

AG'S RICK DUPLANTIS (30) goes up for a shot after grabbing a rebound in last Thursdays' 62-61 loss to The Citadel at Charleston, S. C. Contesting the ball for The Citadel are John Sutor (31) and Mile Ruddle (30). (AP Wirephoto)

Play Lamar Tech Friday...

Ags snap losing streak

By CLIFFORD BROYLES **Battalion Sports Editor**

Inspired play from sophomores harlie Jenkins, Bob Gobin and Jeff Overhouse provided the highlight for the Texas Aggie basketball team's week as they split a pair of road games, breaking a 102-83 Saturday. four-game losing string.

The Aggies lost to The Citadel, 32-61, when Ben Ledbetter hit wo free throws with five seconds eft and then snapped their losing streak with a 66-62 win over the University of North Carolina at Charlotte on Saturday.

The losing streak came on the

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road and the Aggies now have a 3-8 record and face their final non-conference challenge Friday night at G. Rollie White Coliseum against an outstanding Lamar Tech team which dumped perennially tough Southern Illinois

A&M begins Southwest Conference cage action next Tuesday when the team travels to Waco to face Baylor and returns home Jan. 23 to play TCU in a regionally televised game.

The road swing started with a 32-point loss to Tulsa and continued with a double loss at the Poinsettia Classic and reached Charleston, S. C., on Thursday and for a half it looked as though

A&M was destined to lose its eighth game of the year and sixth by at least 14 points. The Citadel, a top contender for the Southern Conference

championship, a team which beat Furman 90-80 (Furman beat A&M 103-83), jumped to a 42-28 halftime lead.

a lineup consisting of Jenkins, Gobin, Overhouse, Steve Niles and Chuck Smith, the Aggies came back and erased the lead, and a bucket by the fast improving 7-footer Niles put A&M ahead 61-60 with two minutes remain- getting there."

points in the second half despite the fact the home team shot 38 per cent from the field and 83 per

cent from the foul line. The Aggies continued their strong defensive play as they toppled the University of North Carolina at Charlotte Saturday, limiting them to 34- and 28-point halves.

The Ags enjoyed their best shooting game in ages with a 24 of 46 performance for 52 per cent including a 68 per cent first half.

Like The Citadel game, this one was a fight to the finish and it was Jenkins in his first starting assignment who calmly closed the door on UNCC.

The sophomore from Ft. Worth Arlington Heights dumped in two free throws with 32 seconds left to ice that one. Rick Duplantis had been fouled but missed on a free throw try six seconds earlier but A&M got the rebound and Jenkins finished it off.

"I think we've finally turned Using a full-court press and the corner," coach Shelby Metcalf

said following the UNCC victory. "We're getting great effort from our players now, and I think we'll continue getting that kind of effort," Metcalf said. "We've still got a ways to go, but we're

Niles' play on the road trip continued to be impressive as the

THE BATTALION

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College Station, Texas

Swimmers at meet

The Texas Aggie swimming team will face its biggest challenge of the season Thursday through Saturday when they travel to Norman, Okla., to swim Invitational Meeting.

The meet will be run just like the NCAA swim meet-all events in the three day meet will be the same ones as in the national meet, at Arkansas. run off in the same order on the same days as if it were the NCAA meet.

for the meet with Coach Dennis Jr. Natatorium, a dual meet Feb. Fosdick taking 16 swimmers to 6 with the Razorbacks. the OU classic

three relays, two diving events who set school records in the 200and 13 individual events.

Fosdick's swimmers will take the meet just as if it were another practice as they will try to reach their peak performance later in the season.

9,500 yards in the morning and style relay teams. 8,500 in the afternoon since we started back work after Christmas," Fosdick said.

"We came back from the holidays Jan. 3, and we've had two swimming workouts and one with the weights each day.

swimming about 7,000 yards a day," he said.

The Aggies swam in a meet at Houston last week, but Coach Fosdick said the rugged workout schedule was not cut down and the swimmers showed their tired-

That is, all except freshman Steve Prentice of Houston. Prentice came within .5 second

of tieing the A&M school mark in the 200-yard backstroke.

"Steve didn't even swim a hard race. He swam relaxed and if he would have known he was that close to the record he would have had it, but he coasted in. He in the University of Oklahoma didn't really push," Focdick said. The University of Arkansas pulled a surprise last week with an upset of the University of Texas at Austin in a dual meet

"That makes our only home meet look like a real tough one," Fosdick noted, regarding the Ags' Eighteen events are scheduled only appearance at P. L. Downs

Making the trip for the Aggies The meet will be divided into will be sophomore Eric Wolff, yard freestyle, 500-yard freestyle, 1,000-yard freestyle and 1,650yard freestyle last season and Kim Blakeman, who holds school marks in the 100-yard freestyle. Both were members of the record-"We've been swimming about breaking 400- and 800-yard free-

Another sophomore, Doug Carson, has school records in the 100yard breaststroke and 200-yard breaststroke aside from swimming on the 400-yard relay team. The Aggie freshmen also have shown great progress this season "Before the holidays we were and they'll make up the majority of the squad.

Martin Litteken, Mike McClelland, Mike Rice, Dan Sonnenberg Steve Sonnenberg and Bob Wil loughby are freshmen and the only two representatives A&M will have in the diving events, Duncap Cooper and Mike Rippey, also are in their first year.

The lone senior on the squad is Tom Sparks, whose 56.4 time is the school record for the 100 yard backstroke.

Other sophs on the trip will be Mike Hicks, whom Fosdick said always is dependable for a good performance, and John McCleary, who swam on the 400-yard medley relay record team with Hicks, Carson, Wolfee and Gordon Taylor.

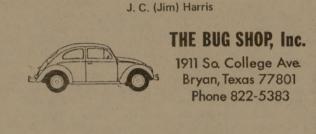
team this is the first season for A&M's two coaches. Dennis Fosdick is in his first year as head of the Ag swimmers and Eddy Grant, a captain on the last two A&M swimming teams, has been named diving coach.

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The Citadel then turned the ball over and the Aggies, sitting on a one-point lead, controlled the ball until Smith was fouled with 20 seconds remaining. He missed from the line and The Citadel got

Ledbetter was fouled and sank the deciding free throws sending the Ags to their eighth loss of the year. But improved second half play brought new hope. A&M limited The Citadel to 20

San Antonio senior trimmed down from 270 to 235 pounds and has been averaging 21 points and 15 rebounds a game in his last 5 starts.

Metcalf is expected to send the same five on the floor Friday night against Lamar Tech.

Tech will play a style of game similar to that of A&M's first conference opponent, Baylor, and Metcalf feels for that reason Lamar will be the perfect opponent to prepare the Aggies for the SWC opener.

The Beaumont based school plays the University of Houston tonight, and they boast a 96.4 scoring average per game, the seventh best in the nation.

The varsity game will be preceded by a 5:45 p.m. contest between the freshman teams of the two schools. Lamar Tech will field an outstanding frosh team that has a five-game winning streak and 6-3 season record. excluding its game with the Houston Kittens tonight. Coach Jim Culpepper's Aggie

Fish will be coming off a month layoff since opening their season wtih a very sluggish 55-48 win over Wharton County Junior College in early December.

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