

Aggies ready to ride Ponies

By TONY GALLUCCI

Just off their most impressive loss of the late basketball season, coach Shelby Metcalf's charges find themselves preparing for part one of a two-sided dilemma.

After losing a coin toss, the Aggies play host to the SMU Mustangs in the first round of the tournament at G. Rollie White this Saturday at 3:10 p.m. Tickets will be two dollars for students and three dollars for non-students.

The Ags nearly wiped out a perfect SWC season for Arkansas' sixth-ranked Razorbacks last Tuesday, but the Porkers held on for their slimmest margin of victory this season at 63-62. The resulting loss for the Ags

tied them in fourth position with Texas.

Cliff Speegle, the Southwest Conference commissioner, flipped the coin after the game with Texas assistant coach Barry Dowd calling heads over the phone. Heads it was, placing Texas in the fourth place bracket against seventh-place Baylor. The Mustangs finished in sixth place to earn the right to play A&M. Despite the Mustangs' better finish, Metcalf would rather see them here than Baylor, who he feels has better personnel.

Part two of the dilemma involves the second pairing, which has the winner of the A&M-

SMU game playing the winner of the 19th-ranked and second-place UH Cougars-last place TCU Horned Frog contest.

The winner of the Texas-Baylor matchup will go against the victor of the Tech-Rice game.

The tournament proper will be held this year in Houston, although the Cougars' home was avoided. The Summit was chosen as the facility.

The Ags beat SMU at home in the regular season game, 57-53. Steve Jones and Wally Swanson each hit 15 points, topped by Dave Goff's 16 points.

Swanson collected a team season high of 18 rebounds in that game.

When the Aggies ventured to Dallas five weeks later, the Mustangs prevailed 70-68 in a game as close as the score indicates. In that game, Jones scored 21 points, Willie Foreman added 17 and John Schlicher had a season high of 11 points.

Freshman Goff broke the school record for assists in a season against Arkansas totaling 121. The previous record was held by Mario Brown who gave away 115 balls in 1972. Steve Jones ended his conference season with 265 points, which ranks him tenth on the all-time A&M list. Jones needs only eight more points to gain the tenth spot for season scoring.

Cliff Speegle revisited

By TONY GALLUCCI

The following is the termination of an interview which took place Feb. 23 with Southwest Conference commissioner Cliff Speegle.

Question: Is there any procedure for retiring a referee or asking him to leave should he exhibit behavior which would affect his ability to officiate?

Answer: Well, we...as I said we evaluate the officials in the spring. And the coaches if they feel like they ought to eliminate officials, can eliminate officials, but in the years that I've been here some coaches think that one official's a great official and somebody else doesn't like him, so. You have a divided opinion among the coaches as far as the officials are concerned. That's the reason that some are 5'6", the others are 6'7". Or, some like oranges and some like apples. This is the same thing.

Q: Are you aware of a tape recording made of Billy Covans by a news reporter when he asked Gerald Myers if he had helped him enough?

A: Well, I don't...my...I haven't heard of anything like that and I didn't...I wouldn't...well, I wouldn't stoop that low to even answer a question like that. I think that's completely out of bounds as far as officiating is concerned.

Q: Do you, as commissioner, attend basketball games to oversee things, to observe officials yourself?

A: I have seen at least three basketball games...basketball games a week and sometimes four since the 15th of January.

Q: Is that in a capacity as an observer of referees?

A: I am the supervisor of basketball officials for the Southwest Conference so it is my duty to go observe.

Q: Is there any preference in the games you select?

A: I try to see every...every official work one time a year and also we have three other people in our office...we have four observers, so we're observing the officials every time he walks on the court, in some kind of report.

Q: Is an effort made to see every team play as well as every referee or are the observers centered around Dallas to watch the teams as they come through?

A: Well, we have those people living in certain areas. Because of the financial position of the conference we attempt to keep them within a 100-mile radius and that takes care of everybody except the two outlying schools.

Q: Would you say those schools are not observed as much as they should be?

A: What schools are you speaking of?

Q: The outlying schools, Lubbock and Arkansas.

A: I've been to Arkansas three times to watch basketball, I've been to Lubbock twice. So, I don't think they're being slighted.

Q: What about schools such as TCU or Rice?

A: TCU or Rice? I've been to Rice once. I've been to TCU twice.

Q: One last question. There's controversy in College Station. Some people have the feeling the front office is out to get Aggie. Do you have any feelings along that line?

A: Well, I don't know who put work for nine institutions, and office is nothing but an extension of that athletic department at that institution. I don't think we're getting anybody. I...at least this my makeup. I don't have the authority to get anybody. I take instructions from Texas A&M same as I do from Arkansas, Tech, TCU or Rice or anyone else.

Q: Or Texas?

A: We're an extension of each athletic department and that's all. I only do what the faculty representatives ask us to do and command us to do through their voting through the conference regulations.

Q: Two can ride cheaper than one.

A: Ad Council

A&M's track team heads to Rice

By PAUL McGRATH

The Rice Owls will play host to the Texas A&M track team tomorrow in a dual meet staged in Rice Stadium.

The field events will begin at 2 p.m. and the running events get underway at 2:30 p.m.

Coach Charles Thomas' squad is fresh off a narrow victory over Texas as they enter the second week of outdoor competition. The Aggies have been hampered by injuries since finishing third in the Southwest Conference indoor meet and

again will be without the service of their ace half miler Tony Wheeler. He and teammates Kent Figgs, Pat Ruehle, Mark Gauger, Reggie Jamerson and Curtis Collier are listed as doubtful for Saturday's meet.

In spite of their absence, A&M should have no problem defeating the Owls, barring unforeseen circumstances. The Aggie strength and depth in the shot put, discus, high jump and pole vault should provide enough points for A&M to coast to victory.

Pole vaulter Brad Blair, the A&M

record holder and conference indoor champion, will be seeking to clear the bar for the first time in outdoor competition. An injured heel prevented him from clearing any mark in the meet with Texas.

Shifton Baker won both hurdle races last week and again should be favored this week. His time of 13.7 in 120-yard high hurdles was his career best. He will be tested by former Navasota star, Jesse James in both events.

Texas A&M should also fare well in the sprints with Ray Brooks and Chuck Butler slated for the short

races. The sprint relay will be close as will the mile relay. The Owls beat A&M by one-hundredth of a second in the mile relay at the SWC indoor meet.

The Aggie distance men have been disappointing thus far and will have another tough week ahead of them as Rice boasts one of the best distance groups in the conference. Freshman Marty Froelick and sophomore Ken Tolbert should score highly for Coach Bobby May's team.

Rice also features the versatile Curtis Isiah, a sprinter who also long jumps, high jumps and runs the hurdles. He should be Baker's chief threat in the 440-yard intermediate hurdles.

This will be the last meet for both schools before the Border Olympics in Laredo on March 5.




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