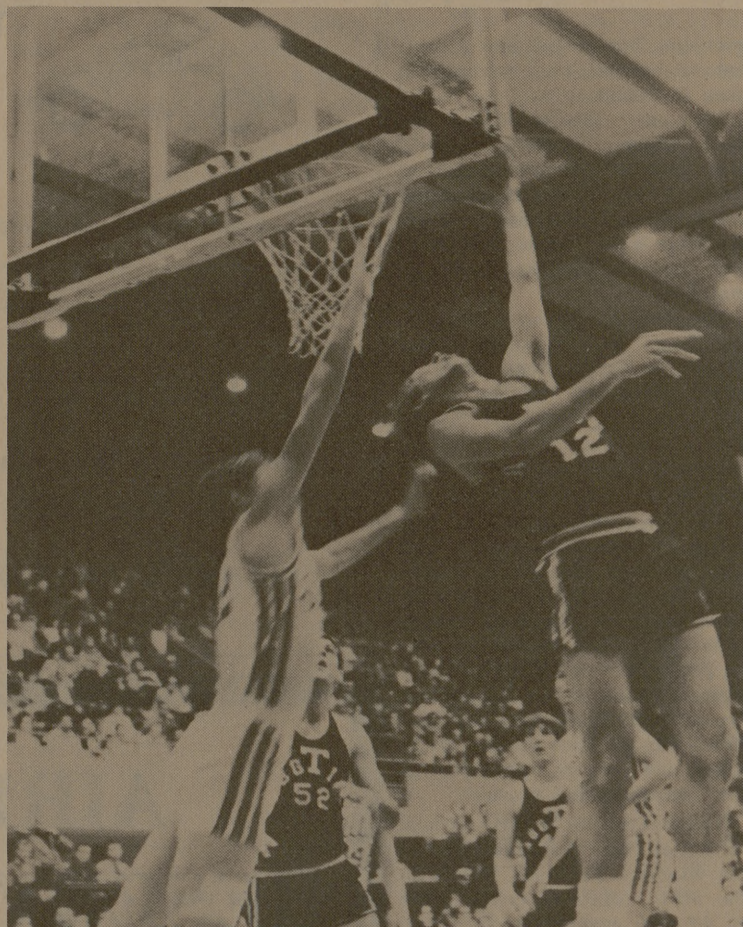


Spoiler Razorbacks In Town Tonight



By Richard Campbell
Battalion Sports Editor

Arkansas, with no other role left to play but spoiler in the 1970 Southwest Conference Race, Comes to G. Rollie White Coliseum tonight hoping to derail the Texas Aggies' four-game winning streak.

The Aggies added Southern Methodist to their scalp belt Saturday night in Dallas, 84-81, to extend their winning streak to four, all in the SWC. They have not lost a game since Feb. 7 when the TCU Horned Frogs turned the trick.

The Hogs block the road with another 'must' game for the Cadets because they must win the rest of their games to have a shot at a repeat conference crown. A&M stands 7-4 in SWC play tied with Texas Tech while the Rice Owls are still holding a two game lead with three to play. But the Owls have the toughest schedule of the three because they must play both Tech and A&M away from home and entertain tough TCU too. The Aggies must polish off Arkansas here, Baylor in Waco on regional television next Saturday and host Rice in their season finale next Tuesday.

THE EASY WAY—Bill Cooksey puts in a layup early in the A&M-SMU game Saturday night to give the Aggies an 8-point lead. (Photo by Mike Wright)

close losses and they hold decisive wins over both SMU and Baylor.

The Aggies couldn't completely stop Gene Phillips, SMU's answer to Pete Maravich, but did a good enough job on his teammates to escape Moody Coliseum with an 84-81 victory. With Chuck Smith and sophomore Bobby Threadgill hounding the Ponies' ace, the Mustangs saw their first half shooting performance far below par at 36.9 per cent and Phillips himself could muster but three of 14 from the floor.

Steve Niles handled the area around the basket very nicely with several tip-ins and key rebounds and the Aggies shot out to a nine point lead at 54-45. But the Ponies wouldn't roll over and they scored nine straight to tie it 54-54 with 10:01 left in the second half. Threadgill became the big man in the lineup as he played inspired defense and did his job on the boards. A thirty-foot Threadgill shot with 6:03 left gave the Aggies a 68-63 advantage but the Mustangs kept pressing and kept coming back until they pulled within two at 74-73 with 2:52 left.

The last two minutes found A&M protecting the ball and the lead with Threadgill, Chuck Smith, Pat Kavanagh, and Mike Heitmann all sinking two free

throws apiece to keep the Aggies ahead.

A noisy crowd of 6,500 kept the Mustangs fired up for the contest plus the fact they had nothing to lose and everything to gain if they should win. But A&M displayed a balanced attack on offense with five men in double figures and two others just missing. Niles led A&M with 16 points and 14 rebounds, Heitmann had 15, Bill Cooksey, continuing his hot outside shooting chipped in 13, and Kavanagh and Threadgill both had 10. Smith and Rick Duplantis each had nine and Smith also pulled down 12 caroms as the Aggies tied their season record of 61 rebounds.

The Razorbacks made the Aggies hustle for a 64-59 win in Fayetteville in early January and they will hit the court tonight with three seniors who have played together for three years. 6-3 Robert McKenzie, 6-5 James Eldridge, and 6-4 Ricky Tannenberger are all three-year starters but their leading scorer is a 6-0 sophomore Almer Lee, who carries a 19.0 norm for the year.

The Aggie Fish, who are 8-1 for the season, host Christian College of the Southwest, the No. 4 junior college in the nation with a 27-4 mark. The 5:45 p.m. prelim will match the Fish against a team that suffered a 113-98 setback to the A&M freshmen last year.



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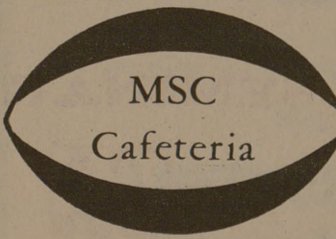
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Owls Hold Inside To '70 Cage Title

By Clifford Broyles
Battalion Sports Writer

The Rice Owls who won their first Southwest Conference basketball championship in 1918 and their last in 1949 have the inside track to the 1970 title with three games to play.

The Owls lead Texas A&M and Texas Tech by two games, but the schedule that remains could leave either the Scarlet and White-clad Red Raiders or the Maroon and White of Aggieland with at least a share of the title.

Rice must travel to the home courts of both of its chief pursuers before they can claim the number one spot.

They visit Lubbock tonight to battle Tech which has won ten of twelve games in Municipal Coliseum this season.

If the Owls should lose tonight or Saturday in their final home date with Texas Christian then their battle next Tuesday night with A&M could put the race in a two or three way tie.

Tech and A&M both one loss

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