

Play Longhorns in Austin tonight

Aggies hold off Tech to share SWC lead

By JOHN CURYLO
Battalion Sports Editor

The Texas Aggies hit the road today for a 7:30 battle with the tough and talented Texas Longhorns in Austin's Gregory Gym.

A&M is 12-6 for the season and 5-1 in Southwest Conference play after Saturday night's 68-63 heart-stopping victory over Texas Tech before an overflow (8,108) crowd in the Sound Bowl.

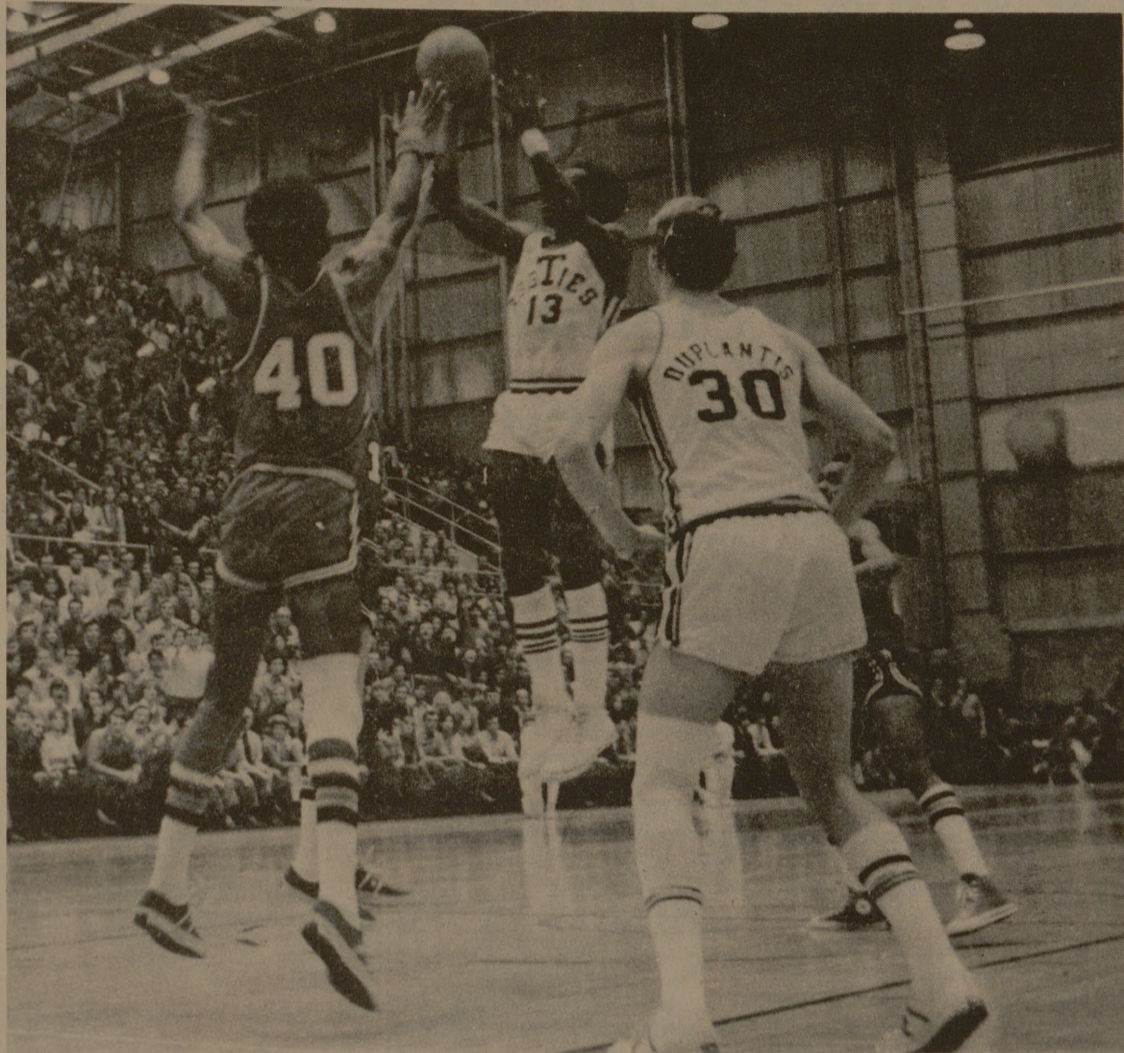
The Red Raiders came into town tied with the Aggies and the Southern Methodist Mustangs for the top spot in the league. SMU beat Baylor 74-70, to set the stage for a showdown in Dallas Saturday.

Should the Aggies win and the Mustangs defeat the Rice Owls in Houston, Saturday's winner would be in undisputed first place in the SWC with six games to play.

The Longhorns, however, are no easy opponents. In fact, they were picked to win the crown in a pre-season vote by sports writers in the conference towns. Texas is 10-6 for the year and 3-3 since the race began, losing to Tech, SMU and Texas Christian.

In the cardiac contest with Tech, the Aggies hit 47.5% from the field, while the Raiders managed to sink half of their shots. A&M controlled the boards, dominating players with greater height, 41-35.

The score was tied six times in the first half, with the lead changing hands seven times before Tech built up a six-point



A SHORT JUMP SHOT gives A&M and guard Mario Brown (13) two points in Saturday night's win over the Texas Tech Red Raiders. Brown hit nine of 15 shots from the field and four of six from the free throw line for a total of 22 points. The team-leading performance gave the 6-2 junior college transfer a 13.8 average for the season and a 17.8 norm for six conference games. (Photo by Mike Rice)

deserve to win like this. They really represented A&M well."

Brown led the Aggies with 22 points on nine of 15 from the field and four of six free throws. Overhouse had six of 12 and one of three for 13. Howard scored 12, and Bobby Threadgill made 10. Knowles was the top rebounder with 10 caroms.

"It won't show up in the statistics, but Bob Gobin had an awful lot to do with winning this ball game," Metcalf explained. "He got in there and got after it. His tie and tip were purely results of hustle."

The scoring:

A&M — Mario Brown, 22; Jeff Overhouse, 13; Wayne Howard, 12; Bobby Threadgill, 10; Randy Knowles, 4; Bobby McKey, 4; and Brad Pauley, 3.

Texas Tech — Greg Lowery, 23; Ron Richardson, 13; Ralph Palomar, 9; Richard Little, 7; Ed Wakefield, 6; Gene Kaberline, 3; and Don Moore, 2.

A&M is enjoying a four-game winning streak this season, having won nine of their last 10 outings.

lead with 1:33 to play in the period. They held a 36-32 advantage at halftime, by virtue of making 60% from the field and six of seven from the free throw line.

Greg Lowery, their sensational guard, scored 17 in the opening period, hitting eight of 10 field goal attempts and one free throw. He finished the game with 23, making two of eight shots in the second half and both of his penalty shots.

Tech poured it on at the beginning of the second stanza, getting an eight-point margin two minutes into the half. Wayne

Howard, Mario Brown and Jeff Overhouse combined their talents to whittle away at the lead.

With 12:06 left in the game, Brad Pauley drove in, made a layup and was fouled by Ralph Palomar. The successful free throw tied the contest at 48-all.

Tech bounced back again, though, to take a 59-53 lead with 6:36 left. The Ags stayed tough, and got within two with three minutes showing.

Bob Gobin, who played only 10 minutes the entire game, made a crucial play that was the turn-

ing point of the night. With 2:21 left, he tied Richard Little, then out-jumped him to tip the ball to Randy Knowles.

Brown edged his way to the basket, working in with his back turned, and made a short jump shot. This tied it at 60 with 2:04 to play. The defense stiffened, and A&M got the ball on a missed shot.

They took their time, working for a sure shot, but Brown drove for the basket with a minute and a half remaining. A behind-the-back pass gave Overhouse an easy crisp shot, and the Aggies were in command, 62-60.

The next time down, Brown drove again, this time putting it up himself. The shot was good, but the junior college transfer was called for charging. Palomar made only one of the free throws, giving the Aggies a 64-61 lead with 35 seconds left.

Knowles was fouled while rebounding the missed penalty toss, and the 6-6 sophomore made both ends of a one-and-one to make it 66-61 with 31 to go. From there, it was all over, with Tech dropping to 10-8 on the year and 4-2 in loop play.

"When it got down to where they had to play tough, they kept their heads and did a good job," Coach Shelby Metcalf said. "I've never had a group work harder than these guys. They

SWC standing

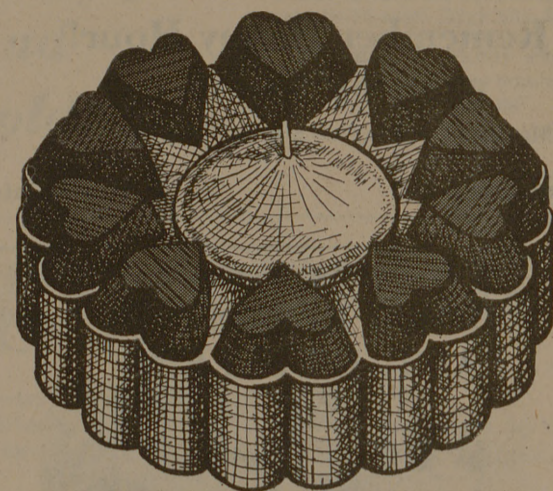
Team	W	L
A&M	5	1
SMU	5	1
Tech	4	2
Texas	3	3
TCU	3	3
Arkansas	2	4
Baylor	2	4
Rice	0	6

Last week's results — A&M 80, Rice 70; A&M 68, Tech 63; SMU 85, Texas 80; SMU 74, Baylor 70; Tech 76, Arkansas 73; Baylor 93, TCU 77; Arkansas 103, Rice 95; TCU 88, Texas 75.

Tuesday's games — A&M at Texas; SMU at Rice; Arkansas at Baylor; TCU at Tech.

Saturday's games — A&M at SMU, Texas at Rice (TV); TCU at Arkansas; Tech at Baylor.

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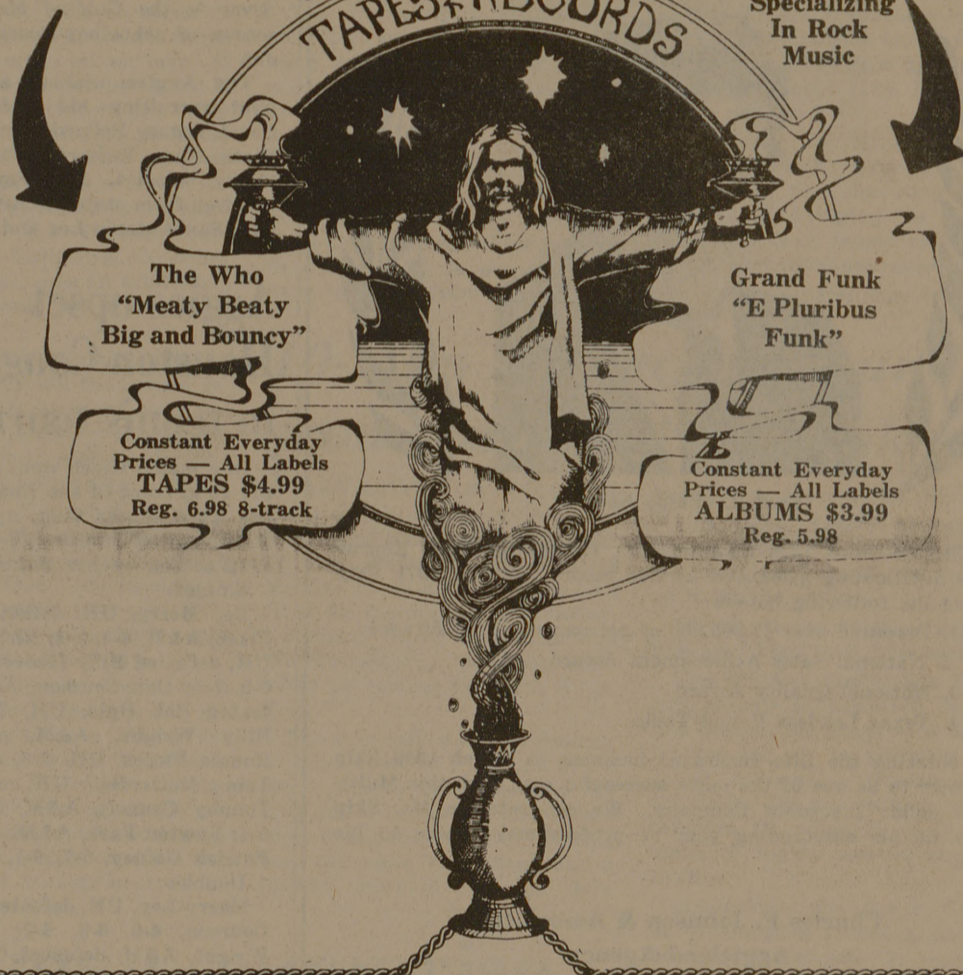
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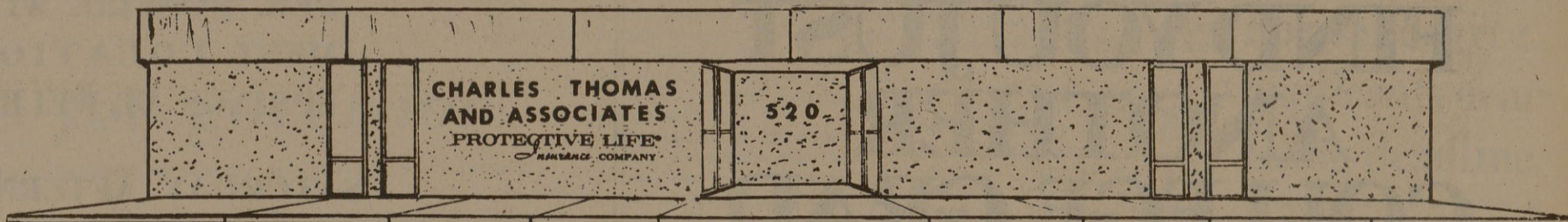
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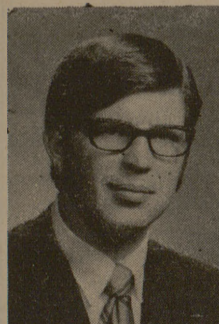
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