

Ags Get Revenge Over Owls, 91-86; Take Second

By Richard Campbell
Battalion Sports Editor

The Rice Owls came to Foul City, U.S.A. last night and unfortunately, got their feathers plucked by a fired-up band of Texas Aggies, 91-86, before 5,050 screaming fans.

The Owls, perched on Cloud Nine after clinching the Southwest Conference crown Saturday, felt the full impact of a letdown as they dropped their fourth game in 14 league outings this year. A&M finishes 9-5 and 14-14. There were a total of 62 fouls called in this floor fight, dispersed ever so slightly as a basketball game.

Referees Percy Penn and Bill Valentine made their whistles heard frequently above the Aggie clamor in the G. Rollie White stands. The Owls were called 32 times to 30 for A&M.

Aggie senior captain Mike Heitmann, playing his last game in a Maroon and White uniform, was honored by the A&M student body as the players were introduced with a citation read by Head Yell Leader Sam Torn. Heitmann also received a two-minute standing ovation from the crowd when he fouled out of the contest with 3:48 left. He led Aggie scorers with 24 points.

Nobody would have guessed the final outcome based upon how it started because both teams took their time warming up. Rice's Ted Melady got two quick fouls within the first minute and the Ags used this and a running game to race to a 9-2 lead before the Owls began to click. They relied on the outside shooting of guards Gary Reist, Don Snyder, and forward Tom Myer to fight their way back against an Aggie

zone. They took the lead briefly at 14-13 but that would be the last time they would have it all night as Rick Duplantis got a layup to start A&M on its way. From there, the Cadets ran off 13 points to two for Rice at one stretch to forge out to a 34-22 advantage. Terry Timmerman, brother of former Aggie great Tim Timmerman, gunned in a 12-foot jumper with 0:16 left in the half to pull Rice to within nine 36-27.

The Aggies came back after the break to make it seem like a runaway as they charged ahead to as much as a 19-point lead several times before Reist and Myer could whittle the spread to a respectable margin with their long-range bombing. With Heitmann and big Steve Niles in foul trouble, the embarrassed Owls decided they had better make their

move. And move they did. Three-point plays abounded for both sides with all of the fouling but the Owls let theirs keep them nipping at Aggie heels. When Heitmann fouled out, Reist converted a 3-pointer at 2:12 to bring the Birds back, 80-73. Niles left via the foul route with 1:54 left and Melady cashed in another 3-pointed to keep the Owls close, 82-76. Reist hit a long jumper and then fed Myer on a fast break for two quick buckets and Rice trailed only 88-84 with 21 seconds remaining. But A&M's Robert Threadgill hit two free

throws with seven left and Pat Kavanagh hit another with four left to ice it away for the Aggies while the Owls got only a long bucket by Reist to make the final count 91-86.

The Aggies finished alone in second place after Baylor beat Texas Tech, 80-72, in Lubbock!

Rice boosted their overall shooting performance to 40.8 per cent with a fine 20 or 40 from the floor in their second half rally which netted 59 points. A&M hit a blistering 58.6 in the second half and 32 of 61 for 52.5 overall. The Aggies won the rebounding

war, 55-49, but Rice's Steve Wendel led all players with 19 individual caroms. Duplantis with 13, Niles with 12 and Smith with 10 led A&M. Reist and Heitmann tied for scoring honors, each with 24, while Myer followed with 21. Niles had 14, Duplantis 13, Kavanagh 12, and Cooksey 10 for the Aggies.



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Fish Fall To Owlets Again; Finish Year With 9-3 Mark

By Clifford Broyles
Battalion Sports Writer

The Rice Owlets took advantage of two Texas A&M dry spells last night to dump the Fish for the second time this season 74-67.

The Owlets were led by a couple of giants in 6-10 Mark Wehrle and 6-8 Steve Emshoff who scored 18 points apiece.

A&M jumped to an early lead at 19-12 but Rice rallied with some strong offensive rebounding to take the lead with 5:32 to go in the first half 24-23.

The lead was short lived however as Bill O'Brien hit a jumper for the Fish and at the same time Perry Gaudet was called for shoving Charlie Jenkins. Jenkins sank a pair of free throws and the Aggies were back on top 27-24.

Rice then hit a streak of their own scoring 8 straight points and taking a 32-27 lead with less than

two minutes to play in the half. The Owlets led at the half 34-31 as neither team was able to score in the last 50 seconds of the half.

The Fish were revived in the opening minutes of the second half by Wayne Howard who scored 11 points in the first ten minutes as the Fish battled back to tie the score at 52-52.

The Fish were hampered by erratic ball handling the second half, at one point the Aggies went five straight possessions without getting off a shot and at another went another stretch with three straight turnovers.

The first lapse did not hurt too much as the Owlets could manage only 3 points themselves, but the second gave Rice the chance to break open the close struggle.

The Aggies appeared in reasonably good shape after Jenkins canned a three-point play to put them on top 55-52 with 9:14 to go.

But Rice then scored 11 straight points as the Fish could not find the range for 5:12. By the time they did the Owlets were sitting on a 63-55 lead.

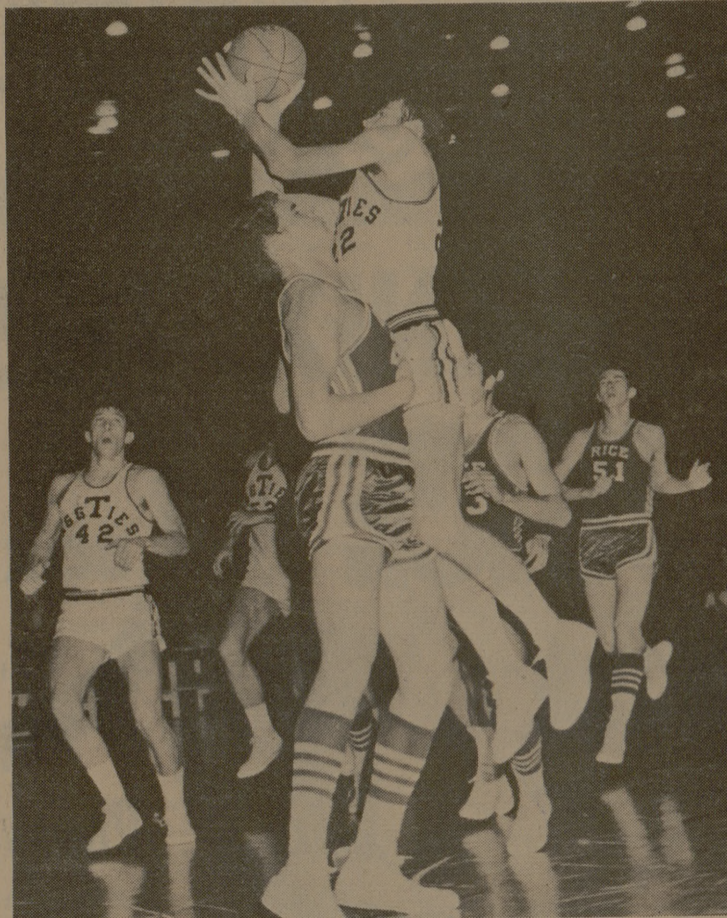
The Fish battled gamely in the fading minutes but could never pull closer than five points and that was the way it ended, 74-69.

Rice had three other players who scored in double figures as Randy Reynolds, Bert Schmidt and John Mott scored 11 point each.

The Fish, who were outgunned 60.9 to 55.6 per cent in the second half were paced by Wayne Howard who scored 19 for game honors and also grabbed off a game high rebound total of 12.

Bob Gobin scored 16, Bryan Metzger 14, Jeff Overhouse 11, Charlie Jenkins 7, and Bill O'Brien 2 for the Fish.

The Fish and Owlets both concluded their 1969-70 season with this game and both teams finished with 9-3 season marks.



ENDING A FOUR-YEAR CAREER — Mike Heitmann closed out his college playing days last night scoring 24 points in the season's finale victory over the Rice Owls. Rice's Terry Timmerman gently nudges Heitmann while in the process of hitting a basket to set up the Aggie senior with the chance for a three-point play. (Photo by Mike Wright)



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