

Aggies travel to Houston to play Owls

By PAUL ARNETT
Battalion Sports Editor

The basketball game tonight between Texas A&M and the Rice Owls won't be drawing national attention. But for the Ags it's as important as a national championship. "It's important because we need to have momentum carrying us into the play-offs," coach Shelby Metcalf said. "A victory would give us the lift we'll need for the play-off game this weekend. If that means Texas Tech, then this game is very important. After the Willie Foreman incident, you know the Red Raiders will

be sky high." A&M will travel to Lubbock this weekend, unless the Red Raiders defeat the Razorbacks tonight in Arkansas. Texas Tech won't be flat if the Ags are coming to town. Since Foreman broke Kent Williams' jaw during the College Station contest, the Raiders have hoped for another shot at the Ags.

"You know nothing would please coach Myers more than getting to play us," Metcalf said. "He'll have no problem with motivation. His kids will be ready to play; the fans will be ready for anything. It should

be a good game when and if it occurs."

First things first. The game tonight with the Owls will be no easy task. Rice has played well at home this season and it was a close contest in Aggieland. A&M defeated the Owls 74-70, with the outcome of the game in doubt until the final seconds.

"We could have won that game," Rice coach Mike Schuler said. "But a few things went against us in the closing moments and we just couldn't overcome them. We'll play the same kind of game that we

played the first time. The only difference may come in the substituting."

Coach Shuler and substituting have become one and the same. Against the Ags in College Station he had 56 substitutions.

"It's a good way to play when you don't have an abundance of talent," Metcalf said. "It slows down the tempo of the game, which works to the Owls' advantage. Many coaches in the conference have been critical. But I think it's good, smart basketball."

The Owls are a smart ball club. Only guard Alan Cunningham can be considered a good basketball player. In the first game against the Aggies Cunningham had 24 points.

"He is a good outside shooter," Metcalf said. "If it hadn't been for him, I think we would have won the game with ease. But everytime we threatened to pull away, he would make some long outside shots. We'll have to play tighter defense on him in tonight's game."

And tonight's game is important. A victory would mean momentum. And momentum is something the Aggies have to have.

The national championship won't be determined in tonight's game. But a berth in The Summit may.



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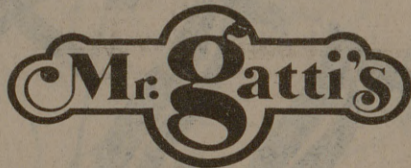
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Rugby team finishes third

By Gerard A. O'Donovan
The Texas A&M Rugby team travelled to LSU last weekend for the Collegiate National Championship. Though the Aggies were disappointed in not winning the tournament, they should be well pleased with winning consolation honors and finishing third.

The winner was Palmer College

who beat host LSU in the final. Texas A&M downed the University of Georgia in the consolation final. Kentucky, Oklahoma and Miami of Ohio also took part.

The Aggies were considered unlucky to have drawn the home team in the first round as the consensus was that either Texas A&M or LSU would have made it to the final. But

since Texas A&M is slow to get going, LSU was ready to take immediate advantage.

LSU opened the scoring after five minutes of play when they scored on a power play following a penalty. The two-point conversion was good and LSU led 6-0. As it turned out that score held up, even though the Aggies won 14 of 21 lineouts throughout the game.

In the first half the Aggie pack won only three of eight set scrums and even though the forwards held their own with the bigger and slower LSU team, it was not enough as the Aggie backs dropped too many balls to win a game of this class.

In the second half the Texas A&M pack came back to win six of 11 set scrums, but frequently had to cover for errors and shoddy tackling by the backs. Outstanding for Texas A&M was John Patrick who saved three of four tries with last ditch tackles.

LSU was the better team on the day and deserved to win, but any one who saw the Aggies play later in the tournament regarded them as much better than their effort against LSU suggested.

With little time to regroup the Aggies next played the University of Florida and the team looked like the Aggies of old. Craig Belew was back in form after having a tentative game against LSU. He had been nursing a severe ankle sprain all week and did well to play at all.

The Aggies pressed Florida from the start and scored after 10 minutes following a five-yard scrum, the try being made by Curt Reutner. The conversion was no good and the Ags led 4-0.

Florida pounced right back and tied the score after winning a line-out at the 30-yard line. The Aggies tightened up defensively as their

backs began to tackle and they again put them ahead to stay when he recovered a hip-kick for a try. The conversion attempt was successful and the Ags led 8-4.

In the second half Florida made a game of it winning the set scrum for the game (21 of 37). After missed tackles and with the A&M last line of defense out of action Florida scored again to lead 14-8.

Winning 22 of 35 lineouts, Texas A&M pack was able to keep their backs often enough to keep pressure on Florida.

Paul Rutledge kicked ahead and recovered the ball at the line before passing to Mike Frazier who could have scored himself, instead sent Robert Moorman for a well taken try. The final score was 18-8 as A&M rested before facing Georgia in the consolation game.

Indeed it was the Aggie dominance in the lineouts that kept the game close. The Ags won a total of 30 of 33 throw-ins. From such line-out winger Rufus found Frenzel at the five-yard line as the wing forward galloped near the posts. Jeffrey poked Aggies into the lead, 6-4, with conversion.

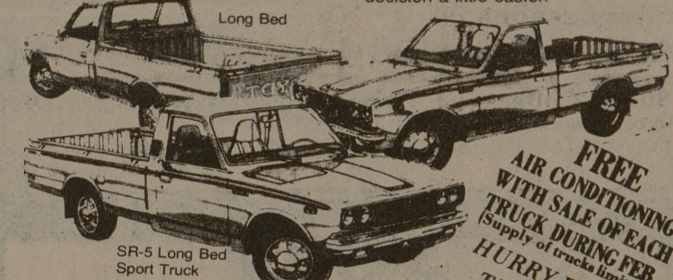
The game was closely contested the rest of the way as Texas A&M managed to win 17 of 29 set scrums but gave away a number of penalties which could have been costly. Georgia had an accurate kicker.

Following a penalty against Georgia, Billy Goodrich made like Simpson as he sprinted over the line. The five-year-old player put a conversion as the tired Ags were back to Aggieland much more pentant.

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