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# Showdown on the Brazos

By PAUL ARNETT Battalion Sports Editor

It was a February evening in Houston. Texas A&M had just lost the services of their two outstanding freshman, Karl Godine and Jarvis Williams, due to recruiting violations. This sudden move by the Southwest Conference (SWC) fathers caused Shelby Metcalf to do some hurried changes in his starting

line-up.
With the help of Wally Swanson and Steve Jones, Metcalf coached one of the most brilliant games of his career as the Aggies stormed past the Cougars 94-80. Two games later Texas A&M had clinched the

SWC crown.
It probably won't start the Aggies towards another conference championship, but the game tomorrow afternoon against Houston should be one of the better games of the season. Houston has had a year to think about that stinging defeat A&M handed them on their home court, and you can bet that the Cougars are more than ready to return the favor.

For the Aggies to compete effectively against the Cougars they must top Otis Birdsong. Birdsong is the leading scorer in the conference and is shooting over 60 per cent from the field. The brilliant senior has scored over 20 points in every game he has played in this season.

Birdsong's best game of the season occurred in California, where

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Bruins used every possible defense to try and stop him, but found it

Last year the Cougars did everything possible to try and stop Swanson. Wally hit from all corners of the court, and finished the evening with 21 points. Jones added 18 points of his own along with six rebounds. A&M finished the contest hitting a blistering 61 per cent from the field. It was by far the best effort of the 1976 season for Texas A&M.

Swanson and Jones will have to have another outstanding effort if the Aggies are to defeat the Cougars. Houston has played well all year, with only inexperience

keeping them from greatness.

Jones must make the outside shots good, with Swanson having to be effective inside in order to keep the inexperienced Coogs off-

The starting line-up for the Aggies will be Dave Goff, Steve Sylestine, Steve Jones, Wally Swanson and Doug Pederson. The sixth man will probably be Willie Foreman. Foreman has been a pleasent sur-prise so far this season. His inside play and good defense have proven invaluable for the Aggies this year.

Foreman has also been the most aggresive man for A&M this season. He often crashes the boards, leaving bruised victims in his wake. The ironic thing about Foreman is that his cousin is heavy weight fighter

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Houston plans on any fighting, they had better check with Willie first.

All in all the contest matches up

pretty well. Both teams have good players, with Houston holding the edge because of Birdsong. If the ref erees let the teams play, then it should be a good quick contest. One has to give the edge to Houston, but don't count the Aggies out too quickly. If Houston is cocky, then the "young ones" may capture the

### Readers' forum

Guest viewpoints, in addition to Letters to the Editor, are welcome All pieces submitted to Readers' forum should be:

Typed triple spaceLimited to 60 characters per line

• Limited to 100 lines Submit articles to Reed McDonald 217, College Station, Texas, 77843. Author's name and shone number must accompany all



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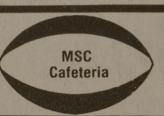
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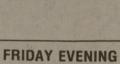
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