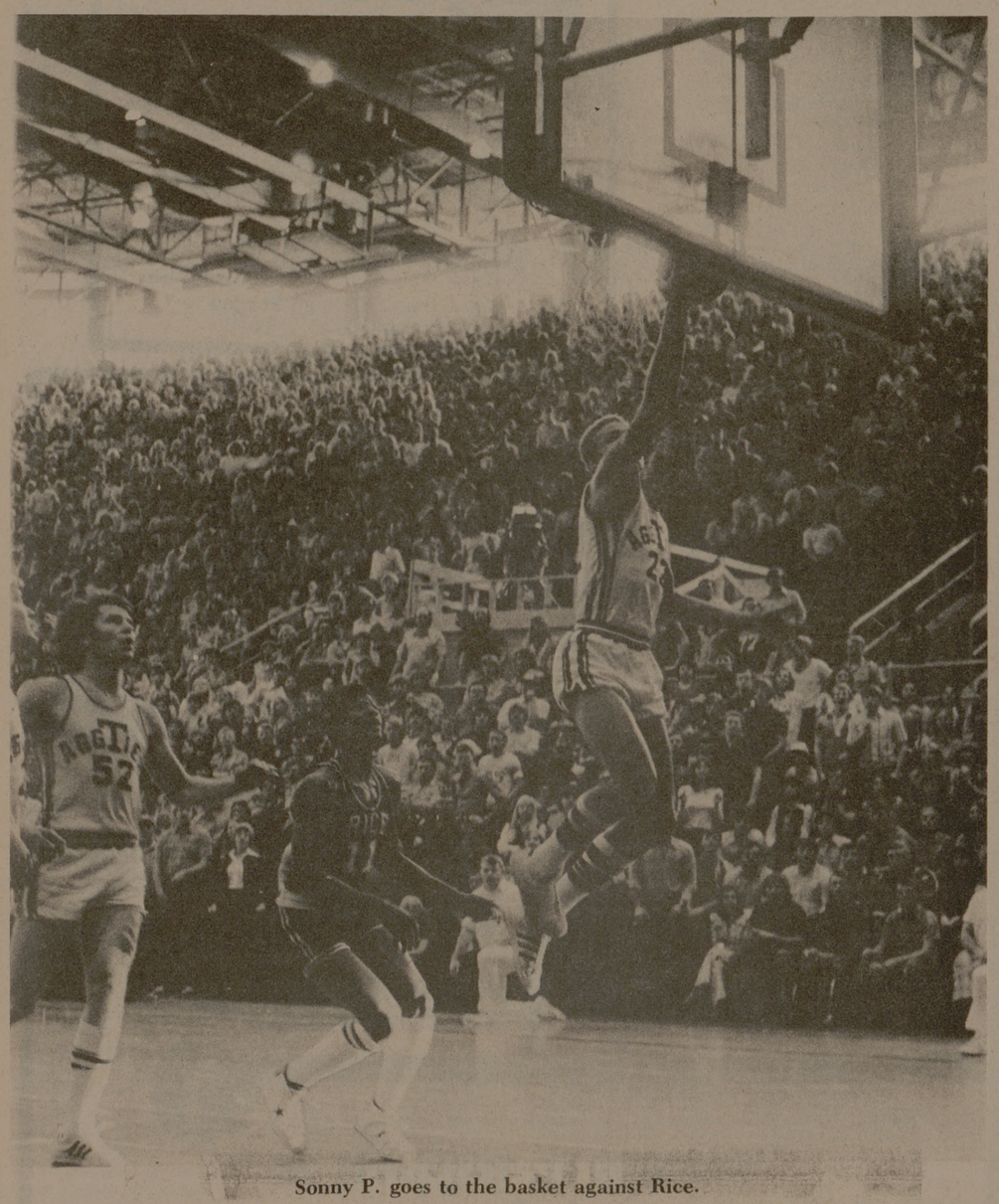
Take solid lead in conference race

Ags cream Rice 99-66 before TV audience

By TONY GALLUCCI
Staff Sports Writer

Ho-hum. Another week, another win. The Aggies mangled Rice, ZZZZZzzzzzzz, before a regional television audience on Saturday to stabilize a firm yet narrow lead in the Southwest Conference basketball race. Sonny Parker with a superb effort paced six Aggies in double figures with a 21 point outing and lifted the Ags to a 99-66 easy victory over a weakling Owl squad.

Boosted by six Parker points and five John Thornton points, the Ags galloped to an 11-1 before Frank Fallon called timeout for Wilkinson Sword Blades and killed a little early momentum. Rice coach Bob Polk must've fallen asleep already.



Sonny P. goes to the basket against Rice.

Rice closed within six before the next time out, when the Ags returned with their momentum to take a 13 point lead highest of the half. The score was 40-30 at the half after Rice suffered a miserable shooting half of 32.1 per cent to the Aggies 42.5.

If returning to shooting form was the idea to get back into the game for Rice, it was a bit late. For, as the Owls increased their shooting percentage to 44.4 per cent the second half the Ags leapfrogged the grounded birds with a 59.5 per cent second period.

After a 59 point second half the Ags were off and running with their biggest win point-wise of the year.

The Wisemen from Houston would have been considered only bystanders, except for the many missed crip shots by the Ags in the first half and the fact that Rice hit nine more free throws than did the Ags.

The Owls were zapped in all the secondary statistical figures of the game as well. Rice turned the ball over 26 times to the Ags 15, 13 of those coming on Aggie steals, three of them by Barry Davis, also the leading rebounder in the game with 11. Gates Erwin and Mike Williams had two steals each.

The Ags helped out with 15 assists to the Owls four, and had shots blocked by Jerry Mercer, Parker and Cedric Joseph to Charles Daniels one for the Owls.

Leading scorer for the game was Daniels with 23, followed closely by Parker. Tim Moriarty had 18. For the Ags Webb Williams and Thornton had 15 each, Chuck Tone had 12, Davis 11 and Ray Roberts had 10.

Roberts and Mercer followed Davis with seven caroms, and Joseph had six rebounds in a superb effort on the boards for the Ags. The team had 57 to 32 for the Owls. Five different Owls had four rebounds to lead Rice.

Williams had his usual high percentage night ripping the nets 7 of 9 times while Thornton, Mercer and Roberts were all perfect at the free throw line, where the Ags hit a poor 60 per cent.

The Ags accentuated the second half with three six point outbursts and extended its lead to a healthy 36 points one minute before the buzzer sounded ending the mass panic for a 100-point game. With a 33 point lead who needs 100?

Wrestlers take third at State

Texas A&M took third in the state wrestling meet at Richland College in Dallas over the weekend.

This was the first time in three years that the Aggie wrestlers failed to take first place in the meet. Hosting Richland took the honors with Letourneau College managing a second place finish.

A&M had 44½ total points as compared to Richland's 91½ and Letourneau's 60. Eight other teams finished behind A&M.

The only first place winner for A&M was Blair Monhollon in the 150 lb. class. Bob Hines and John Manning finished in second place in their respective weight classes of 126 lb. and 190 lb.

Dub Hirst at 167 lb. and Karl Armstrong at 134 lb. both wrestled to fourth place results.

"We still had a successful season," said club president Jim Giunta. "W're looking forward to a better season next year with more publicity."

Batt sports

Aggies contest Raiders in 'if game' of season

By DAVID WALKER
Staff Sports Writer

It's if time in Aggieland.

The Texas Aggies can take a giant step toward the 1975 Southwest Conference championship tonight IF they can beat the red-hot Texas Tech Red Raiders in G. Rollie White Coliseum. Easier said than done.

The Raiders come to town with a new strong hold on second place in the SWC but they don't like it. They would much rather be in the top spot and that is exactly where they will be if they stop the Ags in G. Rollie, something only Oral Roberts has been able to do this year.

The Raiders are riding a seven game winning streak and can tie the Ags for the top spot IF they can knock them off. Tech is coming off a big 62-55 victory over the Arkansas Razorbacks in Lubbock. Their last loss was to the Aggies in Lubbock by that same score.

But looking on the other side; IF the Aggies do beat the Raiders they will open up a big two game lead with only three conference games to go. The Ags still have to visit TCU and SMU next Saturday and Tuesday and end the regular season at home March 8th against the Longhorns of Texas.

Shelby Metcalf will be sending out the same five starters for his 104th conference victory that has been responsible for his last nine: Seniors John Thornton, Jerry Mercer and Mike Floyd along with juniors Barry Davis and Sonny Parker. The Aggies are 9-1 in conference play and 17-5 overall.

Texas Tech will counter with all-SWC center Rick Bullock who was high point for the Raiders in their first game of the year with the Aggies. Tech is 8-2 in the conference and 15-7 overall.

With only two games left on the home schedule for the Aggies they are within reach of several attendance records.

Only ten thousand total fans are needed in the final two games to break the home attendance mark for one season.

The conference record for an A&M season at G. Rollie White is 46,742. That was in 1969 when the Ags won their last SWC title. They are only 12 thousand away from that record and should pass it considering that reserved tickets are sold out for both Texas and Tech.

The Aggie women's team plays the University of Houston in tonight's prelim at 5:15. Gates open at 5:00.

General admission tickets go on sale when the gates open at 5:00 tonight for the Tech game. No plans are final for ticket sales for the Texas game as it is being considered as the TVS wild card Game of the Week.

Ag women participate in first meet

The Texas A&M women's track team participated in its first track meet of the season Saturday. They were in the Astro-Belles Track Meet held at San Jacinto Junior College in Pasadena.

In the javelin, Ruth Whitley was third and Jan Wynn placed seventh. Lucy Neiman placed third and Sandra Lyman placed fifth in the discus. Sandra Lyman was fourth in the shot put.

In the running events the Aggies had one runner place, Debbie Wootan placed sixth in the 100 meter hurdles.

The next meet for the Ags will be March 7th and 8th in Denton at the TWU Invitational.

McDONALD'S INTRAMURAL HIGHLIGHTS

This week in intramurals

Wrestling, soccer entries to close

Entries for IM wrestling competition close today. Entries are being taken at the weigh-in, 4:30-6:00 pm, in the G. Rollie men's dressing room. Entry blanks are available at the IM office. To compete, a team must have its entries and members at the weigh-in and enter participants in five of the nine weight classes.

Soccer entries close on Tuesday, March 4 with play starting on April 1. Play is open to all faculty, staff, and students of A&M. Winners are decided by round robin tournament with single elimination play-offs. An important team managers meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 4 at 5:00 p.m. in Rm. 267 of G. Rollie White. A team representative must be in attendance. Enter at the IM office soon.

Other activities coming soon

Fencing will begin on March 8, with entries closing on Thursday, March 6. Equipment will be furnished for any student, staff or faculty member wishing to participate. AFLA rules will be used in an open tournament. Any individual who has fenced in two or more intercollegiate tournaments will be ineligible for IM paly.

Golf entries close on March 4 with preliminary competition taking place on March 9. Fish play at 7:30 am, Military plays at 9:00 am, and civilians, clubs, independents and women play at 11:30 am. To be eligible for further competition, players must report at this time. A two dollar green fee will be collected. Preliminary play will be 18 holes. The top 16 teams will play dual matches the following week. The championship play will be single elimination.

Track and Racketball entries close March 11. Watch for further information in these IM Highlights.

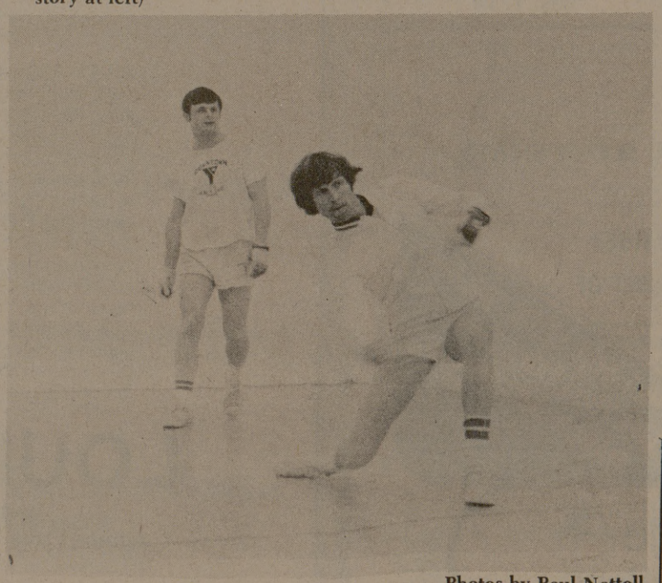
'Bom-Bom' Gressett kills Hughes in IM handball singles finale

Jack "Bom-Bom" Gressett defeated Kley Hughes 21-15, 21-5 in the IM handball final last Thursday.

In the first game, the more experienced Gressett was a bit tight at first and got off to a slow start. However, he fought back with several impressive kill shots off the back wall and took advantage of Hughes' errors.

In the second game, Hughes tried valiantly to strike back at his opponent but could not sustain any scoring rallies. Gressett was in the driver's seat and showed his awesome ability and timely experience.

Gressett, an accounting major, has been playing handball for 10 years. Hughes, a senior in Biology, has had 3 years of experience.



Above-Tom Upchurch tries for a homer for Schumacher as his team plays Moore in IM softball. Moore won 6-4. Below-Jack 'Bom-Bom' Gressett slams the handball as Kley Hughes waits for the return. (see story at left)

Photos by Paul Nettell

Game of the Week

Stray Gators Nip PBMFT

By RAY WOTTRICH

PBFMT lost to the Stray Gators in a closely matched IM basketbal game last week. The Stray Gators finally outscored their opponents 66-65 in the second overtime period.

The man to man coverage of both team sparked a fast-moving and exciting game with fast break galore. The score was knotted up at 58 all at the end of regulation play. The rebounding efforts of Kelly Ireland, PBFMT's high scorer and center, helped PBFMT to overcome a 34-32 halftime deficit. Johnson and Kite led in other PBFMT scoring.

The Stray Gators leading scorer was Ed Pennington. Steve Brooks and Dave Dietzman also scored well for the Stray Gators.

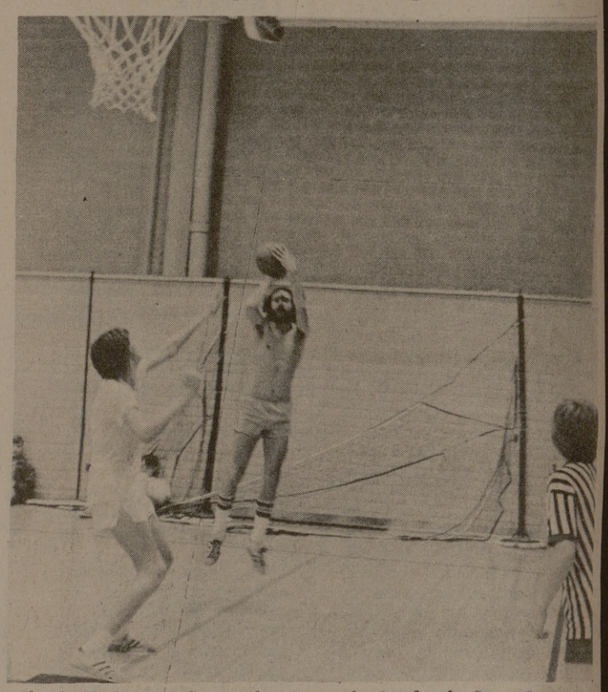
In the first overtime period, both teams scored two baskets to raise the score to 62-62. Then, near the end of the second overtime period, Charlie Katherman hit a spectacular shot from the corner to cap off the game for the Stray Gators.

In other IM competition, the Piranhas defeated the Rippers 52-45. The Piranhas showed overall team effort and hustle in the win. Brad Campbell paced their scoring with 13 points. Tomm Woodsin led the Rippers' scoring with 18 points.

Top IM netters

1. Piranhas
2. Stray Gators
3. Cain
4. N-2 (military)
5. Sq.-7 (military)
6. Nads
7. Saints
8. M-1 (military)
9. Sq.-15 (fish)
10. JBACH (co-rec)

These intramural highlights are sponsored every Tuesday by McDonalds on University Dr. The page is prepared by Paul Nettell, Ray Wottrich, and the Intramural office, DeWare Field House, 845-2624.



Charlie Katherman fires in the winning basket for the Stray Gators in a close, hard fought game against PBMFT. Photo by Paul Nettell