

sports

# Aggies try to start anew

Now that it has finally happened to the Aggies — a loss, that is — the idea is to keep it from happening again.

And Texas A&M will be favored tonight to end its losing streak at one game. The Aggies, who now find themselves tied for first place in the Southwest Conference race with Arkansas, host Southern Methodist in one of the two games on the league schedule.

"We just didn't play like we have been playing against Texas Tech," A&M coach Shelby Metcalf said in reference to the Aggies' 10-point loss Monday night. "We will just have to regroup at home."

Tonight's other conference game has the Texas Longhorns hosting TCU. The Horned Frogs are coming off a 27-point loss to Arkansas in one of the most one-sided games played by an SWC team this season.

On Thursday Arkansas will visit Baylor and Texas Tech will be at Rice.

SMU, in the midst of a disappointing conference campaign, defeated Baylor Monday to boost its league record to 4-7. In whipping the Bears, SMU played some of its best defense in weeks and employed a three-guard attack in an attempt to use the talents of freshman Dave Piehler.

The Mustangs could get away with such a ploy against Baylor because the Bears have the shortest team in the league. But Texas A&M's front line, headed by 6-11 center Rudy Woods, will probably create a change of strategy in SMU.

Tech defeated Texas A&M by effectively keeping the ball away from the Aggies' big men, something every team tries to do and very few succeed.

"We started out to stop them on

the inside game," Tech coach Gerald Myers said. "It took a great team effort and that's what we got."

While Arkansas and Texas A&M are tied for the lead, Texas Tech (7-4) goes into the midweek games with third place all to itself. The Raiders will be trying to hold onto that position in order to ensure themselves of a bye in the first round of the SWC's post-season tournament.

Texas, meanwhile, will be trying to put pressure on the Raiders with a victory over TCU. The mysterious Longhorns led by 22 at the half Monday against Houston and then had to hold on in the final moments to preserve a two-point victory.

The Horned Frogs have sagged lately following an early season showing that produced two straight conference wins and some close calls. TCU now stands at 2-9, alone in the SWC cellar, and faces the dis-

tinct possibility of finishing last in this year's campaign.

TCU coach Jim Killingsworth can only dream of a turnaround next year and serve as an observer for this year's race.

"Arkansas and Texas A&M are both great ball clubs," Killingsworth said earlier this week. "If they both get into the NCAA tournament they have as good a chance as anyone to advance to the final four. And once you get to the final four you certainly have as good a chance as anybody to win it all."

The Aggies will more than likely be starting the same five that have opened since mid-December. At the guard positions that will be seniors Dave Goff and David Britton. "The Wall" will carry the rest of the load in the opening minutes of the game.



Freshman Claude Riley, seen here in early SWC action, was one bright spot in the Aggies' 63-53 loss to Texas Tech Monday. Riley scored 10 points while substituting for various starters in the game. The Ags try to start a new winning streak tonight when they host SMU at 8 p.m. in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

Staff Photo by Lee Roy Leschper.

## Swimmer split meet

By JOHN BRASHER  
Sports Reporter

The Texas A&M men's swim team suffered a heartbreaking loss today to the Penn State Nittany Lion team but had no trouble in beating Penn State University in a pair of meets. Penn State won the first meet with the Aggies, 57-56, and the second with the Aggies on the lower end of the score.

The Aggies' main concern in the meet was Penn State, which ranked fifth on the east coast. The Aggies had scored an upset over Penn State earlier in the season. Coach Mel Nash was aware of this and he admitted that the Easterners led off some surprising finishes.

"They surprised me a couple of times," Nash said. "PSU got first and second in the 50-yard freestyle and second in the 500-yard freestyle. These were the two events we expected us to do better in."

The Aggies, however, managed to surprise Penn State by taking 11 firsts.

PSU took the opening 400-yard medley relay, and had a 7-0 lead, but Texas A&M charging back in the next 100-yard freestyle, to tie the 8-8. Tom Ingram and Matt finished first and second in the event.

Texas A&M suffered a setback the ensuing event when Brown recorded his career best in the 50-yard freestyle but finished third.

The lead continued to change hands until the penultimate event. With Texas A&M trailing 2-1, PSU finished first and third in the 200-yard breaststroke, with the Aggies settling for second. Those points the meet out of reach for the Aggies.

The Aggies, however, took place in the 400-yard freestyle with a time of 3:13.11. The Aggies placed in every event in the meet against PSU except diving.

Nash said, "I'm more pleased with the team's performance than I am disappointed. A lot of kids had a great meet, especially Kevin Weaver and Mike Shader. They were our outstanding performers."

"When you have two excellent teams it is a shame one has to win and the other lose. You can't come this far, lose by one point, have to travel all the way home, and then lose."

The Aggie swimmers will improve their 4-3 record this Friday at 7 p.m. in a key match against Texas Tech Red Raiders at the Downs Natatorium.

## All-star Gervin fails to show up for Spurs game

United Press International  
SAN ANTONIO — George Gervin, who indicated he wanted to open his contract with the San Antonio Spurs prior to winning MVP honors in Sunday's NBA all-star game, did not appear Tuesday night in a game with the New Jersey Nets. Gervin, missing since the All-Star break called in sick Tuesday to trainer Bernie LaRue. He had been speculation in local media all day that Gervin might boycott the game to force the team to renegotiate his contract and reported \$350,000 a year salary.

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For more information, go by Room 216 MSC (SPO) and ask for Brian Gross. Applications may be picked up in Room 216 MSC at the secretaries' island.

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