

Ags Down Tigers, 81-66; Go To Kansas

By RICHARD CAMPBELL
After stubbing their toe Tuesday night in Daniel-Meyer Coliseum against TCU, the Texas Aggies returned to their old form Saturday night in Fort Worth as they dumped upstart Trinity of San Antonio, 81-66, to advance to the NCAA Midwest Regionals.

The Aggies worked hard all week in practice and were rewarded as they downed the Southland Conference champions easily. Trinity, who played in small college ranks all year, was invited to play in university competition

after taking third place in the NCAA Small College meet last year.

Towering Steve Niles and flashy guard Sonny Benefield provided the fireworks as the Aggies showed the Alamo City Tigers that they were not as ready for the big time as they thought. Niles sparked the Ags in their first half with 15 of his 17 total points and 11 rebounds while Benefield kept the Aggies ahead in the second half with his deadly outside shooting. The 6'1" Sweeney product canned 18 of his

25 game-leading points in the second stanza.

The unsung hero of the game was 6'5" Aggie Billy Bob Barnett, who drew the unenviable task of guarding Trinity star Larry Jeffries, who made the Little All-America first team. Barnett put the defensive blanket on the Tiger gunner, holding him to 14 points, ten less than his season average.

Rebounding and free throw shooting gave the Aggies their victory. They outrebounded the Tigers, 52-36, and connected on 27 of 36 from the charity stripe. A&M hit 12 straight free throws at the start of the game before junior Bill Brown missed with 7:16 left in the half and finished with 14 of 15.

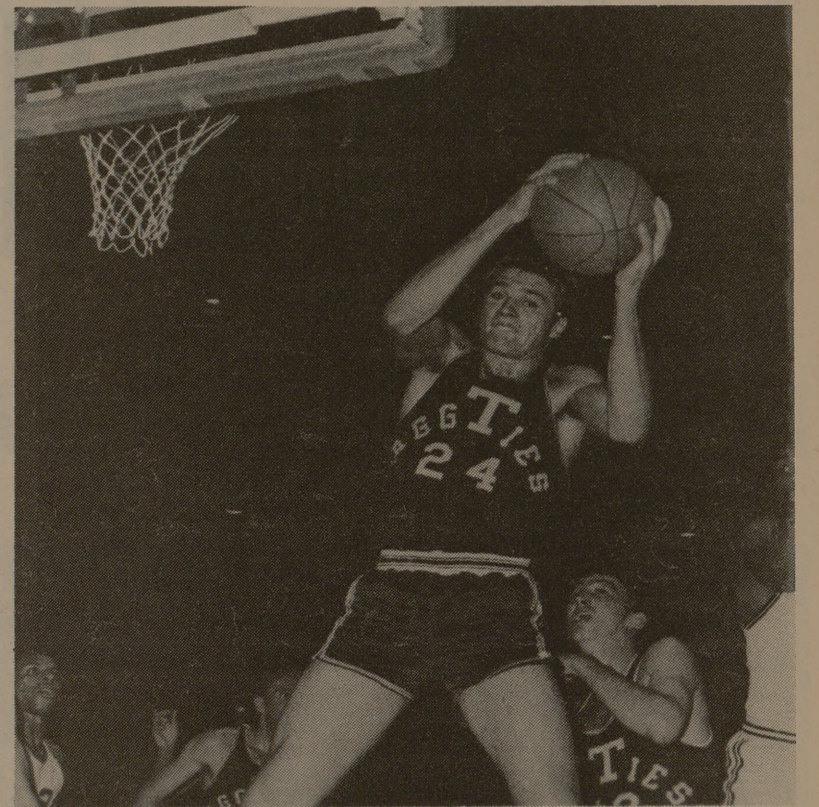
A&M hit 54 per cent of their shots from the field with 27 of 50 while the Tigers could only connect on 28 of 77 for a meager 36.4 per cent.

Benefield got hot at the start of the second half and dropped in two quick buckets. Mike Heitmann hit a short jumper from the right corner and Benefield hit the same type of shot from the left to shoot the Aggies into a 12-point lead at 49-37.

Aggie hearts trembled a little when Trinity called a time out with 9:38 left and began a full court press. But the Aggies' Benefield took a nice pass from 6'9" Ronnie Peret and went in uncontested for a layup to put the game out of reach. They never lost the ball on the press and Trinity could get no closer than nine points.

A&M had a 12-point lead on 11 occasions, running up a 17-point margin for their biggest lead with 0:12 left on two of Peret's free throws.

Benefield led the Aggies with 25 points, Niles had 17, Barnett had 12, Peret had 10, Heitmann had nine, Cooksey had seven, and Brown finished with one. Jeffries and reserve Felix Thruston each got 14 points to lead the Tiger attack.



IT'S ALL MINE
Billy Bob Barnett drags down one of his 11 rebounds in the Aggies victory over Trinity. The Aggies play Drake Thursday in the first game of the Midwest Regionals in Manhattan, Kansas. (Photo by Mike Wright)

Louisville, Drake Dominate All-MVC

KANSAS CITY (AP)—Tulsa's Bobby Smith and Louisville's Butch Beard were unanimous selections to the 1969 Associated Press all-Missouri Valley Conference basketball team announced Tuesday.

They were joined on the first

team by Willie McCarter of Drake, Jim Ard of Cincinnati and L. C. Bowen of Bradley. All are seniors except Ard, a junior.

Every Missouri Valley coach and newsmen participating in the AP all-star balloting placed Smith and Beard on the first team. McCarter just missed being unanimous. He was named on the second team by one coach and three newsmen.

Making up the second team were Mike Grosso of Louisville, who narrowly missed being a first-team selection, Joe Hamilton of North Texas State, Steve Kuberski of Bradley, Rob Washington of Tulsa and Greg Carney of Wichita State.

The third team was comprised of Willie Wise and Dolph Pulliam of Drake, Jerry King of Louisville, Rich Jones of Memphis State and Rick Roberson of Cincinnati. Smith, a 6-foot-five native of Memphis, Tenn., was the Valley's leading scorer this season with a 25-point average and was named to the third All-America team by The Associated Press.

Nicknamed "Bingo" by his Hurricane teammates, Smith teamed with Washington to lead Tulsa to a 19-7 season record and a berth in the National Invitational Tournament.

Beard, a repeat selection on the AP all-Valley team, was the main cog in Louisville's somewhat surprising co-championship this season.

The Cardinals were not expected to win a third straight title with All-American Westley Unseld gone. But Beard directed a Louisville team which refused to listen to the experts and shared the crown with Drake. Beard, a 6-3, averaged 20 points.

McCarter, regarded by many writers covering the Missouri Valley as the league's most talented over-all performer, fired a balanced Bulldog team which rallied from 3½ games back in the stretch run to deadlock Louisville for the title. His 20-point average paced Drake's offensive attack. He is 6-3 and from Gary, Ind.

SAE To View Track Features

The construction features of the race track being built near College Station will be shown to the Society of Automotive Engineers at 7:30 p.m. tonight in the Architectural Lecture Room.

Guest speakers are C. M. Money Penny, designer of International Speedways, and Ridley Briggs, member of Bryan Chamber of Commerce.

The public is invited to see and hear about what the various racing associations require in construction, operation and community support. Also, the impact of the growth area because of the Speedway will be discussed with the track in Daytona used as a basis.

Ag Swimmers Get Dual Win

Coach Art Adamson's Aggie swimmers won a dual meet at Rice Saturday with a 61-55 victory over the Owls and an 86-21 triumph over TCU.

First place honors go to the medley relay team of Tom Sparks, Ronnie Rogers, Bob Dommel and Tom Beall; 50 yard free style, Sparks; one meter diving, Ed Grant; 200 yard individual medley, Rogers; 100 yard free style, Dommel; 100 yard backstroke, Sparks; 500 yard freestyle, Larry Linn; and the freestyle relay of Jimmy Jeter, Jerry Patterson, Steve Henry and Hank Paup.

Three Fish Named To All-SWC Team

By RICHARD CAMPBELL
Jeff Watkins, the Aggie Fish player from Meselle, Miss., was only one vote shy of being a unanimous selection to the All-Southwest Conference freshman team.

Pat Fees, a 6' 7" jumping jack from Baylor was the only unanimous selection and was also named the outstanding freshman basketball player in the conference. Watkins, a 6' 4" 200-pounder, had the highest average of any freshman in the SWC with a 24.7 per game mark. Fees and Vernon Murphy, a 6' 6" record breaker from Arkansas, both posted 24.6 averages.

Rounding out the first team picks were Joe "Scooter" Lenox, a 6' 2" guard from Texas, was the high scorer for probably the most respected team in the conference with a 20.6 mark and Ted Melady (6' 6"), an all-stater last year from Dallas Jefferson, finished strongly for Rice and was named on three first team ballots.

The annual team was chosen by vote of the league's freshman coaches.

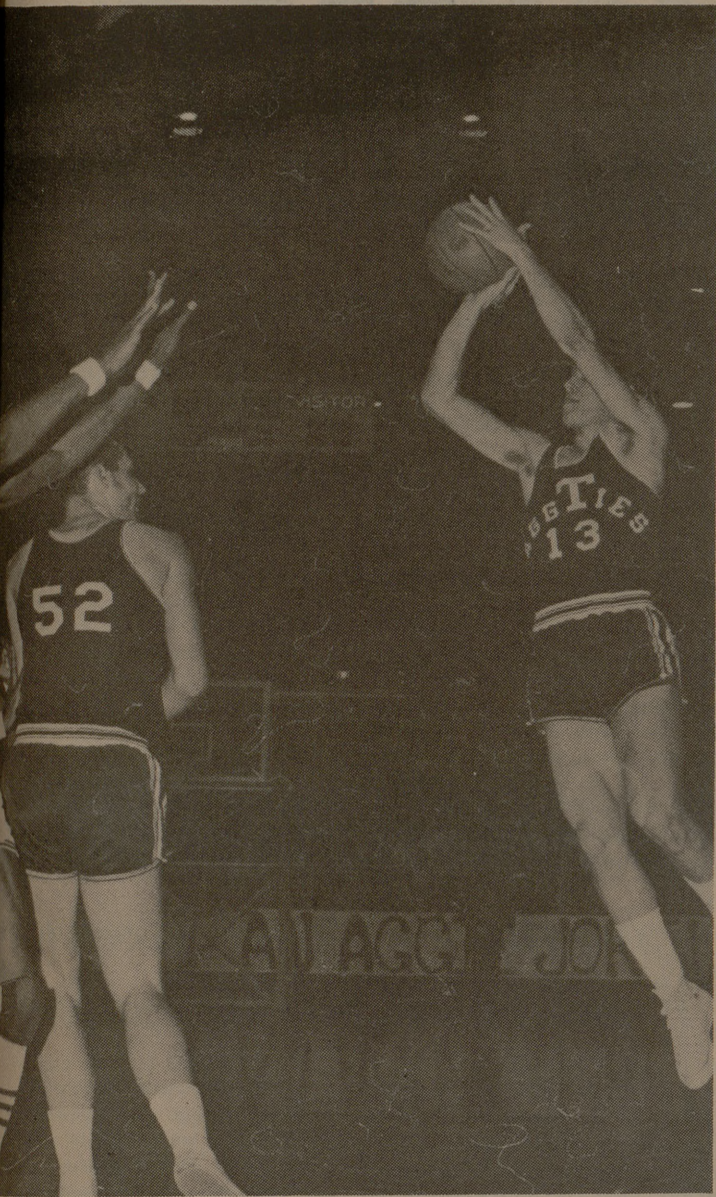
Rick Duplantis, who started slowly for the Fish but improved greatly with each contest, was named to the second team. The 6' 8" all-stater from Groves, Tex., finished the season with a 15.3 scoring average while trailing

only Watkins in rebounding for the Fish.

Joining Duplantis on the second squad were Don Snyder of Rice, Eric Grosecruth and Richard Langdon of Texas, and Bobby Rollins of SMU.

Skip Carleton, the 6' 4" Fish playmaker, was named by the coaches to the honorable mention team. He was joined by Steve Aaker of Texas, Tom Stanton and Steve Baldwin of Baylor, Mike Rogers of Texas Tech, Dan McGuire of Rice, Bob Burge of TCU, and David Miller of SMU.

Baylor, coached by Carroll Dawson, had the best record of any team against other SWC schools. The Cubs defeated TCU, SMU, and A&M twice and split two meetings with Texas for a 7-1 mark, finishing 9-3 overall.



LONG RANGE ARTILLERY
Sonny Benefield contributed the outside touch to the Aggies' attack Saturday as they rolled to an 81-66 victory over Trinity. Benefield poured in 25 points in the game for A&M. (Photo by Mike Wright)

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