

Rice supprises Aggies, 73-69; Steers here tonight

By JOHN CURYLO
Battalion Sports Editor

Fate gave the kiss of death to A&M Saturday, and Cinderella still can't try on the glass slipper.

All through the conference race, opposing coaches have said that Rice would knock somebody off. These prophecies came true in G. Rollie White Coliseum, and the Owls showed regional television viewers a 73-69 put-down of the Aggies.

The defeat coupled with Southern Methodist's loss to Texas and victories by Texas Tech and Texas Christian, leaves the Southwest Conference race in a five-way tie with a week left.

Should the conference race end in a two-way tie, the playoff berth in Las Cruces, New Mexico, would go to the team which won both of the games against the other. If the schools split their two meetings, a playoff game at a neutral site would be scheduled for next Tuesday to determine the conference representative.

If more than two teams tie for the crown, the playoff position would be given to the team which swept the series from the others involved. However, if this situation didn't exist, the team whose last NCAA playoff appearance predates the others would automatically qualify for the playoffs.

Among the five leaders, Tech was in the playoffs in 1962, Texas in 1963, SMU in 1967, A&M in

1969 and TCU in 1971.

The loss to Rice was only the second home setback this season for the Aggies, the other being a 90-79 defeat at the hands of Tulsa Dec. 6. Rice's last victory was a 85-74 win over Georgia Tech Jan. 12.

"Apparently, not going winless in conference meant more to Rice than winning this one for the championship did to us," Coach Shelby Metcalf said. "I was afraid of this ball game, and I didn't get them mentally ready. Rice played a beautiful ball game. They deserved to win."

Rice beat the Aggies at their own game, using a tough defense that denied A&M the inside shot or a penetration of the lane by the point man. The Owls showed good shot selection, hitting 49.2% of their field goal attempts.

A&M let Rice in the back door on a number of occasions, with the Owls edging away from the basket and then sending a gift lay-up.

The two teams played neck-and-neck for the first 11 minutes, but a 14-foot jump shot by Randy Youngling and a 17-foot jumper by Randy Reynolds put the Houstonians ahead 22-18 with 8:20 to play.

It took them less than four minutes to increase the margin to 12, 33-21, with 4:37 to go in the half. Their lead leveled there, and they left the court at half-time with a 43-31 advantage.

Things didn't change much in the closing period, with Leroy Marion damaging the Aggies by hitting 21 points and getting 11 rebounds. A 51-38 lead with 16:12 remaining provided the

SWC standings

Team	W	L
A&M	8	4
SMU	8	4
Texas	8	4
TCU	8	4
Tech	8	4
Baylor	4	8
Arkansas	3	9
Rice	1	11

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

Owls with their biggest margin.

A&M started getting desperate, and the crowd of 5,101 stood Aggies showed signs of snapping screaming for a comeback. The out of their sluggishness, but Rice refused to relinquish.

Although Rice's lead gradually deteriorated, it wasn't until 6:52 was showing that the Aggies Bobby Threadgill, playing perhaps his best game at A&M, took a pass from Mario Brown in the right corner and hit a jump shot. Reynolds fouled him on the managed to break the eight-point lead barrier the Owls had set up. play, and the converted charity shot made it 61-56.

Brown stole a Rice pass, as the second half press by the Aggies forced one of only 11 Rice turnovers. He drove down the court and made a short jump shot to tie it at 62 with 3:58 left in the game.

Rice got ahead again on a John Kabbes jump shot from the right side, 66-64, and A&M was out of it for the remaining 3:05. During this time, the Aggies missed the front half of three one-and-ones and the second toss of another.

Threadgill had a season high of 25 points, connecting on 11 of 24 from the field and all three of his free throw chances. The

New Braunfels senior was credited with seven rebounds.

Jeff Overhouse led the Aggies with nine caroms, followed by Randy Knowles and Rick Duplantis with eight each and Wayne Howard and Threadgill with seven. Howard sat out the entire second half with a mysterious leg injury, and he will not start against the Longhorns.

All in all, A&M got 52 rebounds to 43 for Rice. The Aggies need 49 in their next two games to break the record of 1,309 set by the 1969 club.

The scoring:
A&M—Bobby Threadgill, 25; Randy Knowles, 18; Mario

Brown, 10; Jeff Overhouse, 9; Wayne Howard, 3; Rick Duplantis, 2; and Brad Pauley, 2.

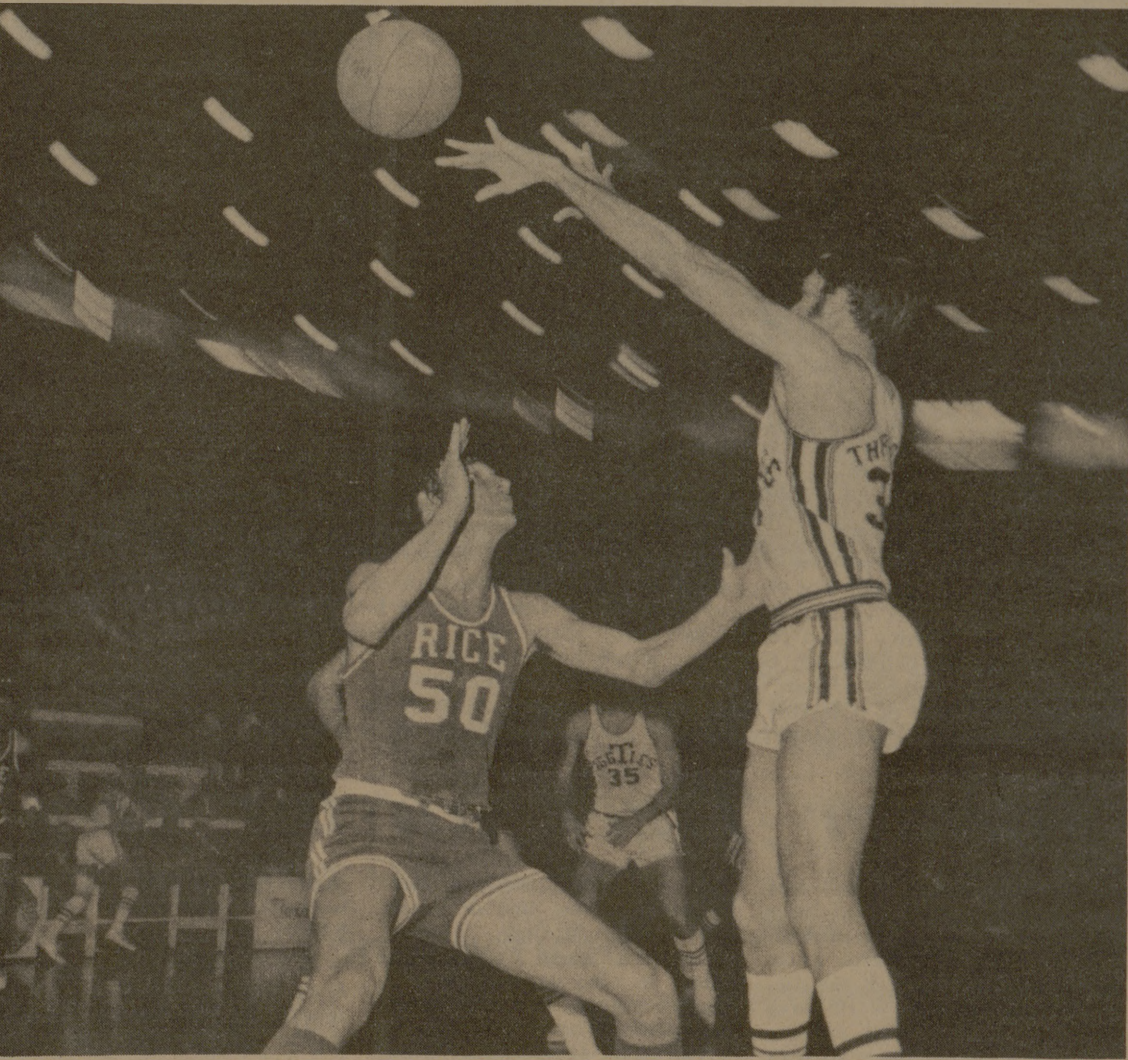
Rice—Leroy Marion, 21; John Kabbes, 15; John Mott, 9; Randy Reynolds, 8; Steve Emshoff, 8; Randy Youngling, 5; Don Snyder, 5; and Mark Wehrle, 2.

In the first meeting between the Aggies and the Steers in Austin, Texas hit 53.4% of their shots, compared to an A&M average of 33.8, to win, 80-71. The zone the Longhorns used was similar to the Rice defense, and the ability to pinch Brown at the circle and restrict inside passing was the key to Texas' success.

Coach Leon Black probably will start guards Joe "Scott" Lenox and Jimmy Blacklock, forwards Eric Groscurth and Larry Robinson and center Brosterhouse.

This will mark the final home appearance for the Aggies now 15-9. Threadgill and Duplantis will be closing out their careers at A&M this week, the only two seniors on the squad.

Tipoff time is 8:00 p.m. in a preliminary game between Fish (11-5) and the Texas Longhorns. Regular season play on Saturday for A&M with a journey to Lubbock to face the Tech Red Raiders.



LEADING AGGIE SCORER in the 73-69 loss to Rice Saturday was Bobby Threadgill (34), a 6-4 senior wing man. Threadgill hit on 11 of 24 from the field and three of three free throws for a season high of 25 points. Guarding the A&M captain is Owl John Kabbes (50). The Aggies play their final home game tonight against the University of Texas Longhorns. Tied for the conference lead with four other teams, A&M still has a chance to win the league crown. (Photo by Mike Rice)

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- Dates: School Systems:
March 1 Houston, Texas
March 1 Gallup-McKinley Co., N. M.
March 2 Fort Worth, Texas
March 2 Denton, Texas
March 7 San Antonio, Texas
March 8 McAllen, Texas
March 21 Abilene, Texas
March 22 Corsicana, Texas
March 24 Austin, Texas
April 5 Port Arthur, Texas
April 12 Goose Creek, Baytown, Texas

Confirmation of others pending
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ATTENTION Juniors and Sophomores
MAKE SURE YOUR PICTURE WILL BE IN THE 1972 AGGIELAND YEARBOOK PICTURE SCHEDULE
W-X-Y-Z March 3
Make-up Week March 6-17

NOTE: Students needing pictures for job-applications or any personal use may come ahead of schedule.
CORPS SENIORS: Uniform: Class A Winter - Blouse or Midnight Shirt.
CIVILIANS: Coat and Tie.
PICTURES WILL BE TAKEN FROM 8: A.M. to 5: P.M.

NOTE: BRING FEE SLIPS to
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Sports schedule
Tuesday
Baseball: Iowa State, here, 1:00 p.m., doubleheader
Basketball: Texas, here, 8:00 p.m. Fish-Yearlings preliminary at 5:45.
Wednesday
Baseball: Iowa State, here, 1:00 p.m., doubleheader
Thursday
Swimming: SWC meet in Lubbock
Golf: Border Olympics
Friday
Tennis: Corpus Christi, there, dual meet
Swimming: SWC meet in Lubbock
Golf: Border Olympics
Saturday
Basketball: Texas Tech, there, 8:00 p.m.
Baseball: Sam Houston, there, 1:00 p.m., doubleheader
Track: Border Olympics

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