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Aggies minus their one great player

By CLIFFORD BROYLES
Battalion Sport Editor

As it now stands, only a major miracle could bring the Southwest Conference basketball championship to College Station, as the Aggies have dropped four games behind unbeaten Texas Christian in the league race.

Should A&M win the last nine, the way some of the league teams are playing, it's a possibility that the winner will have less than four losses.

Right now TCU is 5-0 and Tech 4-1 and there's a good possibility that one of those teams will finish with less than three losses.

The main Aggie problem right now is putting the ball through the hoop. Anytime you outbounced a team by 29 you should win no matter how bad you shoot, but the Aggies shot worse than that and lost to SMU.

"We need just one good shooter and one good ball handler and we'd be okay," Coach Shelby Metcalf said. This is the first time in a long while that the Aggies haven't had that one good man who could get the 20 points every time out.

Mike Heitmann did it the last couple of years. Before that it was John Beasley, Bennie Lenox and Carroll Broussard in the early 1960's. Metcalf felt that the play of Rick Duplantis was really outstanding.

"Duplantis played as well for us as Phillips did for SMU."

Duplantis hit for 20 points despite playing about 25 minutes in the game.

While the Aggies lack that one consistently great scorer, most of the teams in the league don't and that is probably the big difference in A&M's 1-4 mark of this year and 9-5 and 12-2 standards of the last two years.

There's not a team in the league with the rebound strength of A&M.

SMU has Phillips, and TCU has got great work from two junior college transfers, Eugene Kennedy and Simpson DeGrate. Kennedy is averaging better than 20 a game and is an outstanding rebounder. Baylor has Willie Chatmon, who's scoring at 25 points a game, and Texas Tech has the duo of Greg Lowery and Gene Knolle, and for those who saw Tech here Saturday you know how valuable they were—especially Lowery in the second half comeback.

Rice has Gary Reist and Tom Myer and yet their record is 2-3 and the defending champions' problem is just the opposite of the Aggies.

Reist and Myer are two outstanding shooters and they proved last year with good work underneath that they could be formidable by winning the championship.

Two sophomores are handling the Owls' post positions and they are not faring well. Steve Niles held 6-10 Mark Wehrle to one rebound and three points.

The Aggies' problems hang in the backcourt. A&M's big men got 61 of the 83 points and only Bill Cooksey and Charlie Jenkins put in 10 apiece for the Ag guards. Their combined percentage was eight out of 25 for 32 percent.

Metcalf feels that help is coming from his freshman team and from the early season performances that means help from flashy guard Bobby McKey and sharpshooting Randy Knowles but that doesn't brighten the picture for the rest of this year.

COACH SHELBY Metcalf look up at the scoreboard, which belonged to the Ags most of the night Tuesday. But with the final buzzer sounded SMU had the big end with a 89-83 win. (Photo by Hayden Whitsett)

4 black gridders leave TCU Frogs

FORT WORTH (AP)—Four black football players at Texas Christian told head coach Jim Pittman Wednesday that they are quitting and transferring to Florida State.

Defensive tackle Larry Dibbles, running back Raymond Rhodes, defensive back Hodges Mitchell and defensive back Ervin Garnett, all sophomores, cited limited social activities at TCU as their reason for leaving. "They explained to me," said Pittman, "that they had not been happy with the social activities the last two years. They said it had nothing to do with the present coaches or any of our rules."

Pittman came to TCU from Tulane after Fred Taylor was fired at the end of the 1970 season. Pittman immediately put down rules for squad dress and appearance and The Fort Worth Star-Telegram said it caused resentment among some of the black players. All four of the black players started last fall. Rhodes, TCU's leading rusher and Mitchell led the SWC in punt returns. Dibbles was being considered an All-America honor by one national magazine for this fall. Three other black players remain at TCU—Larry Harris, a sophomore running back, and Gene Colbert, and freshman Charley Davis. Harris is a sophomore running back and Gene Colbert is a defensive cornerback. Gene Henderson, who was assistant under Taylor, is an assistant coach at Florida State. The dress code discourages beards, moustaches and sideburns below the bottom of the ear. Pittman pointed out that Dibbles was the only player at TCU that was not clean shaven.

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