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Judy Fondy, Vickie Matthews, George Ann Hoke, Jane Kroll, Kathy Grimes, Judy McCann.

Aggies defeat ORU 79-73

Last year the Texas A&M basketball team had a hard time making the charity shots. But it wasn't a problem in Tulsa, Okla. last Saturday night. The Aggies connected on 31 out of 38 free throws and defeated Oral Roberts 79-73.

"We played hard and with a great deal of intensity," coach Shelby Metcalf said. "Even the players on the bench pulled for the players on the floor. And when the going got close and tough, the guys kept fighting and kept their heads. They overcame a little adversity as well."

A&M didn't fare too well from the field and it allowed the Titans to stay close throughout the game. Despite this fact, the Ags had five men finish the evening in double figures.

Willie Foreman was the Ags' leading scorer with 16 points. Vernon Smith was close behind with 15, followed by Joey Robinson with 12. Jarvis Williams with 11 and Dave Goff with 10.

Smith paced the A&M rebounders with 16. Foreman had 11, while

Goff, Williams and Steve Sylestine each had five.

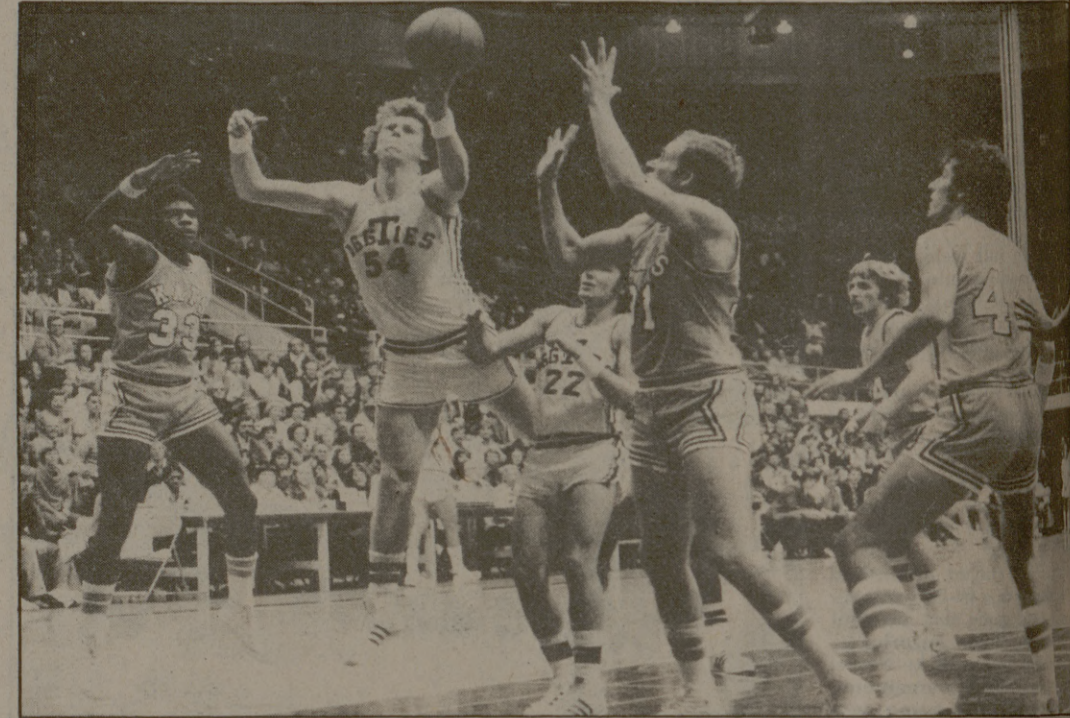
The Aggies continue their road trip this weekend. Metcalf's men travel to Alabama to participate in the Birmingham Classic. A&M's first round opponent is Florida State.

"They will have the best ball club we've faced this season," Metcalf said. "They are probably the second-best team in the Southeast Conference. If we continue playing like we have been then we should give them a good ball game."

The Aggies are currently 5-0. Good free throw shooting (88 out of 117 for 75 percent) is one reason A&M is doing so well. Another is good team play led by senior Willie Foreman.

"I think we have played well as a team," Foreman said. "Last year the burden to produce fell on the shoulders of just a few guys. This year we have a bunch of guys that can produce. That's the big difference this year."

Team play is something the Aggies will need over the next couple of weeks. If they can keep playing as a team, A&M may just be the surprise team of the Southwest Conference.



Wally Swanson (No. 54) goes for a rebound against Sam Houston. The Aggies defeated Oral Roberts Saturday night, lifting their record to 5-0. (Battalion photo by Jack ...)

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Mark Patterson It's just too confusing

With one week left on the schedule the 1977 NFL season is nearing its conclusion. And not a kickoff too soon. But before we can turn our sights towards baseball and spring training, we have to endure the march to the Super Bowl.

This year has been one of pro football's most exciting and unusual. We've watched the rich get richer, the poor get poorer and the rich get poorer. And the playoffs exemplify the trend.

In the AFC, two of the division races were decided early and the two winners have coasted through the year. Dallas, with a three game edge over the rest of the division, clinched its playoff berth with three weeks left in the season. And it did it with little opposition.

Over in the west, Los Angeles continued its dominance over the division with ease. Atlanta showed some signs of challenging the Rams earlier in the season. But the Falcons couldn't field an offense and

thus far they've lost seven games.

But the surprise of the AFC this season is the emergence of the Chicago Bears. Behind the running of Walter Payton the Bears have compiled an 8-5 season record. With their 21-10 victory over Green Bay coupled with Oakland's thrashing of Minnesota 35-13, the Bears are now tied with the Vikings for the Central Division lead.

The Bears can make the playoffs for the first time since 1963 with a victory over the New York Giants next week. A victory would assure Chicago of the AFC wild-card spot in the playoffs. But if Detroit can beat Minnesota next week, Chicago can claim the Central Division crown with its victory.

And if Detroit wins and Chicago wins and if Washington beats Los Angeles, Washington would be the wild-card team and advance into the playoffs leaving Minnesota at home in the snow.

Confused? You ain't seen nothin'

yet. Let's take a look at the AFC.

For the first time since 1966 the Oakland Raiders haven't finished first in the AFC western division. Their successor is from the mile-high city of Denver.

Under the command of Craig Morton the Denver Broncos captured the division crown with the best record in professional football. Compiling a 12-1 record so far this season, the Broncos have assured themselves of a home field advantage in the first round of the playoffs.

But are you wondering what happened to the Raiders? They're only 10-3 on the year and their victory yesterday assured them of the wild-card spot in the AFC playoffs.

Over in the AFC central division, the Cincinnati Bengals are a victory away from post-season play. Needing to defeat Pittsburgh by more than 6 points due to the tie breaker rule (Pittsburgh beat Cincinnati by 6 points earlier in the year), the Bengals snuck by the Steelers 17-10 Saturday and jumped into first place.

Cincinnati visits Houston next week for its final game of the year. But the AFC eastern division race has proven to be the closest race in

the league. Going into the week of the season three teams tied for the division lead.

Miami, Baltimore and New England all sport 9-4 seasonal records. And each one has a shot at a playoff.

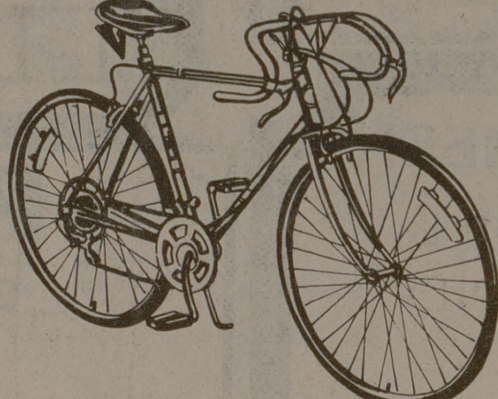
After last week's games, all had to do to get into the playoffs to beat New England this week. They lost to the Patriots 14-10.

All Baltimore had to do to get into the playoffs was to beat Detroit. New England just won. Miami lost one of their last games. Baltimore stumbled at first priority by losing to Detroit yesterday 13-10.

And all New England had to get into the playoffs was to beat Miami and beat Baltimore. They done the first, but they still face Baltimore next week.

So this is how the Eastern division stands going into next week. Baltimore beats New England. Miami wins. Baltimore also into the playoffs. If Miami beats Baltimore and New England beats Baltimore, Miami goes into the playoffs. But if New England beats Baltimore and Buffalo beats Miami, New England advances into the playoffs.

Now that wasn't too confusing was it?



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