

# Britton, Ags demolish hapless Owls

By TONY GALLUCCI  
Sports Editor

"I was concerned that we weren't ready to play ball, but I felt good after being in the locker room before the game. Then, after I saw how we came out and played defense the first ten minutes I knew we'd come to play," said a relieved coach Shelby Metcalf following the Rice-A&M basketball game in Houston Saturday night. Indeed, the Aggies had come to play and senior guard David Britton layed 'em in, stuffed 'em through and packed 'em up in leading the Southwest Conference leading Aggies to an 84-65 mobbing of the Rice Owls. The win, coupled with Arkansas' come from behind 60-57 victory over Houston, sets up the battle of the unbeaten Tuesday night when the Ags host the conference co-leading Razorbacks.

The Owls pushed the Texas Tech Red Raiders into overtime last Tuesday, and hinted that the Aggies should be prepared to meet a challenge. The Aggies met that challenge in knocking off Rice for the 14th consecutive time.

The teams traded baskets for about three minutes before Claude

Riley hit two baskets and Britton added three in helping boost the Ags to a quick 22-6 lead with 11:21 remaining in the first half. The game was already a runaway five minutes deep but a little salt never hurts. Rice, employing a variety of zone defenses managed to keep the Ags from getting too far out of hand.

After going scoreless for almost seven minutes Ricky Pierce connected on both ends of a three-point play to narrow the Ag edge to 22-9. Pierce managed to pump in five more before the half for the Owls, but could do little else as the Aggie defense was stifling. In fact, with Rynn Wright and Riley doing a number on Pierce he was able to hit only three of his ten shots in the first half.

"He did a lot of running around," said Wright about Pierce who ended the night with 18 points and 14 rebounds. "He used a lot of picks to get open and it was kind of hard staying with him. He just turns and shoots in your face. There isn't too much you can do. If you try to block it they're gonna call a foul."

Riley was pleased with his play. "I think that was one of my better games. I got on the board a little

more than I usually do." Metcalf was also happy with the way Riley played. "Over spurts everyone played well but I guess Claude looked about as good as anybody." And Wright got plaudits also. "When it still counted — when it

the willpower of an already celebrant Aggie squad. Smith hit for the Ags to begin the half but five baskets and a free throw later the Aggies were ahead only by five. Metcalf called a timeout and the Ags were back in the game. "We weren't screening out, you know, making our shots. We started playing a lot of individual ball. We just had to run our offense. Then they went to a man defense and it helped us a lot. We started moving," said Wright.

"They did give us an uneasy time there," added Metcalf.

The Aggies started getting easy points on a four-corner offense and boosted the lead to 73-53 with a little over two minutes to play and Metcalf started using the bench. Eleven Aggies played and nine scored.

Britton led all scorers with his 25 points and Smith tossed in 15. Steve Sylestine, Dave Goff and Claude Riley each added nine to the A&M cause. The leading Ag rebounder was Rudy Woods, who nonetheless was not too pleased with his performance. "I just couldn't get started; I played in spurts. My teammates played well, though," Woods said. "He didn't have an

especially good game but he's had three great games in a row — you know — I'm not unhappy with the way anyone played — but we still haven't peaked yet. We can still play better," said Metcalf.

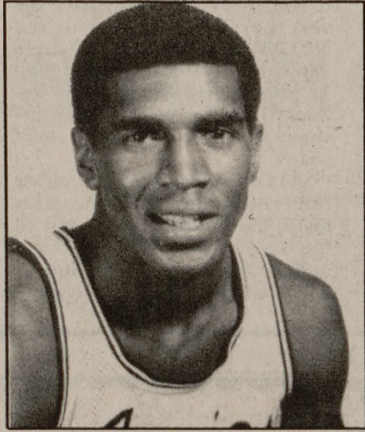
As for the scare Rice produced at Tech, most everyone was glad to have this game over. The win makes the Aggies, at 5-0 and 13-5, the only holders of three road SWC victories. "You know Rice is coming on," said Woods. "They're just not there yet. If they beat us that would've made their season. But for us — well we just had to win."

Metcalf was pleased with the zones the Ags ran — "They got close in that little stretch where we went man so we used three different zones to pick it up. Our 1-3-1 was effective and then we went to the 3-2 which, as it worked out, was effective. They had some good shots but missed them. I think it threw them off. They put up a couple of quick shots and we got the bounds; started running and moving on offense. Everything was under control then. Then we played some 2-3.

"And of course, we ran the four corners and had three guards in there," Metcalf said of the late-game

offense. "If you don't try to score out of it then it's not going to be very effective. You've got to be aggressive. Basically, you shoot the crisp shots and the free throws —

and we got several crisp shots. And now for the Hogs? "We're just taking them one at a time," said Riley. "And I'm ready for Arkansas."



David Britton

was still down there in the trenches I thought Rynn did a fine job." To open the second half, Rice' behind 36-22, came out and tested

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## Lady cagers oust North Texas

Twelve Aggies played and twelve Aggies scored as head coach Cheri Rapp's basketball team upped their season record to 10-7 with an 82-50 thrashing of North Texas State University (NTSU) Saturday.

Leading scorer for the Ags was Lori Foreman who continues to hold down the season scoring lead also. She had 12 points Saturday and is averaging 16.0 points on the season. Tammy Crafton was the only other Aggie in double figures, taking home 10 points, but several others came close. Kelley Sullivan

had nine and Trigg Crawford, Pat Werner, and Susan Kimbro each had eight. Foreman also led the Aggie rebounding corps with seven. Crawford and Crafton each pulled down six rebounds each.

A&M beat their fourth opponent in a row by hitting the shots they needed from the floor. The Aggies connected on 32 of 60 shots for a fine 53.3 percent rating while NTSU was 20 percentage points worse at 20 for 60. The Ag ladies also put in 18 of their free tosses (69.2 percent) while NTSU only connected on 10 of their

20 charity tosses. A&M led by a score of 43-22 at the halfway mark and came back to outscore the Eagles 37 to 28 in the second period of the game. The Aggies out rebounded their opponents 51-39 in the contest.

Team play and bench strength were pluses for the Aggies as no player spent more than 12 minutes in the game and A&M outlasted NTSU 24-11.

The girls will face the Sam Houston Bearkats next. The Aggies defeated the 'Kats in Huntsville last Thursday 94-52. That game is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, immediately prior to the men's game. After that the gals venture to Austin where they will play the Longhorn girls squad following the men's matchup Saturday at 5:00 p.m.

—Tony Gallucci

## Dickey, Kerr take seconds at prestigious Olympic Inv.

Ag football star Curtis Dickey ran outstanding 6.18 in the 55-meter dash Saturday in the U.S. Olympic Invitational in Madison Square Garden. Running unattached, he finished second in the race, nipped the tape by 60-yard dash record holder Houston McTear. McTear ran a 6.17 in that race, after having set a meet record 6.16 in his trial heat.

Leslie Kerr finished second in the

400 meter race behind Mike Cameron of UTEP. Kerr had a 48.1 clocking to Cameron's 47.4. They ran in different heats.

Two other Aggies competed at the meet with pole vaulter Randy Hall finishing fifth with a leap of 17-0 3/4 inches. Aggie high jumper Jimmy Howard could not continue after injuring his foot early in the meet.

—Tony Gallucci



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