

Metcalf's men win final game 81-75

By MARK PATTERSON
Battalion Sports Staff

The Aggies needed a game like they played last night against Rice. The Aggies put it together against the Owls and came away with a \$1-75 victory in their final regular season game of the year.

Not only was it important just for a win's sake, it was a good way to go into the first round of the post-season tournament in Lubbock Saturday.

"It was about time we won one on the road," said coach Shelby Metcalf after the game. It has been over a year since Texas A&M has won a conference game on the road.

"It really was a very important game for us going into the tournament," Metcalf said. "We had to have some kind of momentum and I think tonight's game will give it to us."

The Aggies will travel to Texas Tech to play in the first round of the post-season tournament Saturday. Tech lost to Arkansas Tuesday night

58-49 finishing in fourth place. With the win, the Aggies ended the season with a 5-11 conference record and a trip to Lubbock.

"That gives us a two game winning streak going into the tournament," said Metcalf after the victory. "And with their loss, Tech has lost three straight. Things like that make practice a little more fun."

And Texas A&M had some fun down in Autrey Court against the Owls. In an unfamiliar role, freshman Rynn Wright led the Aggies in both points and rebounds in the game, having 21 and 17 respectively.

"I was really fired up going into tonight's game," said Wright after destroying the Owls. "Under the boards, Rice was pushing off real bad and the refs weren't calling any fouls on them. So if we wanted to get any rebounds, we knew we were going to have to push and fight back."

But with the way they were playing, I just layed back for the ball to

come off the rim. By staying back, I could get a running start and get around the defenders."

Wright's performance overshadowed the outstanding night for point-guard Dave Goff. Playing 33 minutes in the contest, Goff had 20 points (12 in the first half, hitting

seven of eight shots) and six assists on the evening.

"I just shot a lot more tonight," Goff said. "At the beginning of the game we couldn't find the range on our shots. Rice was leaving me open and I just started putting them up."

"But I slacked off in the second

half. I started getting tired and my legs began to cramp up. It sure did feel cold in that gym at the end of the game. I guess it was because of all the fouls by Rice. They sure do know how to drag out a game."

But the owls were never out of the contest. With 3:25 left in the

game, the Owls closed the gap on the Aggies to six points. But after an inbounds pass, Jarvis Williams threw a full court pass to Rynn Wright streaking to the basket. Wright hit the layup and was fouled. Hitting the free throw, the Aggies had a nine point lead with only two

minutes remaining in the game.

"That was the best play of the night for us," said Metcalf on the Williams to Wright pass. "That put it away for us."

The Kashmere product logged 22 minutes of playing time and added seven points to the Aggie cause.



A grand greeting

The Texas Aggie baseball team greets Buster Turner at home plate after his grand-slam homerun. The Aggies won their fifth game of the year defeating McNeese State 13-3. A&M's next game is Tuesday afternoon against St. Mary's at home. Battalion photo by Dean Clemens

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Ags will play Raiders

United Press International

DALLAS — Texas A&M will play at Texas Tech next Saturday in the highlight game of the opening round of the Southwest Conference tournament while Baylor will host SMU, co-champion Arkansas will be at home against TCU and Houston will entertain Rice.

The first-round tournament pairings were finalized Tuesday night with the close of the SWC's regular season.

Although fourth-ranked Arkansas and 12th-rated Texas finished as conference co-champions with 14-2 records, the Longhorns won the bye to the tournament finals because of its superior record against third-place Houston.

The only other tie in the final standings came between TCU and Rice for last place at 2-14.

A coin flip was conducted via a conference telephone call with Rice Coach Mike Schuler and TCU Coach Tim Somerville. Schuler called heads and won the flip. He had his choice of playing Arkansas or Houston and chose the Cougars.

On Friday Somerville said he had wanted to play Arkansas so he got his wish even though he lost the coin flip.

Game times have not been set because of stadium conflicts in some areas and one of the four contests will be regionally televised. The TV game is expected to be either the Tech-A&M or Baylor-SMU affair.

Following Saturday's games the winners will move on to the Summit Arena in Houston for the remainder of the tournament.

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