

sports

Aggies to take on rapidly improving Rice Owls

By TONY GALLUCCI
Sports Editor

With each conference game to date providing a greater challenge for the Aggies there is no doubt that many of the players were looking for a rest of sorts when they came up against Rice.

It would be a foolish move to go to sleep against the Owls though. The once-and-forever lowly birds served not-so-subtle notice on Tuesday that they can play with the best, taking highly regarded Texas Tech into overtime in Lubbock.

The Owls led by ten at the half, trailed by two with two seconds re-

maining, got two free throws to put the game into overtime and even led by four one minute deep in OT before succumbing to the Red Raiders.

Tech coach Gerald Myers insisted that Rice played great ball in the game. "It wouldn't have been an upset tonight if Rice had won," he said. "They played great defense in the first half. It wasn't really a case of us playing bad, they just played good."

Four Owls scored in double figures in that game; Ricky Pierce getting 11 to lower his team-leading average slightly to 14.7 points per

game; Kenny Austin also hit 11 raising his average slightly to 10.6; Tony DeCello poured in 12 to up his average to 5.6 and Bobby Tudor led all Owl scorers with 18 boosting his average to 11.7. Those scorers along with 6-8 freshman postman Robert Shaw are the expected starters against A&M Saturday.

A&M is expected to counter with strength and height inside and patient play outside. Starters will probably be the same five that have been opening of late. They are sophomore Rudy Woods at the post; Rynn Wright, a junior, at forward-post; junior Vernon Smith at for-

ward; and seniors David Britton and David Goff at the guard spots.

Relief will come in the form of Tyrone Ladson at the point, freshman Claude Riley inside and senior Steve Sylvestine at second guard-forward.

Woods has put together three consecutive outstanding games against Baylor, Tech and SMU and should continue his domineering ways. Smith came on strong in the second half of the SMU game on Tuesday after a one-game slump and

still holds on to second place on the Southwest Conference scoring charts.

Wright has been awesome defensively for the Ags this year and proved his worth at SMU with highly regarded Brad Branson of the

Mustangs. Britton has really stepped into his game since playing in Vegas and Goff has been the most consistent player for the Aggies this year.

Game time is 8:00 p.m. and will be heard on KTAM-Bryan.

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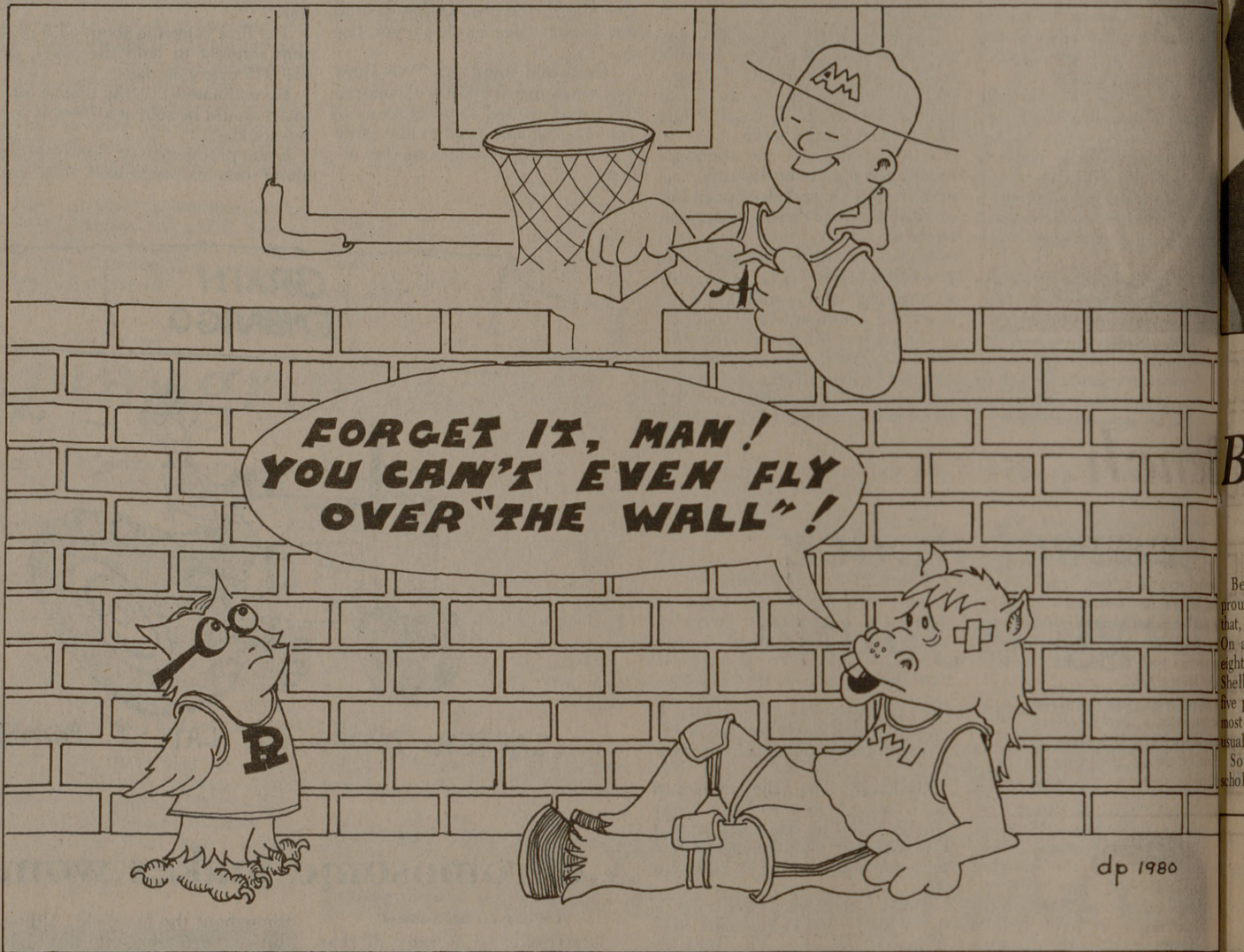
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A&M leads SWC

As of Jan. 13, Texas A&M leads the Southwest Conference in two statistical categories. In rebounding, A&M is averaging 6.3 more rebounds per game than its opponents. Texas is second in that category at 4.6 rebounds difference.

Despite SMU having the leading individual assist man in the conference, A&M leads all other teams in difference (at 4.4) in assist produc-

tion. The Aggies also boast the SWC second leading scorer in Vernon Smith at 17.1 points per game and the third best shooter in Rudy Woods, hitting 58.9 per cent of shots from the field. Smith is the league's third leading rebounder with 8.6, while Rynn Wright is the fourth spot with 8.0 and Goff has 7.9 to place fifth.

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ALDERSGATE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH will sponsor a Back to School Concert in the Middle School Auditorium at Jersey and Holik in College Station. The concert will feature Jim Gill and Dogwood.

Jim Gill . . .

has been sharing his brand of Christian humor through music since 1973. He uses a variety of instruments including the banjo, ukelele, 6 & 12 string guitars, dinner gong, harmonicas and mouth horns. Combine these with his sense of humor and his gift of "tongue in cheek" and you're in for a time of joy and insight you'll seldom forget.

Jim was born and raised in the hills of Houston, Texas, and graduated from the University of Houston in '73. After a year and a summer as a youth director in Galveston, Texas, he entered Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. He received his Master of Divinity there in May of '77 and since October of that year he has been serving as a campus minister to Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas. His first album, *The United Saints of America*, was released in the summer of '77. "Not Just Another Pretty Voice," Jim's effort on the various artist LP *Downtreader One* has given many a chuckle. Be sure and keep an eye out for Jim's new album *Spectacles* — it's worth looking into.

Concert Feb. 4, 1980

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