

# Aggies Open Conference Play Tonight

By Richard Campbell  
The Texas Aggies' basketball squad touched down here in Texas after their successful holiday tournament schedule only long enough to refuel it seems because tonight they start playing for real as they open the 1970 Southwest Conference race in Fayetteville against the Arkansas Razorbacks.

The defending conference champions returned from the holiday wars in fine fashion as they nipped host Furman, 68-66, in the first round of the Poinsetta

Classic in Greenville, S. C., then edged Northwestern of the Big Ten, 93-91, in overtime to earn the championship trophy. In the Sun Carnival tournament in El Paso earlier they lost to Missouri in the opening round but came back to take the third place trophy by defeating Clemson.

Mike Heitmann, the 6-4 senior captain for A&M, set a tournament record with 37 points in the championship game in Greenville and was named the Most Valuable Player in the meet. Heitmann and junior center Steve Niles, who set

a school rebound record with 21 against Furman, were named to the all-tournament team.

Niles set the record against the Paladins despite going against the nation's fifth-ranked rebounder Joe Brunson.

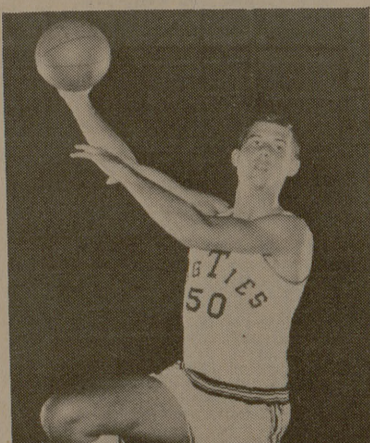
Coach Shelby Metcalf was pleased with the progress of his team as the intersectional play ended.

"I think we matured a lot. The team is playing together well, and they showed a lot of composure under pressure.

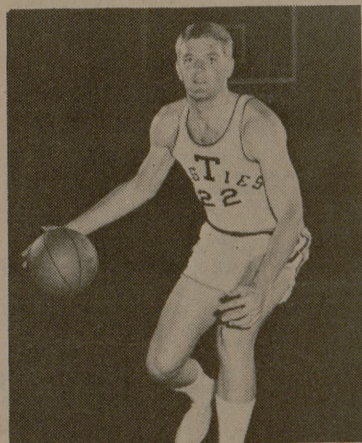
"We've played five two-point games out of nine, and that is going to be an invaluable experience in the conference race.

The rebounding strength of the Aggies has also been evident this year along with their fine defensive play. They have out-rebounded opponents by nearly ten per game and have limited their foes to 72.7 points per contest.

Riding a three-game winning streak, the Aggies upped their season mark to 5-4 but face a scrappy Razorback five tonight at 8. Heitmann, with a 19.7 norm leads the A&M scoring parade followed by Bill Cooksey at 13.6, Niles 13.3, Chuck Smith 12.9 and Pat Kavanaugh 5.3. These five will be in the starting lineup tonight for the 8 p.m. tipoff. Top reserves will be Rick Duplantis (6.9), Jeff Watkins (2.9), and Robert Threadgill (2.2).



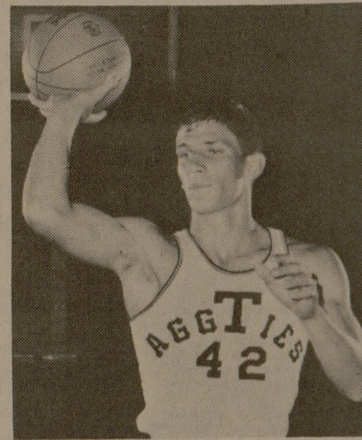
STEVE NILES



MIKE HEITMANN



BILL COOKSEY



CHUCK SMITH



LARRY STEGENT

## Stegent Named American MVP

Larry Stegent, A&M's prize running back, was named Saturday as the Most Valuable Player in the American Bowl in Tampa, Fla.

The 6-1, 197-pounder led the South All-Stars back in the second half to defeat the North All-Stars 24-23 after they had trailed by as much as 17-3. He ripped off 114 yards in 17 carries for the South and scored a touchdown on a five-yard jaunt late in the game.

It was the second of three post season bowl appearances for the Aggie runner, who was a two-time All-SWC selection. He will also play this Saturday in the Senior Bowl.

Stegent finished the season as the top Aggie rusher with 676 yards on 197 carries for a 3.4 average and four touchdowns. He was the 1967 SWC Sophomore of the Year and made several honorable mention All-America squads this year.

## Aggies Get New Football Coach



AGGIE COACH

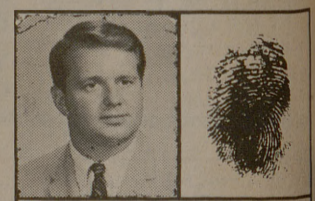
Charley Bradshaw was named this week as the new back-field coach for the Aggies. Bradshaw formerly was the head football coach at Kentucky. (Photo by Mike Wright)

Athletic Director and Head Football Coach Gene Stallings today announced that Charley Bradshaw, former head coach at Kentucky, has become a member of the Aggie football coaching staff.

Stallings said that Bradshaw will work with the Aggie offensive unit.

"We worked together on Coach Paul Bryant's staff at Alabama and I think Bradshaw is one of the finest offensive coaches I've ever seen," Stallings said.

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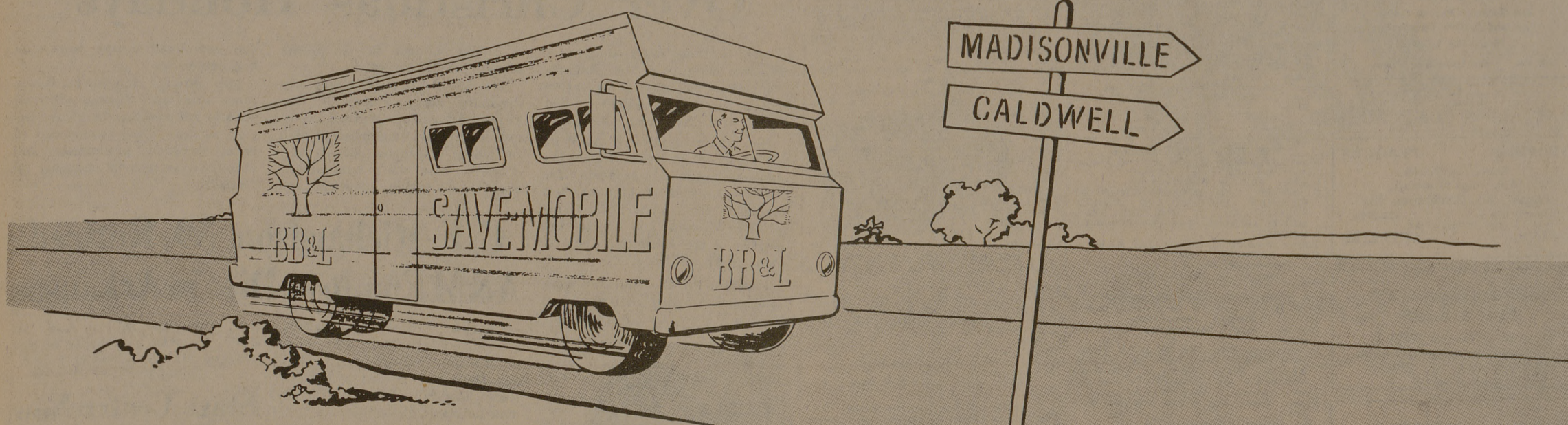
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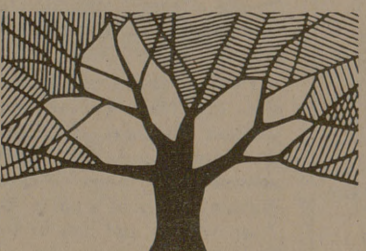
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