

Reist downs Ags with last-second shot

By JOHN CURYLO
Assistant Sports Editor

The score was 70-69, and Rice was leading with 3:54 left in the game. What was to happen in the next three minutes and 12 seconds meant more than anything else that occurred Saturday night.

A more accurate observation is that what wasn't to happen in that short period of time meant more than anything else that occurred in the Owls' 73-71 victory over the Aggies in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

A&M was denied a score six times in this span of 3:12. Three times from the field and just as many charity shots didn't go in,

and this proved to be the downfall of the Aggies. It may seem odd that it was A&M who finally broke the cold spell, but with Rice hitting 52.9% of their shots,

The Texas Aggies hit the road tonight, after dropping their fourth straight Southwest Conference home game, when they travel to Moody Coliseum at Southern Methodist University in Dallas for an 8 p. m. game with the Mustangs, who are only a game back of league-leading TCU.

Gene Phillips is the SWC's leading scorer with a 28.1. Also starting for the Mustangs will be Bobby Rollings, who scored 31 Saturday with a 17.8 mark, Larry Delzell 16.5, Jack Trout 7.8 and Clayton Korver 31.

The in-bounds play must have been a good one, as Gary Reist, the tremendous Owl guard from Hamilton, Ohio, started a short drive. Charlie Jenkins' fifth foul came just as Reist released his jump shot, which was good. At this point, Rice led 72-71 with six ticks of the clock left and Reist at the free throw line.

His shot was good, giving the Owls a 73-71 domination of the scoreboard. The Aggies moved to midcourt and asked for a time out with four seconds left. Jeff Overhouse broke for the basket, but the throw-in was too tall for his 6-7 plus raised arms, and it was all over for A&M, but Rice was back in the race for the Southwest Conference crown, since Texas Tech was beating TCU in Lubbock.

They came on eight of 19 field goals and four of eight free throws. Wayne Howard, a new starter, hit seven of 19 and two of three to contribute 16 points. Duplantis came off the bench to score 14. He also had 10 rebounds. The 6-8 junior was four of eight from the floor and six of 10 in free throws. Smith also had 10 rebounds, while making eight points.

A crowd of 4,326 saw the game begin as evenly as it ended. It

wasn't until four minutes were gone that Rice finally began to stretch out. Then, with 13:21 left in the first period, Reist hit a short jumper to give his team a six point lead at 17-11. Then, less than two minutes later, Mott hit a 12-foot jump shot to give the Owls an eight point lead with the score 21-13.

The streak wasn't over yet, as Overhouse made a charity shot and Duplantis scored on a layup. Another Rice time out followed

another Overhouse jump, and the Aggies led by six, with 7:39 remaining in the first half. Two successful throws by the Owls cut the lead to four, but a 17-foot jumper by Bob Gobin and a one-and-one by Duplantis put the Ags ahead eight. Things evened out for remainder of the half, and the Owls took a 41-36 lead into the second half.

Rice tied the game at 56-56 minutes into the second half, a layup by Howard and a pair of free throws by Smith put the Ags ahead again. The Aggie's greatest lead of the half came in a three-point play by Smith, a 15-foot jump shot by Duplantis. The score was 62-57 and 10 minutes were left in the game.

A minute later, Reist hit at 63-63 on still another jump shot. The lead went forth until Reist's short shot with 3:54 left to make 70-69 for Rice. Then came cold part that led up to a heart-breaking ending for Aggies.

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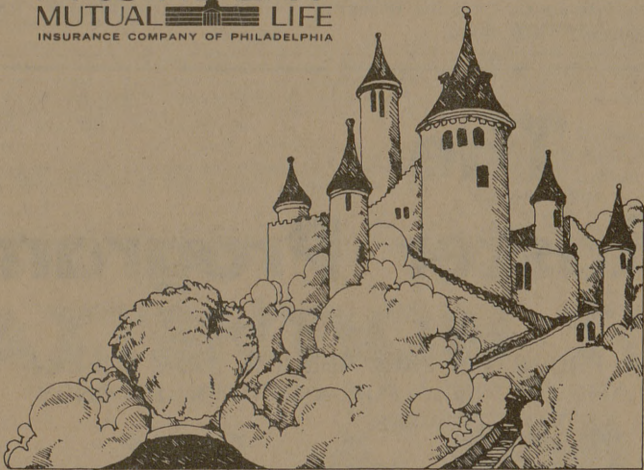
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On The Side of Texas A&M — Member F.D.I.C.

Owlets dominate Aggie Fish, 87-68

By JOHN CURYLO
Assistant Sports Editor

The Rice Owlets completely dominated the Aggie Fish here Saturday, pushing their record to 12-1 by downing A&M 87-68.

The two teams were relatively equal in all statistical categories but two — free throws and final score. The crushing blow was that one caused the other.

The Fish hit 39.7% from the field, against 39.4% for Rice, but the Owlets made one more. The margin was in free throws. The Aggies could only manage 13 of 32, while Rice hit a fantastic 35 of 41.

A more balanced attack also helped the Owlets, who had four of the six boys who played in double figures and the other two finished with nine each. The only Aggies to score over 10 was Randy Knowles, who made 28.

Knowles hit 10 of 22 from the field and eight of 10 from the line. He was the game's leading rebounder with 14. Knowles was slowed by a stone bruise. Other top scorers for the Fish were Johnny Mayo with nine, Bobby McKey and Jack Vest with eight, and Mark Stewart with seven. Mayo was hurt by the flu, which had him hospitalized late last week.

Scott Fisher had 29 points for the Owlets. Of these, 15 came

on free throws. John Kabbes scored 18, Keith Huff had 12, Bengt Bengtson made 10, and Kim Kaufman and Randy Youngling put in nine each to round out the scoring.

Rice, pressing from the beginning, scored seven before the Fish could break the ice. They scored six more before A&M could repeat the achievement, and with 14:22 left in the half, the score was 13-2. The Aggies closed the gap, but could never get closer than five points. Then, with four minutes remaining, Kabbes made a hook shot to put Rice ahead 31-20. Following a layup by Knowles, Fisher was good on four straight free throws, and the Owlets had their biggest lead of the half, 22-35. Two minutes later, it was half-time, and Rice had a comfortable 37-25 margin.

In the second half, the Fish came within five twice, but the Owlets had leads of 13, 15, 17, and 19, before leading twice by 21, and victory was out of reach for the Fish, who fell short of the powerful Rice freshmen three weeks ago in Houston.

The next action for the Fish is Feb. 23, when they play the University of Texas in a preliminary game here at 5:45 p. m. The Shorthorns are the only team to defeat the Rice Owlets.

Relays scratched . . .

Three Ags set school records

By CLIFFORD BROYLES
Battalion Sports Editor

The Texas Aggies, thwarted from their bid for a repeat of last year's world championship title in the mile relay at the Astro-dome Federation meet by injuries, managed to salvage the weekend's work by setting three school indoor records at the 1971 Astro-dome Meet Friday and Saturday.

An aggravation of a muscle he pulled last year at the NCAA track and field championships forced Marvin Mills to scratch from the 100-yard dash finals and the Aggies scratched from the mile relay for the same reason.

Rockie Woods, Marvin Taylor and Harold McMahan all broke school indoor records in the star-studded meet which had top performers from all over the country, with teams from Wisconsin, Villanova, and several schools from the Big Eight Conference dominating the events.

Woods zipped to a 13.9 time in the 120-yard high hurdles, the first sub-14 second time in that event ever by an Aggie.

Wood's time came in the Friday morning prelims as he tied John McGuire of Abilene Christian and Mike Bates of Kansas in his heat.

He took fourth in the finals with a run of 14.2 in his first meet of the year. He sat out the Fort Worth Indoor Games with a pulled hamstring.

Donny Rogers was sixth in his preliminary heat with a time of 14.6 and freshman Gary West, running unattached, was fifth in his heat in 15.0.

Marvin Taylor, battling a stellar field in the high jump, matched his personal high of 6-10 yet finished only fifth in the competition.

Eleven jumpers cleared 6-8 and were working on 6-10, which only the top six cleared.

Pat Matzdorf of the University of Wisconsin won the event with a leap of 7-0 and Taylor came close but failed on three attempts at the elusive seven-foot mark.

McMahan also took a personal high with a 15-6 leap in the pole vault as the El Paso sophomore cleared the bar at 14-16, 15-0 and 15-6 on his first try and only the first jump was shaky. But his three tries at 16 feet failed and he didn't place with 7 jumpers left as the bar was moved to 16-6.

David Morris and Robert Brew ran in the 440 on the 352-yard

track in the dome floor and Morris lost at the wire in his heat with a 48.8 and Brew ticked a 49.2 while placing fourth although neither made the final eight.

Dave Morton of the University of Texas at Austin and Louis Vicenik of the Houston Track Club had the fastest qualifying times in 47.1 and Vicenik won the event on 47.0.

The Aggies also scratched from the spring medley relay due to an injury to Willie Blackmon. Blackmon pulled a muscle after being slated to run the 880 leg of the race.

Marvin Mills took first in his heat in the 100-yard dash in 9.6 and then scratched from the finals and the mile relay because of his injury.

Marvin said he was about 20 yards from the tape in the 100 when he became bothered by the pull.

The injury was an aggravation of a pulled muscle that he suffered while running last summer in the sprint relay at the NCAA finals.

"I could run right now," he said, "but I'm just going to take it easy and let it get well."

The Aggies will not run this week and open the outdoor track season Feb. 28, when they host Rice University in a dual track meet at Kyle Field.

The Aggies ran the mile relay prelims and took the fourth best time, but decided to forego the finals due to Mills' injury.

In the preliminary event, Skelly Strong opened with a 49.0 leg but was in fifth place at the handoff. Don Kellar, who was subbing for Marvin turned in a fine 47.8 to move the Aggies to second place behind Lamar Tech and Morris clocked 47.5 to move the Aggies even with the Cardinals for the anchor leg between Curtis Mills and the Cards' Jackie Colbert.

Mills, holder of the outdoor world record in the event and Colbert, who has run a 46.6 this year in time trials, took the final baton about even but Curtis took command with about 200 yards to go and strolled across with about a five-yard advantage.

The Aggies were clocked in 3:11.5 in the prelims with the University of Colorado running the fastest prelim time of 3:08.6 and Oklahoma State took the event in the championship finals with a time of 3:07.8.

Netters fifth at Pan American

The Texas Aggie tennis team tied for fifth place last week with five points in the 17th Pan American College Tennis Tournament, won by the only Southwest Conference school to meet, Southern Methodist University.

The Aggies picked up two points in singles play and their final point in a doubles match. Jon Ragland and Mike Hickey got second-round wins in drawing byes in the open round to pick up two points and Ragland and Dickie Hickey combined for the lone point by winning a first round match.

The doubles team of Dan Connell and Mike Hickey lost in the round singles match to a team from SMU and then Pan Am Tommy Connell also lost in first-round singles matches.

Connell's loss was to the money's singles champion, Gardner of SMU. Gardner defeated top-seeded Humphrey of the University of Corpus Christi in the finals.

"I didn't think we played well as we are capable of playing," coach Omar Smith said after the Aggies returned from Texas where they had defeated Texas A&I 7-0 Thursday before going to the tournament over the weekend.

"It was a tough meet. We had a world of good out of it. It was one of those early seasons that we never do well in."

Smith also was impressed with the play of SMU. The Mustangs could be a surprise and highly touted Rice in the reference race this year after winning the tournament which included such highly rated teams as Corpus Christi, Pan American part of the Trinity squad.

Gardner was the number-seeded player in the Southwest Conference tournament last year and reached the semifinals before losing to Mike Estep, one of the Owls two singles finalists.

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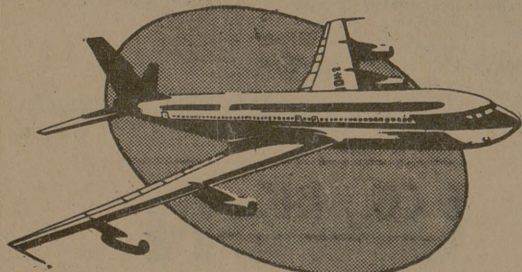
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