

# Ag referee 64, Rice referee 61

BY TONY GALLUCCI  
Staff Sports Writer

Texas A&M outscored Rice 64-61. The Ags didn't whip 'em, they didn't trounce 'em, they didn't even beat 'em in the true sense of the word. But it was enjoyable for the Rice fans because it was close and because they could yell twice as much as usual at Aggie fans and the officials.

Not that the refs made it a lopsided affair because they didn't, practically all their calls were bad. The National Hockey League should send scouts to watch the refs. There seemed to be whistles for icing and high-sticking.

Meanwhile the Aggies may have been dazed by the big city because they appeared to be sleeping through most of the game. They put the skates on just long enough to take a two point lead to the locker room at the half and to salt away a three point victory.

Mike Floyd took the opening tipoff and gave it to Sonny Parker who scored on the first shot of the ball game. It was a see-saw, low scoring game for the first five minutes. Then the Owls turned to ball hawks and took control, building up as much as a seven point lead at several points.

The Ags began to show a little fire with about five minutes left in the half, but appeared headed to the dressing room behind until Jerry Mercer hit a followup at the buzzer to give the Ags a 34-32 halftime lead.

While the Ags never lost the lead

during the second half, they never pulled away either. The Ags' biggest lead was eight points at 52-44. The Owls closed within two seven times.

It was a dangerous strategy call by head coach Shelby Metcalf that finally won the game. With four minutes left, a 60-59 lead and only five personal fouls on Rice, Metcalf called for the team to freeze the ball. Dangerous because Rice might steal the ball, try for the last shot and if they were fouled get free throws because the Ags had twelve fouls. Or if the Ags held the ball and forced the Owls to foul, the Ags wouldn't get free throws until the Owls got their seventh team foul. Confusing? Metcalf probably hoped so.

Suffice it to say that the Ags froze the ball for about a minute and a half before they took advantage of an open lane and tried not one but two shots and missed both. Rice took the ball back and tried a little freeze, went to the bucket, and missed too. Tom Moriarty fouled right away to try to get the ball back but alas, no free throws. The Ags simply got it back out of bounds, from whence Chuck Saus fouled when the Ags tried to freeze the ball again for the final two minutes. The Ags again got it out of bounds and stalled for another minute and a half.

Rice then made a planned but fatal mistake when Saus fouled Mike Floyd with 36 seconds remaining. Fatal because the Ags were now in bonus, and fatal because Floyd has been the Ags' top free throw shooter over the years as well as one of the tops in the conference. And fatal because Floyd proved why he is tops. With a stand and a half of screaming, booing, hissing, hotting Owls beg-

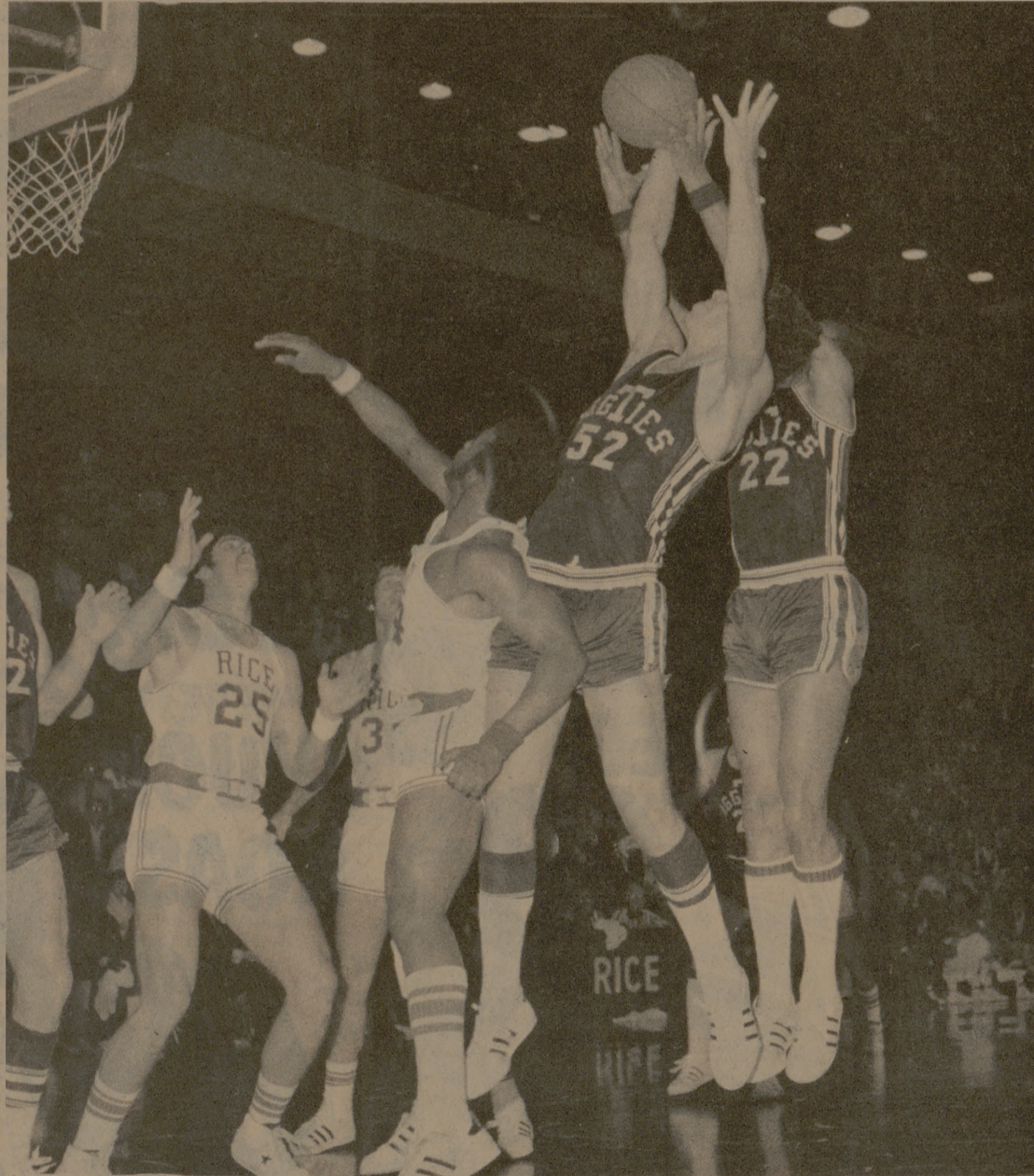
ging him to miss, Floyd calmly sank both of his shots to give the Ags a three point lead and the winning margin.

Gates Erwin salted the game away with two free throws with five seconds after being fouled by James Daniels. Danny Carroll's layup for Rice with two seconds remaining was harmless.

Daniels led all scorers with 23, while Parker was high point man for the Ags with 14 followed by Floyd with 10. Although weak on the boards early in the game the Ags finished the category with 40 to the Owls 29 rebounds. Mercer for A&M and Dave Louwerse for Rice each had nine.

With the win the Ags are tied for

the lead in the conference race at one win, no losses, with TCU, Arkansas and SMU. TCU whipped Baylor, the previous race leader, 73-65. SMU downed darkhorse Texas 74-59. Arkansas skinned co-favorite (with A&M) Texas Tech 65-62. The Ags are now two games better than Tech in total standings at 9-4. Rice dropped to 3-10.



John Thornton (52) and Sonny Parker (22) rebounding against Rice last night.

	fgm	fga	ftm	fta	pf	tp
Rice						
Simmons	1	6	0	1	0	2
Carroll	4	6	1	2	4	9
Moriarty	4	9	1	2	4	9
Daniels	8	15	7	9	5	23
Louwerse	3	7	0	0	2	6
Saus	1	2	2	3	3	4
Jackson	1	1	4	6	4	6
Tunnell	0	4	2	2	1	2
Team Totals	22	50	17	24	23	61
Texas A&M						
Davis	4	12	1	5	2	9
Parker	6	13	2	3	5	14
Floyd	4	10	2	2	0	10
Mercer	2	5	1	3	2	5
Thornton	1	4	0	0	4	2
Erwin	3	5	2	2	4	8
Joseph	0	0	0	0	0	0
M. Williams	0	0	0	0	0	0
Roberts	2	7	2	4	3	6
W. Williams	3	4	0	0	4	6
Tone	2	3	0	0	1	4
Team Totals	27	63	10	19	25	64

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## Ag Athletic Director makes 2 promotions

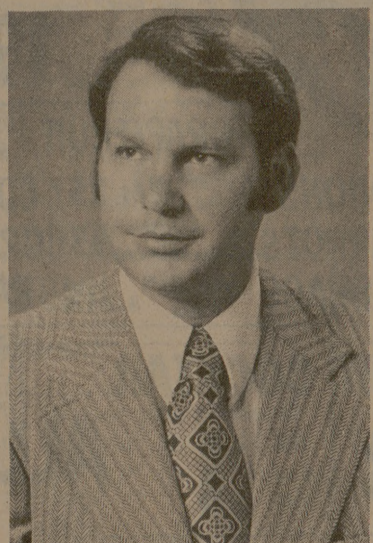
Athletic Director Emory Bellard announced the promotions of Melvin Robertson and Wally Groff within the A&M Athletic Department, Saturday.

Robertson, defensive coordinator of the football team for the past three seasons was promoted to assistant head football coach. Groff, the athletic business manager the past eight years, was promoted to Assistant Director of Athletics for Business Affairs.

Robertson will continue as the team's defensive coordinator and secondary coach.

Groff, who will work under associate athletic director Marvin Tate, will handle the department's business and fiscal affairs. Groff is also responsible for all phases of financial matters connected with the athletic department, including pur-

chasing, payroll, budget and ticket sales.



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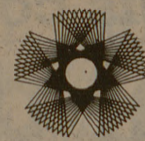
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