

# Basketball cutback could hurt SWC

Two years from now, the NCAA's Division I basketball committee is expected to introduce some bad news to several athletic conferences and one of them could be the Southwest Conference.

Beginning with the 1980 national basketball tournament, only the 16 conferences with the best playoff records over the past five years will receive automatic qualifications. In the 1977 tourney, there were 21 automatic qualifiers and 11 at-large berths.

The committee, which only recently voted in the rules, will meet again in 1979 to review each conference's tournament performance the previous five years.

If the new restrictions had been in effect for this year's tournament, the SWC, the Ohio Valley and Ivy League, all with 1-6 tournament records for the past five years, would have tied for the 16th invitation.

Other conferences which might be in jeopardy by the deciding year are the Pacific Coast Athletic Association, which has a tournament percentage of .333, and the Big Sky, Mid-America and Missouri Valley conferences, with 37 per cent showings.

"The NCAA is committed to having the best 32 teams in the tournament," assistant executive director Tom Jernstedt said. "The committee felt obliged to devise a more demanding criteria to make sure the best teams are given a chance to compete."

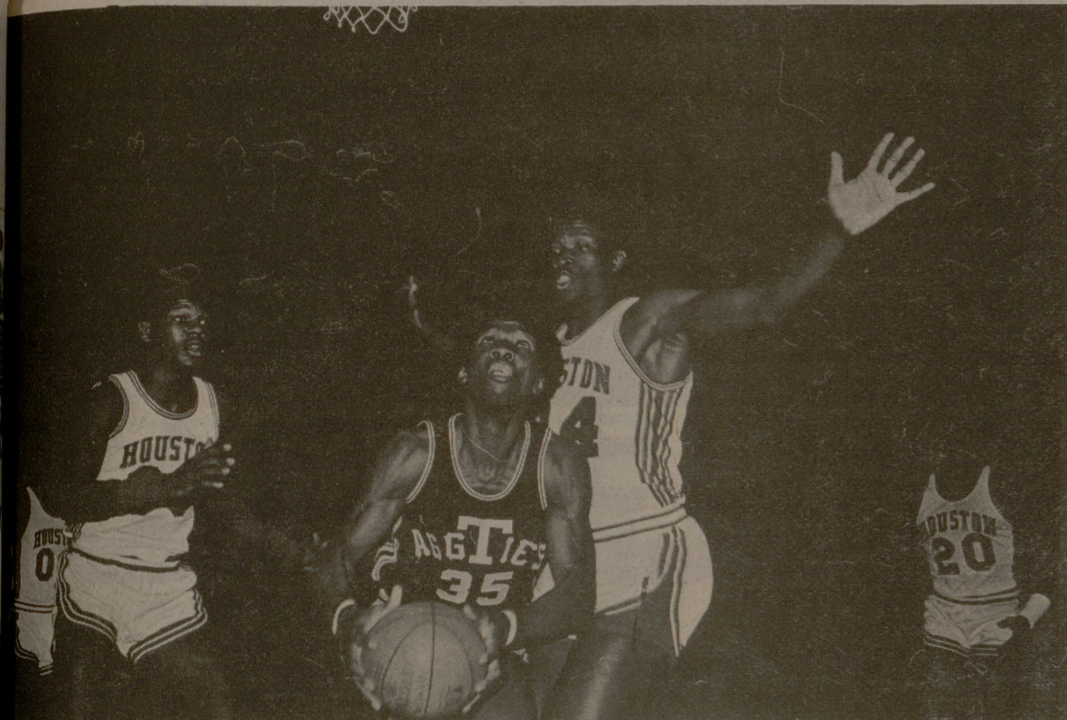
Texas A&M basketball coach Shelby Metcalf termed the new selection process unfair.

"I don't think it's fair. It should be based on what you do now, not what you've done in the past. But, I'm not worried about what is going to happen two years from now anyway."

The new procedures are subject to approval by the NCAA Executive Committee which met Aug. 11-12 in Greensboro, N.C.

Eighteen conference champions now get automatic invitations. The 36-member Eastern College Athletic Conference gets three berths for its three sectional champions, but the NCAA Council is reviewing the ECAC's compliance with selection criteria. The committee could recommend it receive only two berths.

Last year's 32-team tournament enjoyed record receipts and attendance. The 1977 tourney netted \$5,378,825.50 with half going to the NCAA national office and the rest divided amongst the competitors. Just by qualifying, a team was guaranteed \$35,387.03, in addition to travel and per diem expenses.



The Aggies' Willie Foreman prepares to go to the hoop against Houston. Texas A&M and the rest of the SWC could be greatly affected by the new NCAA ruling on playoff berths.

## F.A. Dry TCU

United Press International  
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We definitely need to improve speed at a number of key positions. And we need some immediate help at running back.

However, I was pleased with the way I found at TCU and felt that the squad responded well during training. We have some improvement to do in spots, but I certainly feel we are better than most people give us credit for being.

We have excellent depth at quarterback, tight end and in the defensive line. We need help at running back, tight end and defensive end. We've been changed from a pass to a veer attack. However,

we will still make use of the drop-back pass in addition to the veer. I'm very pleased with the three-some of Jimmy Dan Elzner, Steve Bayuk and Don Harris at quarterback.

Jimmy Dan is a senior with an extremely strong arm. However, he missed much of spring drills with illness and therefore got behind. Steve Bayuk is just a good athlete. He's a very tough runner and is a better passer than most people think. Don Harris has quickness and a talented arm. Quarterback is a highly competitive spot and it was a relief to find such quality there.

We'll have a good inside running attack, but we're still searching for that outside speed. Loranice Willis had an outstanding spring at fullback and I think it will be hard for anyone to displace him. He's a good one. Duncan Still, a junior college transfer, gives us some depth there.

Hallback is still wide open. Audie Woods and Raymond Williams were the top candidates in the spring. We could get some help here from incoming freshmen and junior college transfers.

When you have folks like Mike Renfro and James Wright, you don't worry as much about the receiving end of the passing game. Of course everyone knows about Renfro. He's one of the best in the country and I honestly feel he will be worthy of all-American recognition.

Wright is the complete player, the best college tight end I've ever

worked with. He has the power to run over people, the speed to make you work to get to him and is simply devastating as a blocker. He has all-American qualities and I say that without reservation.

Tony Accomando was shifted from running back to flanker in the spring and made the adjustment with ease. He's a good football player despite his lack of size. And Mark Renfro, Mike's younger brother, probably had the best spring of any of our receivers. That gives a good trip to build around.

In the offensive line we have good size. But depth is a question mark. Tackles Donald Davis and James McMath, plus guards Mark Krug and Earl Reeves, are all in the 250-pound range. Center is still unsettled.

The main factor is that we've got to be able to establish the fact that we can run the football.

Defensively we should be a solid unit and this must be the strength of our team until we can prove we can run the ball. We have six quality players at the interior spots in the line. Linebacker and defensive end could be a problem, but I feel we'll have a solid secondary.

Ricky Wright and Perry Colson are returning regulars at cornerback.

These young men are hungry to win. They have done everything we've asked of them. We've found youngsters who want to play and want to win. I feel we've taken the first step.

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