

# A&M Plays SWC Co-Leader Tonight In Dallas

## Aggies Face SMU In Must Contest

By KEVIN COFFEY  
Assistant Sports Editor

A&M's basketballers, facing elimination from the Southwest Conference basketball race, travel to Dallas tonight to take on SWC co-leader SMU at 8 p.m. in Moody Coliseum.

The Aggies record of 3-3 in loop play means that they must derail the Pony Express if they are to entertain any thoughts of the SWC crown. Chances of the eventual champion sporting four losses are indeed slim.

The Mustangs are probably the most talent laden team in the conference. They are also most likely the best team in the country with a 8-9 record.

SMU has reeled off five straight

conference wins after dropping their opener to Texas Tech 76-80 in Lubbock. The Mustangs played almost faultless basketball against Texas Saturday in a 82-75 victory which, coupled with Baylor's upset of Tech, put SMU and the Red Raiders atop the league standing with 5-1 marks.

The Aggies will have to contend with the finest frontline in the conference in SMU's Ira Terrell (6-8), Sammy Hervey (6-7) and Rubin Triplett (6-7).

Hervey is the leading scorer of

the three, sporting a 25.2 per game norm in SWC action. Terrell averages 21.6 per contest and Triplett 11.4. Terrell also grabs 15.6 rebounds per contest with Triplett netting 11.0 and Hervey 10.8.

SMU was devastating perfection against Texas in their victory Saturday. The Ponies committed only 11 fouls the entire contest, hit 50.7 percent, and out-rebounded the Longhorns 46-43, something the Aggies were unable to do.

The Mustangs, who average 90 points per outing, will start Zack Thiel and Rick Billik at guards to round-out the line-up.

A&M has captured seven of the last ten contests with SMU, splitting last year's duo.

The Mustangs have returned nine lettermen from last season's co-championship team including two starters. The SMU depth was bolstered when they signed Hervey out of junior college and gained one of the most sought

after freshman in the country in Terrell.

A&M proved it can play basketball in Moody Coliseum last year when they dropped a 75-71 contest to the Ponies.

The Aggies will counter the highscoring Mustangs with Cedric Joseph, Jeff Overhouse and Randy Knowles on the front line with Mario Brown and Mike Floyd at the guard spots.

The game will be broadcast locally on KORA radio starting at 7:55 p.m.

## Ags Rip TCU In Slugfest, 92 - 73

By BILL HENRY  
Battalion Sports Editor

A thing of beauty it wasn't, in fact it looked like Roller Derby without skates but for the Texas Aggies, the results were well worth the effort.

Marred by 52 personal fouls, 38 turnovers and a 36 per cent shooting average, the Aggies stormed past inexperienced TCU here Saturday night 92-73 in Southwest Conference basketball action.

The win evened A&M's loop record at 3-3 and kept the young, inexperienced Frogs winless at 0-6.

The game, minus its lack of grace and discipline, had many bright spots for the Aggies who had been on a two-game losing streak while falling off the championship pace.

Mario Brown, the 6-3, 185 pound senior floorleader, played perhaps the finest game of the season in scoring a season-high 24 points. His fluid motion, fancy ball and body control, paired with a fine defensive effort kept the fired-up 6,780 fans in awe.

More noteworthy is the fact that Brown had severely sprained an ankle the previous Tuesday against Texas Tech and was not scheduled to play.

"Mario played an exceptional game," Coach Shelby Metcalf said following the contest. "He shot much better and more often than he has all season. I wish he'd sprain the other ankle if he plays that well."

Rebounding was another bright spot for the somewhat inconsistent Aggies. Cedric Joseph grabbed 15 caroms in leading the Aggies to a SWC game high of 65.

"That was the brightest spot of our game," Metcalf said. "We really pounded those boards and took it to them in that area."

Free throw shooting finally came around to pre-conference form with the Aggies hitting on 28 of 32 for 87.5 per cent.

One problem point, however, was shooting from the floor. A&M hit a very poor 32 of 85 shots; many of which were easy layups and short jump shots. Very few games can be won hitting at a 37 per cent norm.

The main reason A&M did win by 19 points was that TCU did worse in that department. The Frogs hit only 28 of 79 for 35 per cent. TCU also did poorly on the gratis line in hitting 17 of 28 for 60 per cent.

"Overall I thought we played hard, shot poorly and did a super

job on the boards," Metcalf said. "We have to go inside to win games and we finally did a good job of that in the second half."

"You can't discount TCU. They are going to beat some people before the season's over. They've really improved since the season began. I wish we'd already played in Fort Worth."

"I was really proud of the student body tonight also. I didn't really think very many would be out since we lost two in a row but they got out and supported us. I'm real thankful of the student body we have here."

Both teams had five players scoring double figures with Brown leading both with 24. Randy Knowles had 15, Jeff Overhouse with 12, Mike Floyd 11 and Joseph with 10.

Three freshman led the way for the Frogs with Lynn Royal scoring 16, Wayne Wayman 14 and Gary Landers 12. Sophomores Jeff Wright and Eddy Fitzhugh had 11 and 10 points respectively.

6-11 Bill Bozeat, who was thrown out of the contest after taking a swing at Bob Gobin, led TCU with 15 rebounds.

TCU led only once, 14-11, with 13:00 left in the first half, but from then on it was all A&M.

The Aggies jumped out 6-0 before TCU scored and fought back to its lead. With 11:58 remaining in that opening stanza, A&M took the lead 15-14 and never relinquished it while driving to a 15-point advantage, 33-18, with 5:46 left.

A&M lost some momentum near the end and finished that half

with a 10-point lead, 47-37.

TCU never had a chance in the final half as A&M blistered the boards, but still shooting poorly drove to its final 19-point game ending lead.

The Aggies travel to Dallas tonight for an 8 p.m. contest against conference co-leader SMU.

| SWC Standings | W | L | Pct. | W  | L  | Pct. |
|---------------|---|---|------|----|----|------|
| Texas Tech    | 5 | 1 | .833 | 12 | 6  | .666 |
| SMU           | 5 | 1 | .833 | 8  | 9  | .470 |
| Arkansas      | 4 | 2 | .666 | 11 | 7  | .611 |
| Baylor        | 4 | 2 | .666 | 10 | 7  | .588 |
| Texas A&M     | 3 | 3 | .500 | 11 | 7  | .611 |
| Rice          | 2 | 4 | .333 | 7  | 10 | .411 |
| Texas         | 1 | 5 | .200 | 7  | 10 | .411 |
| TCU           | 0 | 6 | .000 | 2  | 15 | .117 |
| x-Houston     |   |   |      | 15 | 2  | .822 |

x-Not competing for SWC title.

Last Week's Results  
Tuesday—SMU 100, Arkansas 94, Baylor 82, TCU 76. Texas 88, Rice 73, Texas Tech 68, Texas A&M 67.

Thursday—Houston 89, Centenary 85.

Saturday—Arkansas 90, Rice 69, Baylor 66, Texas Tech 57, SMU 82, Texas 75, Texas A&M 92, TCU 73, Houston 90, Cincinnati 85.

This Week's Schedule  
Tuesday—Arkansas at Texas Tech 7:30 p.m., Baylor at Rice 8 p.m., Texas A&M at SMU 8 p.m., Texas at TCU 7:30 p.m.  
Thursday—Houston Baptist at Houston 8 p.m.  
Saturday—Arkansas at Texas A&M 2:30 p.m. (TV), Baylor at Texas 7:30 p.m., Southwestern Louisiana at Houston 12:30 p.m. (TV), Rice at TCU 7:30 p.m., Texas Tech at SMU 8 p.m.

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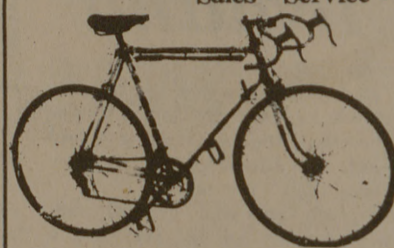
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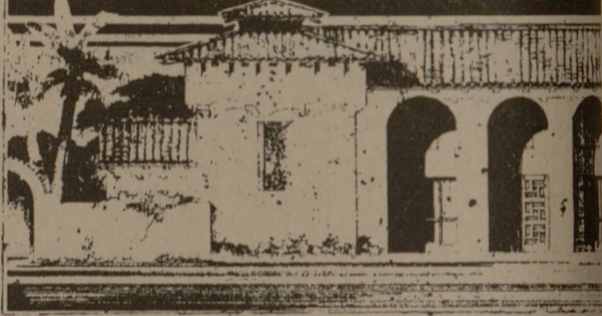
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