

Symptoms of basketball fever in Aggieland

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Slowly but surely basketball fever is catching around Aggieland and the reason is because the Texas Aggies are off to their best start in 14 years.

The Ags 11-4 season mark is the best at this point in the season since 1960 when the Aggies won their first 10 in a row. They are also off to their best Southwest Conference start since 1969 when they won their first

five and eventually won the SWC championship.

Coach Shelby Metcalf warns that it is a little early in the season to start championship talk. "I'd rather not talk about our good start now because in 1966 we won our first seven

conference games but we didn't win the championship."

One major aspect of the Aggies 3-0 conference record is that two of the victories have come on the road, Rice and Texas Tech, and that's no easy task.

The victory over Tech was the biggie as the general consensus around the SWC is that if you can beat Tech at Tech you can beat anybody, anywhere.

Metcalf said, "The Tech game wasn't our best game of the year, the second Va. Commonwealth game was, but it was definitely our biggest game so far."

The Aggies current four game winning streak is the longest in over two years and with a victory over the Longhorns Saturday in Austin the string would be the longest since 1970.

Statistically the Aggies aren't exactly tearing up their opponents. The Ags are averaging 76.4 points per game while their foes are hitting 72.5 per game. A&M also has a slight per game rebounding average over their opponents, 40.3-39.3. But as someone once said, statistics are for losers.

Besides the obvious importance of an Aggie victory Saturday another important side light is that they

would probably rate, or at least should rate, a top 20 ranking. The Ags received votes in last week's poll but not enough to break into the elite group.

Name	Games	Pts.	Ave.	Reb.	Ave.
Sonny Parker	15	225	15.0	87	5.8
Barry Davis	15	206	13.7	115	7.7
John Thornton	15	144	9.6	88	5.9
Mike Floyd	15	128	8.5	20	1.3
Webb Williams	15	116	7.7	34	2.3
Ray Roberts	15	85	5.7	26	1.7
Jerry Mercer	15	71	4.7	89	5.9
Chuck Tone	14	60	4.3	19	1.4
Gates Erwin	11	45	4.1	17	1.5
Cedric Joseph	15	48	3.2	41	2.7
Mike Williams	7	9	1.2	1	0.1
Doug Mezger	3	1	0.3	4	1.3

A&M	Opponent	Att.	Hi Scorer	Hi Rebounder
84	Texas Lutheran	74	2,280 Davis, 24	Davis, 15
84	Houston Baptist	77	2,884 Parker, 22	Parker, 13
83	Oral Roberts (OT)	84	5,535 Davis, 19	Davis & Parker, 7
98	Virginia Commonwealth	84	3,331 Parker, 21	Davis, 12
55	Indiana	90	17,700 Floyd, 11	Thornton, 7
67	Northwestern*	55	5,000 Parker, 19	Davis, 8
69	UT El Paso*	71	5,000 Parker, 18	Davis, 8
62	Fairfield*	57	4,800 Davis, 15	Davis & Mercer, 1
84	Virginia Commonwealth*	70	5,412 Parker, 27	Thornton, 11
80	UN Las Vegas***	78	5,673 Parker, 14	Davis & Joseph, 1
72	Houston*	92	8,825 Thornton, 18	Davis, 13
101	Sam Houston State	71	3,516 Thornton, 19	Mercer, 18
64	Rice*	61	3,821 Parker, 14	Mercer, 9
81	TCU*	69	7,720 Parker, 15	Mercer, 10
62	Texas Tech*	55	9,112 Davis, 21	Davis, 6

Batt sports

Houston Oilers choose Hardeman in 2nd round

HOUSTON (AP) — Texas A&I's bragging, poetry-spouting fullback Don Hardeman, picked in the first round by Houston in Tuesday's National Football League draft, made his debut here Wednesday with a few predictions.

"I'll make Oiler quarterback Dan Pastorini all pro with my blocking and my catching," Hardeman said for openers. "I can do everything."

Hardeman showed up at the Oilers draft headquarters Wednesday as the NFL draft went into the final

stages and quickly became the center of attention.

"If I touch the ball seven times, I'll put it in the end zone twice," Hardeman added, noting he had scored 18 touchdowns his senior year in leading Texas A&I to the NAIA Division I national championship.

"I really scored more, but some of them were called back," he said.

Hardeman said he was known on the A&I campus as a Muhammad Ali type football player because he

liked to predict when he would score a touchdown.

How often was he right in making a touchdown prediction, Hardeman was asked? "Every time," he said.

Hardeman was the second choice of the Oilers in Tuesday's first round. Houston picked Jackson State linebacker Robert Brazile earlier in the first round.

While Hardeman was entertaining newsmen Wednesday, the Oilers continued the draft process, adding Rice placekicker Alan Pringle to their picks in the 10th round. Pringle, highly rated among this year's crop of college kickers, made 20 of 29 field goals during his career at Rice.

Hardeman said heavyweight champion Muhammad Ali was one of his heroes and he had even written a poem about Ali.

Cautioning newsmen that he had the poem copyrighted "somebody can get any money off it," Hardeman said "Are you all ready for this? I'm a poet and everything."

After reciting the lengthy poem, in true Ali sing-song fashion, Hardeman said "I add on to it as I go. I may say it different next time, but that's all I can remember off hand."

Hardeman was an all-conference linebacker his junior year at A&I and then shifted to fullback his senior year and gained 1,547 yards rushing.

East paced by Lewis in All-Star

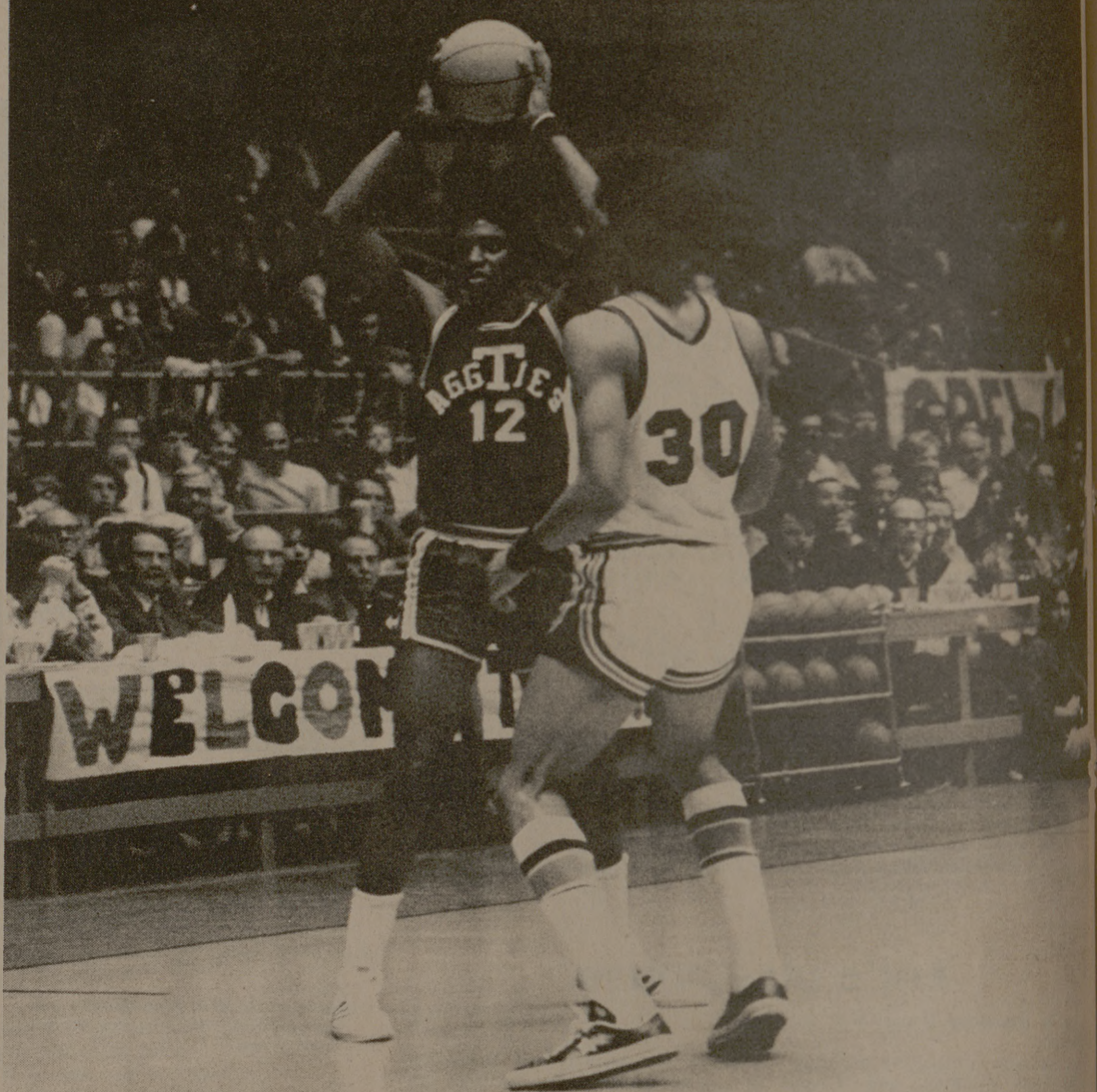
SAN ANTONIO, Tex. (AP) — Eastern Division Coach Kevin Loughery says teamwork produced the 151-124 victory over the West in Tuesday night's eighth American Basketball Association All-Star Game.

"Everyone on our team played great, but when things got close, my New York players struck for the quick points," Loughery, coach of the New York Nets, said.

Loughery brought with him Julius Erving, who connected for 21 points, Larry Kenon who claimed 12 and Brian Taylor 21. Billy Paultz added four points to the East total.

But it was 6-foot-1 Freddie Lewis of the St. Louis Spirits, one of the shortest on the East squad, who led the charge with a 26-point effort and ten assists.

Newsmen voted him the most valuable player.



Davis, in top form

Barry Davis picked a good time to come out of his slump, as he led the Aggies in scoring and rebounding in Tuesday's 62-55 win over Tech. He scored 21 points and

grabbed six rebounds and put out a stellar effort to keep the Ags tied for the conference lead with the Hogs at 3-0.

(Photo by Larry Jester)

Club Sports

RUGBY

The rugby team is encouraging any interested people to join. Practice is daily on the drill field at 5 p.m. Three teams are being formed and everybody will get to play.

The sides next match will be Feb. 15 against the newly formed Houston Strikers.

SOCCER

There will be a general meeting of the Soccer Club Wednesday at 7 p.m. in the Rudder Tower. Officers will be elected for the coming year. There will be discussion of several upcoming games, the Baylor spring Tournament and plans for building new goalposts.

PISTOL TEAM

Curt Prudhomme is trying to form a pistol team. A coach is available. Meeting place has not been decided on yet. For information or to join call Prudhomme at 5-4077 after 7:30 p.m.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Coach Kay Don's troops will travel to Beaumont this weekend to participate in the Lamar Tournament. The gals are 2-2 on the season thus far including an impressive 99-16 win over Rice and an 87-40 win over Sam Houston State in a scrimmage on Tuesday.

Aggie Cinema presents

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—MEDIA & METHODS

"Delightful comedy."
—FILM NEWSLETTER

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Theater

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