

# Full Weekend Ahead For A&M's Spring Sports Teams

While Texas A&M's Southwest Conference champion basketball team is in competing in the Midwest Regionals in Fort Worth this weekend, the spring sports will be coming into full bloom.

Coach Shelby Metcalf's cagers play the Trinity Tigers Saturday night at 9 in Daniel-Meyer Coliseum. In a game preceding the Aggie tilt Saturday, Dayton will take on Colorado State in another first round contest.

The two winners will then advance to the Midwest Regionals in Manhattan, Kansas. The Aggies or Trinity will take on the Missouri Valley Conference cham-

pions (Louisville or Drake) in the first round of the regionals while the winner of the Dayton-Colorado State game will play the Big Eight champion (Kansas or Colorado). The champion of the regionals will then advance to Louisville, Kentucky and the NCAA finals.

The Aggie baseball team opens 1969 play here Friday afternoon against Houston Baptist.

The game originally was scheduled for Saturday but was moved up to 3 p.m. Friday at Kyle Field to avoid conflict with A&M's NCAA basketball playoff game against Trinity in Fort Worth

Saturday night.

Coach Tom Chandler has named sophomore southpaw Doug Rau as A&M's starting pitcher.

The rest of the Aggie starting nine will have Larry Stelley, catcher; Boyd Hadaway, first base; Pete Maida, second base; Eddie Vaughan, third base; Jim Raley, shortstop; Dave Elmen-dorf, left field; Bob Long, center field and Bob Arnold, right field.

The Aggies go to Huntsville next Monday to play Sam Houston State.

Texas A&M's track squad leaves at 8 a.m. Friday for Laredo, Tex., where it'll compete in the Border Olympics Track and Field Meet.

Prelims are scheduled for Saturday morning and finals begin at 8 p.m. Saturday.

A&M Coach Charles Thomas will be referee of the famed track meet this year.

Among Aggie standouts are Curtis, the fleet-footed quarter-miler who is a sophomore; Rockie Woods, another sophomore who won the 100, 220 and 120-yard high hurdles in a dual meet with Texas here last weekend.

The tennis squad plays two home matches this weekend, meeting Corpus Christi University Friday afternoon and hosting Lamar Tech Saturday afternoon.

Action starts at 1:30 p.m. each day on the A&M courts just east of Kyle Field.

A six-man Texas A&M golf squad will compete in the three-day, 72-hole Border Olympics golf tournament at Laredo Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

They'll play 36 holes Thursday, 18 Friday and 18 Saturday.

The Aggie players include Bill Wade, Duke Butler, Richard Ellis, Chuck Leske, Donnie Ferguson and Reggie Majors.

## Wooden Named Coach-Of-Year For 3rd Time

LOS ANGELES (AP) — There was a slight pause and something of a sigh. Coach John Wooden of the unbeaten UCLA Bruins had been asked how this basketball season compared with the last two in the era of Lew Alcindor.

Newly named — for the third time in his career — as College Basketball Coach of the Year by an Associated Press poll, the 59-year-old Wooden finally replied: "This was probably the most difficult of the three. There have been all the outside pressures from the other teams since we are going for three straight national championships, something that has never been done."

In the AP poll of 329 sports writers and broadcasters, Wooden got 113 votes to win by a wide gap over Lou Carnesecca of St. John's of New York, who received 37.

Harv Schmidt of Illinois was third with 30 and Adolph Rupp of Kentucky, 23, and Dean Smith of North Carolina, 22, followed in that order.

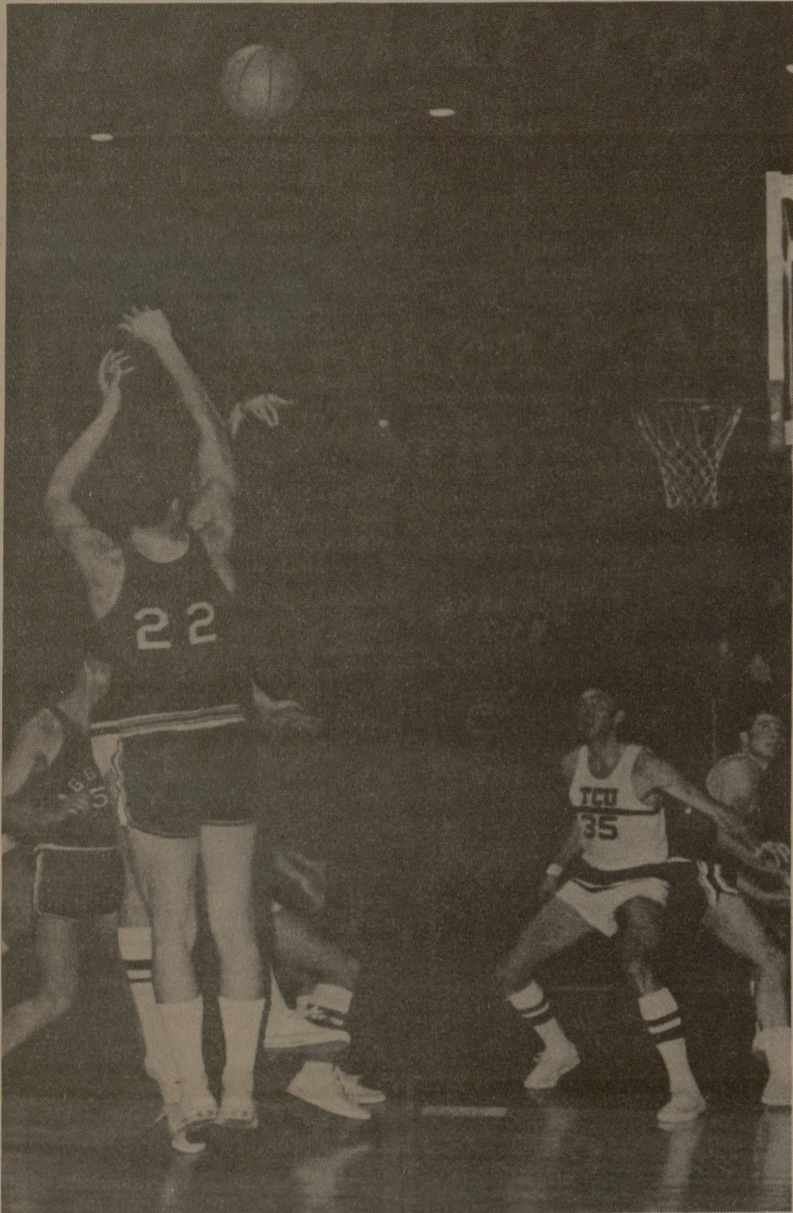
"I am very proud of this team," Wooden continued, speaking of one which is the only major squad unbeaten in 24 games this season.

"We have had to play without experienced guards. Oh, the boys are good but not quite as good as we had the two previous years.

"And, of course, the pressure to remain unbeaten builds. Our opponents know they have a lot to gain and nothing to lose when they play us. They can play it loose. We can't afford to.

"Each time we have been in a spot — and we've been in a few this year — we've managed to work our way out.

"I guess you could say this team has tremendous poise," Wooden continued. "When we've been behind we just stuck in there. If you try to make up points in a few minutes you usually get further behind. That is where poise comes in."



**BOMBS AWAY**

Mike Heitmann bombs two of his ten points against TCU Tuesday night from long range. Coach Shelby Metcalf's Southwest Conference champions return to Daniel-Meyer Coliseum in Fort Worth Saturday night at 9 when they clash with the Trinity Tigers in a Midwest Regional tilt. (Photo by Mike Wright)

## Trinity Picked 5th In Final AP Poll

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Ashland, Ohio Eagles edged Fairmont, W. Va., by eight points and finished in first-place for the first time in The Associated Press' final small-college basketball poll Wednesday.

Despite absorbing their second setback of the 1968-69 season last week, 44-38 to Central State of Ohio, the Eagles accumulated eight votes for the top position and 270 points in the voting by a national panel of 18 sports writers and broadcasters.

Ashland never had been ranked among the top teams in any previous final AP poll. The small-college vote began in 1961.

The Eagles wound up with a 23-2 record this season. Their only other loss was to Grove City, Pa., in their fifth game of the campaign.

Fairmont, 25-1, collected the first-place vote and 262 points in the final balloting. Alcorn A&M advancing three positions from last week, wound up third while Howard Payne, Trinity, Tex., Kentucky Wesleyan, Stephen F. Austin, Southwestern, La., Lamar Tech and Gannon, Pa. completed the first 10 in that order.

Central State, unranked a week ago, leaped into a final 15th place after defeating the poll leader, Wittenberg, 20th last week,

dropped out of the rankings.

California State at Long Beach placed 11th followed by Southwest Missouri State, High Point and Cheyney State.

South Dakota, 16th Nevada-Las Vegas, South Carolina State, Indiana, Pa., State and Michigan Lutheran round out the Second Ten.

LIU, last season's final small-college leader, advanced to the major-college group this year.

The final Top 20 with first place votes, season records through Sat. March 1 and total points for the first 15 picks on a basis of 20-18-16-14-12-10-9-8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1:

1. Ashland, Ohio 8 23-2 367
2. Fairmont, W. Va. 1 25-1 262
3. Alcorn A&M 1 23-0 208
4. Howard Payne 1 24-3 194
5. Trinity, Tex. 2 19-4 154
6. Ky., Wesleyan 1 20-5 147
7. Stephen F. Austin 24-2 135
8. Southwestern, La. 20-6 127
9. Lamar Tech 19-4 104
10. Gannon, Pa. 20-5 97
11. Cal St.—Long Beach 23-3 67
12. Southwest Mo. St. 20-4 65
13. High Point 24-2 64
14. Cheyney State 24-2 60
15. Central St. Ohio 1 19-6 56
16. South Dakota St. 17-5 50
17. So. Carolina St. 20-4 42
18. Nevada-Las Vegas 20-6 43
19. Indiana, Pa. St. 22-1 40
20. Michigan Lutheran 25-1 27

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