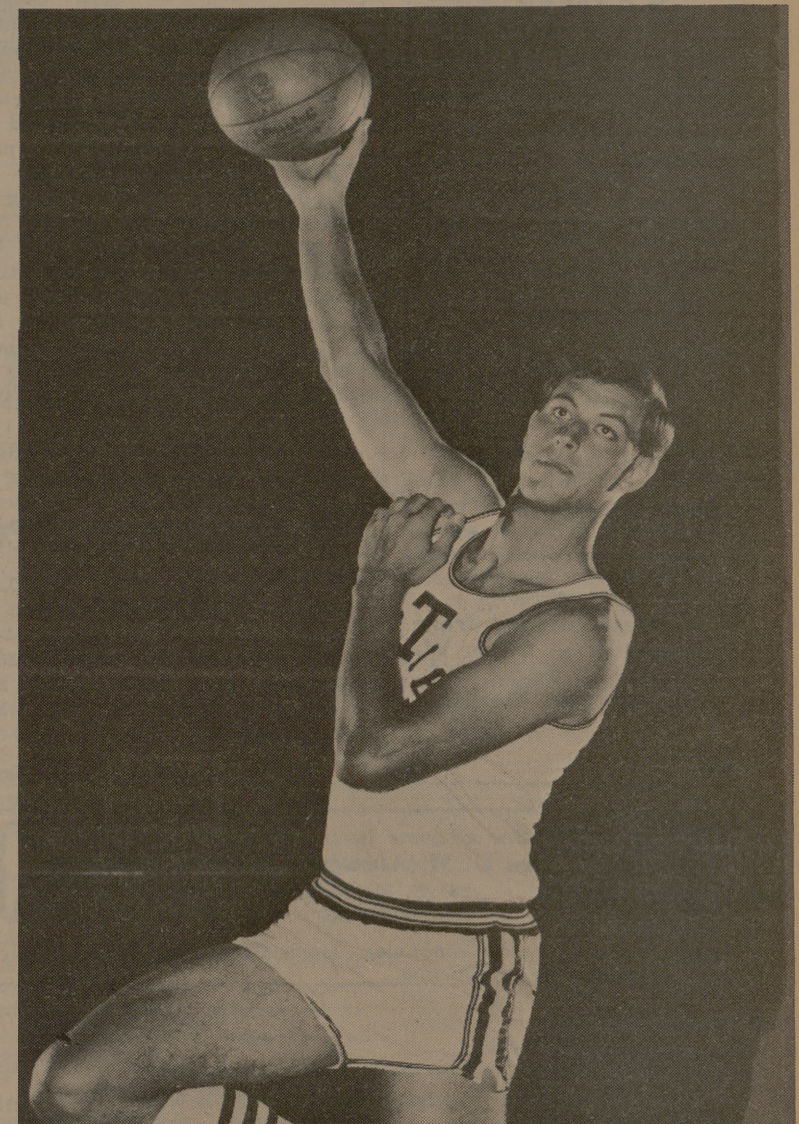
By RALPH BERNSTEIN
Associated Press Sports Writer
CLEARWATER, Fla. (AP)—Bill White scooped the sports world one day this winter when he announced on his television show he was retiring from baseball.

Later, however, the 35-year-old first baseman of the Philadelphia Phillies changed his mind. He's here at spring training, sweating his body into shape for another National League season.

Why the change of heart? "You wonder whether or not you can play a year more," he confided after one of Bob Skinner's muscle toughening sessions. "I decided to see how I did in spring training and see if I can help the ball club."

in radio and television in Philadelphia, says he isn't concerned with the old Achilles injury. "I don't think about it until somebody asks me about it. As far as I'm concerned it's normal for every day living."

"I'm not as quick and agile as I was three or four years ago, but I'm 35 years old and that helps you not to be quick and agile."



TOP AGGIE SCORER
Ronnie Peret, a 6-9 senior from Plainview, was A&M's top scorer against TCU last night with 17 points. TCU won the game 94-71. Next action for A&M is Saturday night against Trinity in Fort Worth.

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The English proficiency examination required of all junior students majoring in education will be offered from 2 to 4 p. m. on April 15 (Tuesday), 1969, and again from 4 to 6 p. m. the same day. Students may take the examination at either time by reporting to Room 308 Nagle. Examinees should bring pen, pencil, dictionary, and composition paper. 761fr

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