

Aggies face defending SWC champions here tonight

By JOHN CURYLO
Battalion Sports Editor
The Aggie basketball team faces the challenge tonight of

bouncing back from the 100-89 loss to Arkansas by hosting defending champion Texas Christian in G. Rollie White Coliseum. A&M, now 8-6, had a five-game winning streak stopped in Fayetteville Saturday by the 46-point performance of Razorback guard Martin Terry. Teammate Vernon Murphy tossed in 25. The Aggies are 1-1 in conference play. Texas Christian, also 1-1 in league action, is 7-4 on the year. They defeated Arkansas 95-77 in the conference opener, but lost to Southern Methodist in Dallas 81-71 three days ago.

Rick Duplantis. Expected to fill in for these regulars are 6-3 guard Bob Gobin and 6-6 forward Randy Knowles.

haunt the Aggies, as they hit but 23 of 38, compared to 36 of 41 for Arkansas.

throws and A&M errors to finish strong. It was their first home appearance since Dec. 13, and a partisan crowd of 4,675 saw them hit 46.4% from the field, compared to 47.1% for the Aggies.

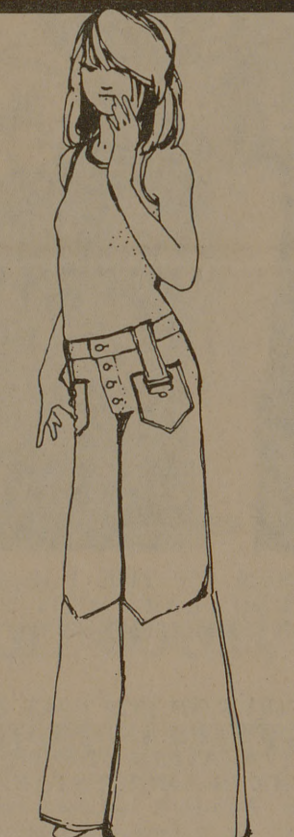
inary game at 5:45. The Aggies are at home again Saturday in an 8 p.m. game with Baylor, preceded by the Fish-

Baylor Cub battle at 5:45. Kansas visits Texas, Baylor and SMU is at other action this week.

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Horned Frog Coach Johnny Swaim counters with 5-10 guard Herb Stephens and 6-1 guard Jim Ferguson, 6-3 forward Ricky Hall and 6-4 forward Simpson Degrate and 6-5 center Evans Royal. Top substitutes for the Fort Worth team are 6-2 guard James Williams, 6-4 forward Jimmy Parker and 6-6 forward John Hurdle.

Terry connected on 12 of 23 shots from the field and added 22 of 24 from the charity line. This total of 46 ranks seventh in conference history for individual players in a league game.

A scuffle occurred with 2:42 to play when Gobin fouled Terry. The benches emptied and several spectators went onto the court. Each team was charged with a flagrant technical foul, and no one was injured.

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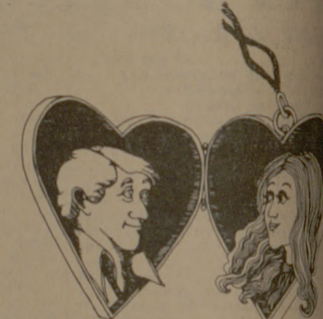
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A look at comparative scores and performances reveals what kind of race is expected in the Southwest Conference this time around: A&M beat SMU at home, then lost to Arkansas there; TCU beat Arkansas at home, then lost to SMU there.

Degrate is one of the premier players in the conference, with Ferguson tabbed as an excellent playmaker. TCU returns four starters from last year's title team, but their ace from a year ago, Eugene (Goo) Kennedy is ineligible this season. The Frogs are expected to be physically tough, as usual.

The Razorbacks had a 49-48 advantage at halftime. The largest margin was a 27-21 A&M lead with 9:14 to play in the period. The score was tied seven times, and the lead changed hands 12 times. The largest Arkansas lead was 35-32 with 5:31 left.

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Coach Shelby Metcalf will start his usual quintet of 6-2 guard Mario Brown and 6-4 guard Bobby Threadgill, 6-4 forward Wayne Howard and 6-7 forward Jeff Overhouse and 6-8 center

The performance of the Aggies Saturday was out of character with the way they had been playing recently. Usually dominant on the boards, they got the same number of rebounds, 47, as the Razorbacks. Free throws still

The second half was nearly as even, with seven ties and five exchanges of the lead. The Aggies were stifled defensively, since Overhouse, A&M's rebounding threat, and Threadgill, the man covering Terry, picked up three fouls in the first half, limiting their aggressiveness.

The scoring:
A&M—Wayne Howard, 25; Jeff Overhouse, 19; Mario Brown, 18; Randy Knowles, 10; Bobby Threadgill, 9; Rick Duplantis, 4; Bob Gobin, 2; and Brad Pauley, 2.

from Houston Cypress-Fairbanks, has averaged 9.5 points per game, but his biggest asset so far this season has been in his rebounding. Mercer has copped 72 rebounds for a 12 per game average.
"I don't expect to change my offensive or defense play much because of the loss of Mike," stated Culppepper. "We will have to go to Cedric more in the inside for the bulk of our scoring and play a little tougher defense."
In overall statistics, the Fish have outscored the opposition by an 11-point margin and out-rebounded the foe by 17 per game. The Fish have also hit a respectable 44% of their outside shots compared to 40% for the opponents.
What has hurt the Fish, if anything, has been too many turnovers (104) and a cold hand at the free throw line (65%).
The Fish will be in action again Saturday when they host the Baylor Cubs in a 5:45 p.m. contest preceding the varsity clash of the two schools in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

Fish host Wogs in preliminary battle

By BILL HENRY
Assistant Sports Editor

"I expect TCU and most of the other teams we play to start pressing us because of our lack of a good ball-handler," Coach Jim Culppepper said. "We may also start to press because I feel pretty good about our defensive unit. The big problem there, however, is that I would hate to get into foul trouble with our depth problem."

ing a 23-point per game player has got to hurt our play to some extent, but I feel real confident that the kids I have can fill the gap and play good basketball."

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SMU has been the common foe of both clubs with A&M scoring an impressive 100-82 win over the Colts, while last Saturday the Colts took the Wogs 85-78 in Dallas. Overall the Wogs stand in at 1-5 while the Fish hold a 4-2 record.

The big question in tonight's contest is whether the Fish can get the offense back together after the loss of top scorer and floor leader Mike Floyd. Without the Rockford, Ill., star, the Fish are lacking an outside shooting threat as well as a ball-handler.

With Floyd out for the season with a broken ankle, the Fish have given much more attention to defense. This was shown in last week's heart-breaking loss to Hill JC, 69-68, on a last second free throw. Up to that contest, the Hill Rangers had averaged 104 points per game in hustling to a 16-1 season record. That one loss was to San Jacinto in the Ravens' own tournament two days preceding the Fish contest.

"I don't expect to change my offensive or defense play much because of the loss of Mike," stated Culppepper. "We will have to go to Cedric more in the inside for the bulk of our scoring and play a little tougher defense."

"With Mike playing, we definitely had a better ball club than we do now," Culppepper said. "Loss of Mike is a big problem."

Bellard announces workout dates


Coach Emory Bellard said Monday that spring football training for the A&M squad would start March 20 and conclude with the Maroon-White game on April 22.

Cedric Joseph, All-America from Fort Worth Arlington Heights, has been called on to lead the Fish throughout the remainder of the season in both scoring and rebounding. Joseph, 6-8, 210, has averaged 20.3 points per game and 16.3 rebounds. Webb Williams and Dale Donaldson are the only other Fish to average in double figures throughout the first six encounters. Jerry Mercer, 6-9, 210,

The tentative schedule calls for nine workouts prior to the spring break at Easter and 11 sessions afterward.

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