

# 18th-ranked Ducks head list in tourney field

By CLIFFORD BROYLES  
Battalion Sports Editor

Eighteenth ranked Oregon, which had the distinction of being one of two teams to beat national champion UCLA but also the misfortune of being in the same league with the Bruins; unranked but powerful Houston; the Texas Aggies; and the Tulane Green Wave line up Friday and Saturday night in the 1970 Bluebonnet Basketball Classic in the University of Houston's Hofheinz Pavilion on the UH campus.

It will be the eleventh year for the event, which has been dominated by the host Cougars. This year the Aggies and the University of Houston will co-sponsor the event.

Coch Shelby Metcalf still is

confident although his team is off to a struggling start.

The coach feels his problem on defense and coordinating the new sophomores on the squad into the system have taken time, and feels that when the Aggies do come out of the slump they will definitely come out stronger than before and be ready to roll.

Metcalf will start the same five that started against the University of Texas at Arlington Monday.

Pat Kavanagh will be at the point, Bobby Threadgill and Jeff Overhouse on the wings and Rick Duplantis and Steve Niles at the posts.

Early statistics for the Aggies show the difference has been in the shooting. The Aggies have

out-rebounded their first three opponents, had less turnovers than East Texas and UT-Arlington, but the combined shooting percentage for their three opponents is .503.

On 18 less tries, A&M opponents have made one less field goal than the Aggies, who are shooting a very respectable .459 from the field.

A&M has pulled down 127 rebounds to 118 for their opponents.

Another drawback has been in the all-important foul shooting, where the Aggies have hit on only .609 percent compared to .701 for their opponents and have been outscored by five there, despite five more attempts.

Niles is the only early season field goal shooting leader with 609, but not far off are Duplantis, .588; Kavanagh, .529; and Overhouse, .458.

Bill Cooksey, with four of five from the foul line, leads with .800 and Duplantis is second with .773 on 17 of 22.

Overhouse is the leading rebounder with 7.7 per contest and Niles and Duplantis have 6.0 each and Chuck Smith 5.7.

Duplantis is the leading scorer with 12.3 in the Ags' balanced attack. Niles and Threadgill are netting 11.7 apiece, Kavanagh and Overhouse 9.3, Cooksey 8.0, Smith 5.3, Bill O'Brien 4.0, Bob Gobin 3.3, Charlie Jenkins 1.5 and Wayne Howard 1.3.

The first round pairings for the classic have Houston meeting Tulane at 7 p.m. and the Aggies tangling with Oregon at 9 p.m. The two losers will play Saturday at 7 p.m. and the winners at 9 p.m.

Tickets for the tourney are priced at \$3 and \$4.

The following is a rundown of the other three teams in the tournament.

Oregon—The Ducks of Oregon are currently undefeated in three starts, having bowled over San Jose State 95-65, Portland 76-54 and Texas Tech 96-81.

The key man in the OU attack is defending Pacific Eight Conference scoring champion 6-9 Stan Love.

Love averaged 20.8 last year

in the league which was dominated by the mighty Bruins—a league which the Ducks finished fourth in, with a 17-9 season record, that was better than any team in the SWC could boast of.

Thus far this season, Love has scored 25.7 per game and grabbed 10 rebounds per contest.

Add to that returning starters Ken Strand and Bill Drozdak at the guards and 6-9 Rusty Blair and either Lenny Jackson or Larry Holliday at the forwards.

They are a team possessed with veterans that could push the Bruins this year, although that isn't likely to happen.

Blair, Drozdak and Holliday all averaged in double figures last year for the Ducks, who are

aided by help from Doug Little and Al Carlson from a 22-2 freshman unit.

Houston—The Cougars are down from the past few years but Guy Lewis' crew still might be good enough to walk away with the marbles in the classic.

The Cougars lost Elvin Hayes a couple of years ago and also had the big muscle of Ken Spain. They have some size but lack the great board strength at the post.

Houston has a 2-1 record to show this year and opened with an 81-68 win over Northwestern Louisiana, a team which their opponent Tulane lost to, 88-77, in the Green Wave opener. But then they fell flat on their back in a

79-58 loss to Tennessee and barely squeezed by Florida 61-60.

They return starter Dwight Davis, who became the second sophomore in UH history to score 500 points in his initial year. The first was Elvin Hayes, guard Poo Welch, who averaged 29.0 a game two years ago at Tyler JC, but turned into a playmaker averaging six assists a game last year as a junior. Jeff Hickman, a junior, who averaged 12.3 while playing at both guard and forward, is another returning veteran.

Larry Brown, a sharpshooting transfer from Northeastern Oklahoma who averaged 35.1 last year, will handle one of the guard posts for Houston and one of two sophomores, Gene Bodden, 6-9, or Steve Newsome, 6-8, will line up at center.

The Cougars' main loss from last year were 6-2 Ollie Taylor, who signed to play with the New York Jets of the American Basketball Association, and 6-7 center Melvin Bell, who was drafted by the Baltimore Bullets of the National Basketball Association.

Tulane—The Green Wave from New Orleans has opened the season with a 2-1 record and are definitely improved on their 5-18 mark of last year.

Tulane defeated the Citadel 77-69 and South Dakota 100-77 to go with their loss to Northwestern Louisiana, and they return the two best players off last year's club.

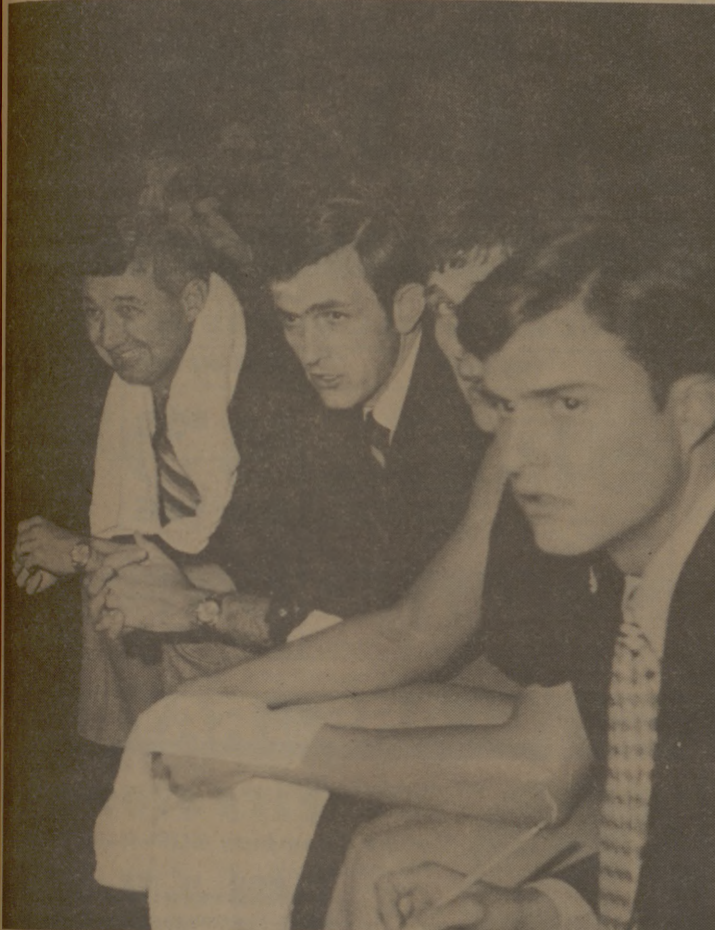
Seniors John Sutter, 6-8, and Harold Sylvester are the aces on top but there may be some more because the Tulane freshmen last year won 16 of 20.

Sutter was a Helms Foundation All-American, an honor bestowed also on Oregon's center,

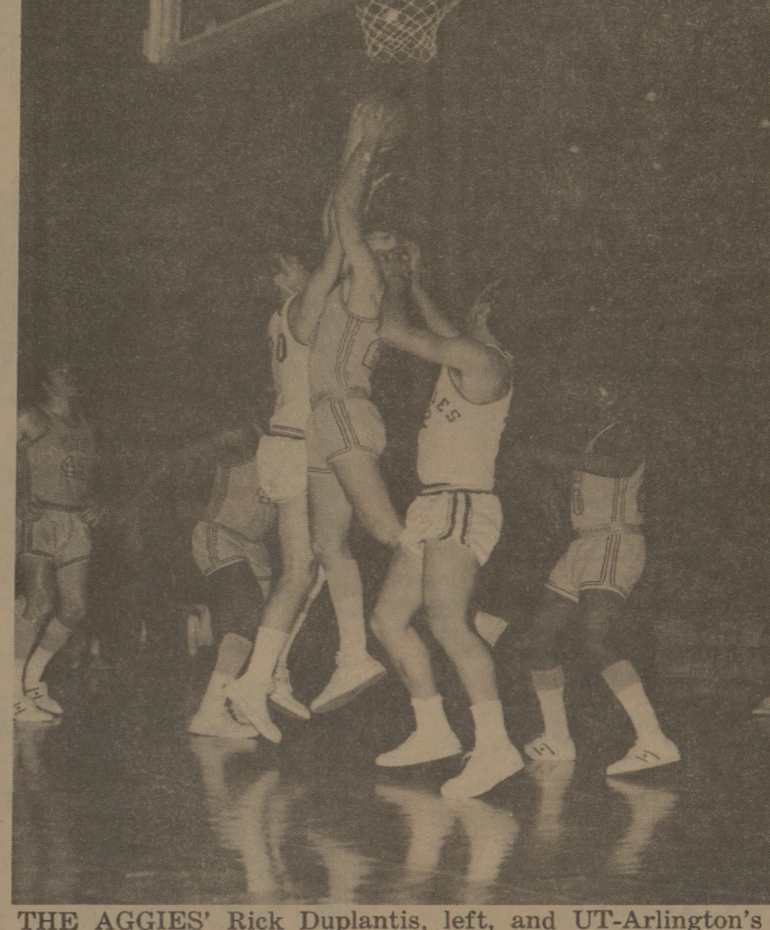
Love.

He averaged 24.8 last year and 11.8 rebounds while Sylvester chipped in 13.5 points and 9.9 rebounds, despite being weakened by mononucleosis which he was just recovering from when the season started.

Up from the freshman squad are 6-3 John Szponar, who averaged 14.1, 6-5 Ricky Miller, who netted 22.4, and Jim Kwitkowski, who scored 18.5 a game.



A BENCH-EYE view of a basketball game as head coach Shelby Metcalf, assistant Jim Culpepper, Chuck Smith and student manager Lee Murphy look on the game with various tones of expression during Monday's game with the University of Texas at Arlington. (Photo by Steve Bryant)



THE AGGIES' Rick Duplantis, left, and UT-Arlington's Bob Peek battle for a rebound with Bill Cooksey and a couple of Arlington players waiting for the outcome. The Aggies play in the Bluebonnet Classic in Houston this weekend and return to G. Rollie White Coliseum Monday night against Abilene Christian in their final game before finals. (Photo by Steve Bryant)

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