

Aggies clinch SWC basketball title with win

By TONY GALLUCCI
Staff Sports Writer

DALLAS, Tex. — "If I knew the words to 'That Good Ole Baylor Line' I'd sing it!" Those were the words from an elated A&M Head Coach Shelby Metcalf in the dressing room after his Aggies had just demolished SMU 100-77, and word had come over the radio that Baylor

had ousted Texas Tech from the SWC lead.

The combination gives the Aggies a guaranteed tie for the 1975 Southwest Conference title. If the Aggies finish off the regular season in top style with a win over Texas Saturday, the title will be Aggieland's outright.

By clinching the championship Tuesday in Dallas, the Aggies bring

home to College Station the first SWC basketball title since 1969 and the first SWC title in any sport since 1971.

It was a great game to clinch the title on, too. The Ags could do no wrong for the first 30 minutes of play as the Mustangs of SMU could not penetrate, could not hit their usual torrid outside game, and could not

keep up with the faster, taller, stronger Ags.

The Ags bolstered by hot outside shooting by Jerry Mercer and superb hustle by the rest of the team opened up an early lead of 12 in the first ten minutes. The Ags went on to build up a 20 point lead before halftime and took a 46-28 margin to the locker room.

The Ags came right back and ran the tally up to as high as 37 points at 7:14 left in the game when Metcalf loaded the team with his supersubs and started using three guard combinations.

A little sloppy play by the Ags and hustle by SMU especially in the form of Senior Rusty Bourquein led to a narrowing of the margin to 21, just two short of the final margin of 100-77.

The Aggies butchered the SMU defense, claiming six players in double figures led by Webb Williams' 17. Eleven of Parker's points came in the second half.

Sonny Parker was second high man with 12 followed by Cedric Joseph, Mercer, John Thornton and Ray Roberts all with 10. Mercer scored all 10 of his points in the first half to lead the Aggie onslaught.

In a game which saw the Ags out-rebound the 'Stangs 64-41, Parker collected 10 to lead the Cadets. Barry Davis followed closely with nine and Webb Williams covered with eight.

Mike Floyd handed out six assists and Mike Williams doled out five to boost the Aggie total to 23, quite a reversal from last week's total of two versus Tech.

Joseph picked up three blocks and Mercer two to give the Ags a total of five.

For SMU, Bourquein led all scorers with 18. The only other Ponies in double figures were Mike Jaccar with 12 and Bob Arnold with 11. Bourquein also led SMU cars with nine followed by Jeff Swanson with seven.

A&M shot a mediocre 47.3 per cent from the field with most of the misses coming in the last seven minutes.

The Ags connected on 84.9 per cent from the line. SMU finished with a 39 per cent figure from the floor and a miserable 56.6 per cent from the line.

The win was due mostly to a very stingy Aggie defense, which during one stretch came up with five straight seals and turnovers and ten straight points.

SMU made a futile rally in the final seven minutes, closing the gap 16 points mostly on heads up fast break play by Arnold.

But by that time the Ags were just

coasting home, and awaiting the news from Waco. They didn't have to wait long as the message arrived about five minutes after the Ags had finished the Ponies off.

The win is the go ahead signal for the Ags who must conquer the Texas Longhorns on Saturday to gain the outright title.

The Ags are now 11-2 in SWC play and 19-6 for the season. A win Saturday could also mean the first 20-win season in Aggie history.

The Red Raiders and the Razorbacks are both one game back in SWC play at 10-3. Tech owns a 17-8 season record, to rank second over the year.

Batt sports

Athletic oatmeal

Television people mess up: TCU?

By TONY GALLUCCI

TVS — eat your heart out!

★★★

Thank goodness they didn't put a football on the NEXT YEAR'S HERE bumper stickers. Cause babe, next year IS here.

★★★

Shelby Metcalf now joins Tom Chandler as the only active A&M head coaches with three SWC titles under their belts.

★★★

One of the highlights of my career: I was asked to sign an autograph in Dallas on Tuesday. Poor little kid, I signed my name so he couldn't read it and find out I wasn't really Pete Maravich.

★★★

Spring Branch beat Corsicana in the 15-4A/16-4A bi-district playoff in G. Rollie on Tuesday. The Bears advance now to the Regional Playoffs to be held in G. Rollie this Saturday. Prelims are at 8 and 10 a.m. The final will be at 4 p.m. The other participating teams are Ft. Worth Paschal, Tyler John Tyler and Dallas South Oak Cliff.

★★★

The SWC has gained a hot dog guard the likes of which this area has never seen.

Bob Arnold, an SMU playmaker, will easily erase the memories of such ball hogs and fancy dribblers as Zack Thiel, Richard Little and Mario Brown. Arnold did a circus trick for the ref and even taunted his own coach Bob Prewitt during Tuesday's game in Dallas.

★★★

There's nothing more pleasing to a championship basketball team than a championship crowd backing them up. Game time: 7:30.

TEXAS A&M	fgm-fga	ftm-fta	reb	pf	tp
Davis	2-6	2-2	9	4	6
Thornton	3-9	4-4	5	2	10
Mercer	5-8	0-0	7	2	10
Parker	5-9	2-2	10	1	12
Floyd	1-5	4-4	2	1	6
Williams, W.	7-10	3-5	8	3	17
Joseph	3-4	4-4	5	2	10
Roberts	5-10	0-0	4	3	10
Erwin	1-1	3-4	1	4	5
Williams, M.	1-6	5-6	2	1	7
Tone	3-6	0-0	4	0	6
Mezger	0-2	1-2	1	1	1
TOTALS	36-76	28-33	64	24	100
SMU	19	2-2	6	1	4
Swanson	2-8	0-2	7	2	4
Bourquein	6-14	6-9	9	5	18
Sagehorn	1-5	0-0	0	2	2
Jaccar	6-12	0-1	2	4	12
Robinson	3-11	2-3	3	3	8
Arnold	5-9	1-1	2	2	11
Lodwick	3-5	0-0	0	2	6
Galindo	1-1	1-2	0	2	3
Heatherington	1-1	1-3	3	1	3
Robertson	1-3	0-0	1	0	2
Ralph	2-4	0-0	1	0	4
TOTALS	32-82	13-23	41	24	77

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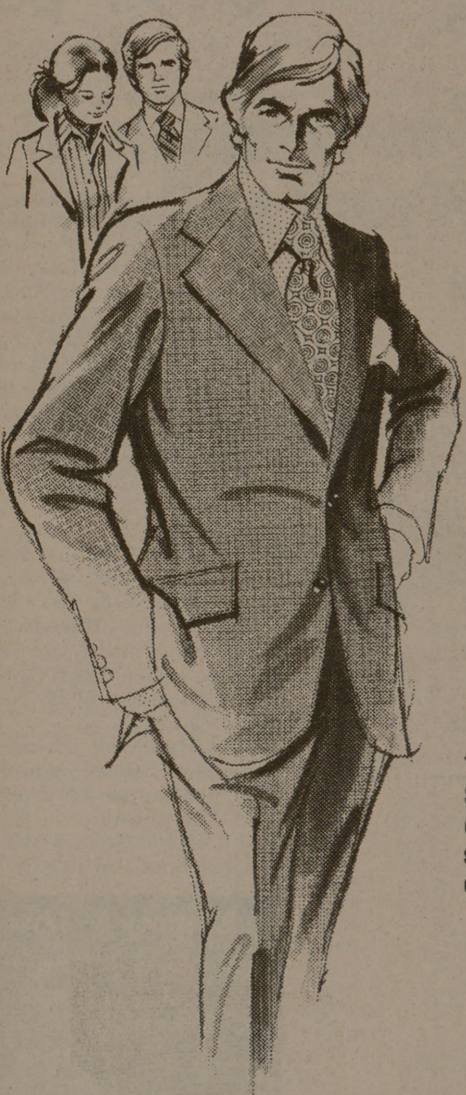
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University Square Shop will be open until 8:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Saturday: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.



Photo by Tony Gallucci
Jerry Mercer breaks the press over SMU's Mike Jaccar (12) and John Sagehorn (23).

Bright Outlook FOR Spring



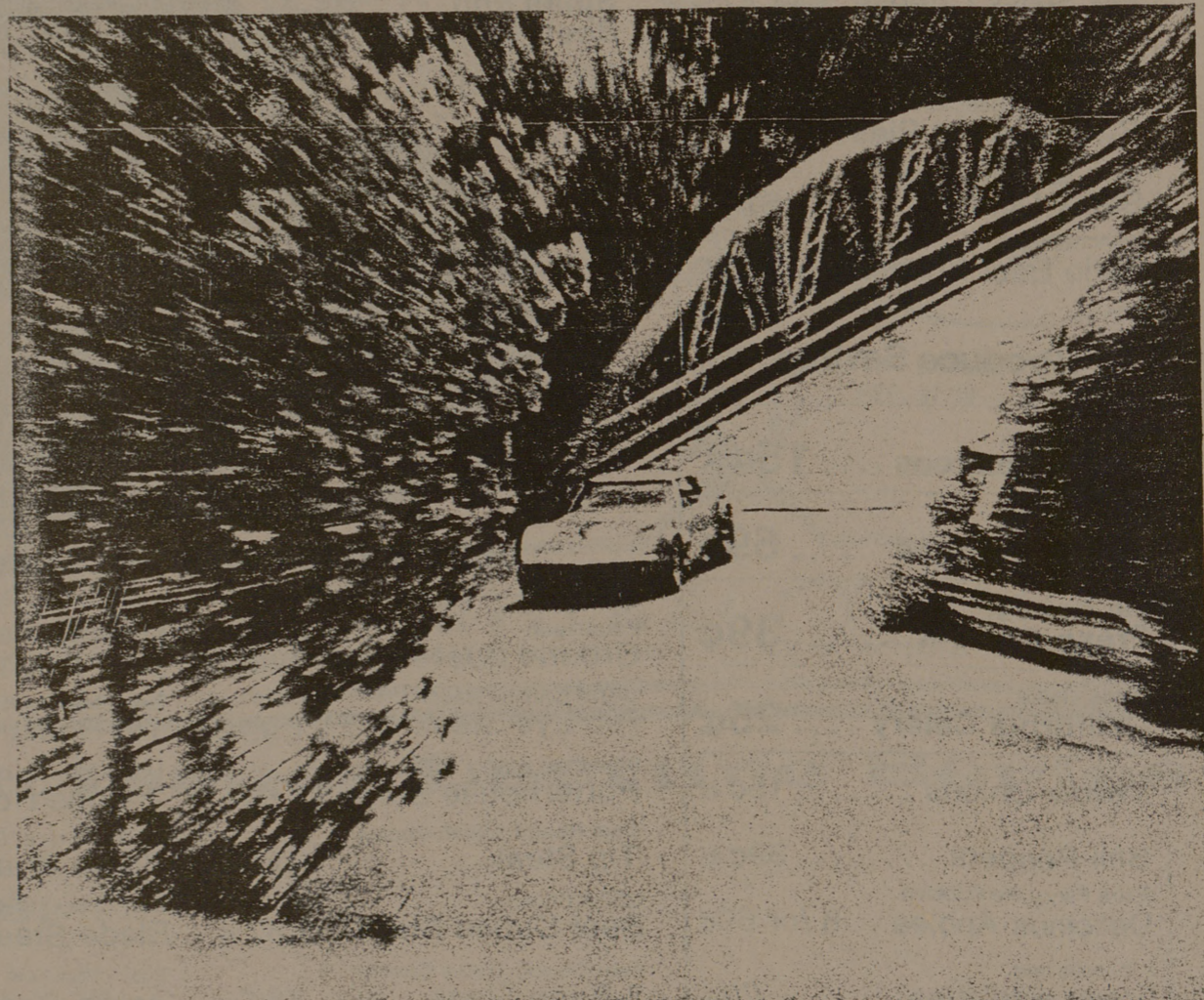
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