

Aggies storm past Owls 93-60

By PAUL ARNETT
Battalion Sports Editor

If William Shakespeare had been alive today he would have based his play "A Comedy of Errors" on how the Rice Owls play basketball.

Committing 30 turnovers, under the pressure of an Aggie full court press, the Rice Owls lost to Texas A&M 93-60. It was the Owls' eighth Southwest Conference (SWC) loss in nine tries.

"They (A&M) play with more intensity than any team we've faced this year," a dejected Bob Polk, Rice basketball coach, said. "I don't know if we could beat 'em if we even played our very best."

The Aggies, on the other hand, felt it would take their best to defeat the Owls.

"We thought they would play hard like TCU did," Ag forward Willie Foreman said. "They beat TCU pretty good, so we felt it would take our best to beat them. They had nothing to lose and we did."

Foreman led the Aggies in point productivity for the second straight time scoring 22 points. The big forward hit eight out of 11 from the

field and six out of six from the foul line. He also had two slam-dunks which brought a crowd of 5,300 to its feet.

Another man who pleased the crowd with his antics was Steve Jones. Jones had a reverse slam-dunk which reminded many Aggie fans of the great Sonny P. Steve finished the night with 20 points, six rebounds and five assists.

"Steve keeps getting better every game," coach Shelby Metcalf said. "As a team we're definitely improving. Our guys aren't hesitating like they were at the first of the season. They're gaining confidence by learning the system."

The Aggies played the Metcalf system to perfection against the Owls. A&M shot 48 per cent from the field, committed only 11 turnovers, stole the ball 13 times and out rebounded the Owls 41-36. There was no phase of the game that A&M didn't play well.

Joey Robinson had his best game of the season. The sophomore from Tulsa, Okla. had 14 points and four rebounds. Robinson was seven out of nine from the field.

"Every one of their players played

well," Polk said. "And with the help of their crowd and band, it's almost impossible to beat A&M on its home court."

The Aggies next game takes them away from the comforts of G. Rollie White. Tonight A&M travels to Ft. Worth, where they will encounter the TCU Horned Frogs.

Amon Carter Coliseum has never been a place where the Ags have fared well. Last year it took a 20-foot jump shot at the buzzer by Karl Godine to defeat the Frogs 66-64.

The Aggies need to win this game very badly if they want to finish in the first division. As of now, the Ags are in place just one game behind Texas Tech. To finish in the top five, means the home court advantage when the SWC play-offs begin in latter February.



Battalion staff photo

The Aggie defense put the clamps on the Owl offense, yielding only 23 points in the first half. Doug Pederson (No. 32) was part of this stern first half defense seen here blocking forward Frank Jackson's shot. A&M won the contest 93-60.

Arkansas may clinch SWC title

When the Arkansas Razorbacks have an off night it simply means the other team has a chance not to be embarrassed.

The 16th-ranked Razorbacks put in what coach Eddie Sutton felt was a fairly average outing against the disaster-plagued Baylor Bears last Saturday, so that meant Arkansas won by only nine points instead of the 15, 14, 15, 19 or 27-point mar-

gins the Hogs had managed in their previous five Southwest Conference games.

If Arkansas whips SMU Wednesday night in Fayetteville and Houston Saturday afternoon on the Cougars home court, the Razorbacks would be in position to clinch their first league title in 19 years by the middle of February.

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