

# Aggies vs.???

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Battalion Staff Writer

The Southwest Conference (SWC) regular season champion Texas Aggies, well-rested after their 10 day layoff from competition, are in Dallas awaiting their Saturday night tipoff with the winner of tonight's Texas Tech-Arkansas game.

Questions have been raised about the big bout and all the variables involved and the only conclusion is that one must wait and see. A&M could possibly suffer from the long layoff, although practices have been brisk. Possibly more drastic is the loss of starting freshmen Jarvis Williams and Karl Godine, causing a lack of substantial bench strength.

The Ags are reduced to seven scholarship players in starters Barry Davis, Ray Roberts, Steve Jones, Wally Swanson and SWC player-of-the-year Sonny Parker. The chief substitutes will be Gates Erwin and Joey Robinson. Walk-on Kevin Jones has seen limited action and call-up

Bryan Barrett has not played at all. One concern about bench strength is the possibility of Swanson and Davis getting into foul trouble. Swanson is the team leader in foul outs this year and is only one behind Williams in total fouls.

The Ags are likely to employ the zone throughout the game. Fatigue will be a major factor affecting the other finalist. They will have played three games in three days going into the final game. It is that factor which favors the Aggies most. They may press throughout the game in an attempt to increase the weariness of their opponent. The Ags in the other two meetings with Tech took advantage of (should the opponent be the Red Raiders) Bullock's tendency to fade in the latter stages of the game. The long schedule could make the big man even more vulnerable.

The final game featuring the Aggies, winners of two SWC titles in a row, will be broadcast live on regional television beginning at 8 p.m.

## Tech faces Hogs in semis

Associated Press

DALLAS — Roughhouse Rick Bullock poured in 28 points and collected 18 rebounds Thursday night to inspire Texas Tech to an 80-69 victory over error-prone Houston in the quarterfinals of the Southwest Conference's first post season basketball classic.

Arkansas beat Southern Methodist in the nightcap of the doubleheader in Moody Coliseum, 74-70.

The winners will play in tonight's semifinals for the right to play Texas A&M Saturday night.

The 6-9 Bullock and Houston guard Otis Birdsong engaged in a red-hot shooting duel until midway in the second half when the Cougars went for more than five minutes without scoring a basket.

Texas Tech went into its stall game in the last four minutes and eager Houston could never get the ball back.

Birdsong scored the last 11 points of the first half for Houston and the

underdog Cougars, now 17-11, trailed only 37-36.

Houston took the lead early in the second half, but a field goal by Birdsong at 12:19 was the only basket the Cougars made until Al Winder scored with 6:55 left.

Tech ran off 12 unanswered points during that ice-cold streak.

Texas Tech, which finished second behind champion A&M in the regular SWC campaign, now has a 22-5 record.

Tech roared to a fast nine-point lead in the first half before Birdsong, an acrobatic junior from Winterhaven, Fla., and a member of the U.S. Pan American gold medal winning team, got hot.

Birdsong made four consecutive baskets in the second half as it appeared the Cougars might upset the team that had beaten them twice during the regular season. But that's when Houston hit the cold spell and Tech fed the ball to the burly Bullock time after time.

# Fliers win, 17-14

The Air Force blitzed an unaware Army-Navy-Marine defense as time ran out in the third period to gain a 17-14 lead and their first victory ever in the annual charity Elephant Bowl.

Despite numerous errors, the game was played and coached oftentimes brilliantly as the lead changed hands constantly.

The Air Force bombed and strafed all through the first half with quarterback Dennis Nesloney frequently putting the ball in the air. He finally found Doug Munson open behind the Army defense and threaded the needle. Munson merely stepped into the end zone to put the fliers ahead 7-0.

But the bombings did not hinder the combined forces' swift ground attack. On the first play after the kickoff, Army quarterback Mike McCabe found little speedster Mike Fonteno striding down the sideline. Fonteno made the grab and completed the 66-yard play to tie the score.

Fonteno had broken loose earlier in the first quarter on a 60-yard punt return. The referees, however, ruled the clearing block a clip and the ball was brought back.

Later in the second quarter, Army was forced to punt from their own goal line into a stiff wind. The ball went up, bounced and flew backward. So far backward that the punt was measured at -5 yards.

The Air Force was unable to capitalize and had to settle for a 17-yard field goal by Munson, giving them a 10-7 lead.

It was shortlived as Munson's kickoff went to Fonteno, who bobbled the ball at the three-yard line. He picked up the loose ball and then sprinted 97 yards to the other goal line. Army went to the locker room ahead 14-10.

The Air Force came back out in the third quarter bombing again, but Nesloney's receivers had trouble reaching the wind-driven ball.

As the last seconds ticked off in the third quarter, Munson again found his way behind the Army defense. It was the same sewing trick as Nesloney's pass was perfect and the fliers went ahead for good, 17-14.

The Army made a last push in the final minutes of the fourth quarter, but an interception by the sharp Air Force defense put an end to the landlubbers' and swabbies' chances.

## Brief

The Aggie Sailing Club will sponsor an open race this weekend at Lake Somerville. The race will be held in classes, with three boats or three boats to have a fleet in competition. A \$2 per boat entry fee will be charged.

The club will meet at 10 a.m. Saturday at Welch Park where the classes will be decided and fees paid. The group will then go to Lake Somerville for the race. Trophies will be awarded to the winners.

## Ag swimmers compete at conference tourney

The Aggie swimmers are in Dallas for the Southwest Conference (SWC) Swimming and Diving Championship held March 3-6.

The Ags are expected to show well, but they may be overpowered by the University of Texas and Southern Methodist University teams.

The Mustangs are gunning for their 20th consecutive SWC victory in the watersport, but the Longhorns are planning to give them a good fight.

A&M finished fifth last year, but is expected to fight it out with the University of Houston for third place.

The predicted placing of the other SWC teams is Texas Tech fifth with Arkansas, Texas Christian and Rice following.

A&M's Bob Leland will swim the 100 and 200 meter breaststroke, while Steve Moore will swim the 200

meter breaststroke and Oran Marksbury will be in the 100 meter breast stroke for the Aggies.

Peter Moore will also be swimming the 200 and 400 individual medley.

Svante Rasmussen, one of A&M's top hopes, will swim the 200 freestyle.

The 200 and 100 meter backstroke events will have both Brad Swendig and Don Reser competing for A&M.

The 100 meter butterfly will be swum by Mike Vanderhurst for the Aggies. The Aggies have the SWC's fourth best time in the 400 and 800 meter freestyle relay and 400 meter medley relay.

The swim meet will take place in Perkins Natatorium, on the SMU campus. The swimming preliminaries will be held at noon, through Saturday. The diving prelims will be at 4 p.m. The finals will be held at 7 p.m.

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