

Face Rice tonight

Cagers clinch tie for SWC title

By TONY GALLUCCI
Battalion Staff Writer
Arkansas player Marvin Delph missed an off-target shot at the buzzer from out of his range that sent his team home 70-69 losers to the Texas A&M Aggies.

It's all over but the icing for the Aggies as they clinched at least a tie for the Southwest Conference basketball title and a berth in the finals of the first SWC post-season tourney.

Sonny Parker made the game a thriller by missing two free throws that could have iced the game with five seconds left on the clock. Sonny P then put pressure on the inbounds pass and kept Arkansas from moving the ball in, forcing Delph to take the desperation shot.

Sonny P ended the night with 26 points, including nine of 16 from the floor, eight rebounds, six assists, four steals and no turnovers.

"Yeah, I'm kinda tired," said Sonny. "I was just pressing myself too much. I have been shooting better free throws."

Coach Shelby Metcalf said, "I never judge Sonny's performance until I check the statistics. He's the type who doesn't look as if he's doing much. He does things so easy you don't notice it." After consulting the box score, Metcalf said, "He led us in scoring, rebounds, assists and steals. If you consider that an off-day, then you've got a hell of a basketball player. If he's not All-America, then you guys (the press) aren't doing your job."

Texas A&M's Barry Davis hit for 15 points and collected seven rebounds and had the Ags' only blocked shot. Ray Roberts was the other Aggie in double figures with 11 points. Karl Godine had eight, Steve Jones had six and Wally Swanson had four.

Sidney Moncrief led the Hogs with 18 points. Delph was close behind with 12 while pulling down 15 rebounds as the Aggies were out-rebounded for only the fifth time this season, 37-35.

The Aggies are currently ranked 20th in the nation by the Associated Press poll. They are the 24th team in the nation in scoring offense and rank eighth in rebound margin.

In Pizza Hut balloting Sonny P is third after leading for a month. He is less than a thousand votes behind the leader, Missouri's Willie Smith who has 96,825 votes. Parker has 95,991. Davis is in 44th place with 44,112.

and Roberts is in 51st place with 39,360 write-in votes. Roberts is the number two write-in.

If nothing else, everybody agreed on one thing, the Aggies need rest. Having played four games in eight days, Metcalf hopes Rice will be a breather before getting a week and half off before the tourney.

"We did a good job of giving ourselves a few days of rest. It'll do us a whole lot of good," said co-captain Davis. Metcalf said, "We're fortunate that we're gonna get the bye. I think we're ready for a break. We take a couple of days then back to it. We'll work real hard."

Who does Metcalf expect to play in the finals? "Arkansas definitely

improved. Baylor's Tech's very sound, and SMU's got the home court edge."

Today the Ags travel to meet Rice in the regular finale. The Owls have but one conference win and have one season. They played probably the best game against the Aggie in the regular season. They played probably the best game against the Aggie in the regular season. They played probably the best game against the Aggie in the regular season.

Starting for the Ags will be P, Davis, Roberts, Jones and Swanson. Game time is 7:30 p.m. aired on KTAM with Mike handling the broadcast.



Aggie co-captain Barry Davis cuts down the nets after the win over Arkansas.

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