

Aggies escape with 55-53 win

Owls catch Ags looking ahead

By TONY GALLUCCI
Sports Editor

The Aggie basketball team got caught looking ahead Saturday and nearly lost the Southwest Conference lead they gained earlier in the day when Arkansas lost 90-84 to Houston in triple overtime.

The Ags spent the afternoon watching the game in the dorm and came into G. Rollie White Coliseum hot to trot. Problem was, they were hot to trot all over the Hogs and it was the Rice Owls who showed up to play. And did they show up to play, taking A&M to the wire in a thrilling game, which saw the Ags finally win 55-53.

Vernon Smith scored 22 points in the game, his highest point total in ten games and second highest in SWC play, in leading the Ags to the victory. He was the only Aggie in double figures for the evening. Rynn Wright led Aggie rebounders with eight.

A&M was the first to score in the game, a rebound follow by Vernon Smith with only 30 seconds elapsed. Rice immediately tied the game up on a mirror image shot by Ricky

Pierce. In full court press from the start, Rice took a 4-2 lead when Pierce hit a second shot, this time from the right side. Smith tied the game up on a jumper from the corner and then the two teams traded buckets for another five minutes.

Smith fouled Pierce, his third foul, with 12:57 to go in the first half and Pierce made good on the three-pointer to put Rice up by three. Rice went ahead by five before David Britton threw a beautiful outlet pass to Wright, who stuffed the ball. Rice scored two more unanswered baskets and was up by seven when Aggie head coach Shelby Metcalf decided enough was enough.

Immediately after, Dave Goff tossed an alley-oop to Britton who casually dumped the ball over his right shoulder. It was Maroon all the way to the locker room as the Ags outscored Rice 17-8 in the last nine minutes of the half. They led at the half 27-25.

Rice started the second half as fired up as they were the first and jumped right back into the lead. The Aggies never let the game get away from them this time, though, and

regained the lead for good with ten minutes remaining.

With Rudy Woods and Vernon Smith each getting six points, the Aggies jumped to their biggest lead of the night — six — with two and a half minutes left. Rice then called the first of a string of timeouts.

Tyrone Ladson fouled Bobby Tudor and Tudor hit both of his free throws to cut the Aggie lead to four. Britton scored on a layup but charged Donald Bennett in the process. Bennett hit his free throws also to keep the lead at four points.

With 47 seconds remaining in the game, Ladson was fouled. He missed the first of his one-and-one and was fouled again just 12 seconds later. This time he hit the first of his free throws and missed the second, putting the Ags up by five. Pierce hit a jump shot after the rebound on the missed free throw and Rice called timeout.

Ladson was fouled again on the inbound pass and again hit the front end of the one-and-one and Pierce again went down court and hit the

jumper. This time the Ag lead was narrowed to two points, 53-51, and only 17 seconds remained.

On the inbounds Woods was fouled this time. He sank both his free throws to put the game out of reach for the Owls. Pierce hit a short jumpshot at the buzzer but it cut the final margin only to two.

Metcalf was generally pleased with the team's performance. "We played the hell out of them," he said. "Rice played a great ballgame. I thought we played when we had to."

"I'm glad we don't have to go to Houston to play them. Actually, I wish we didn't have to go to Houston at all."

"That's the best they've broken our press since (Rice coach Mike) Schuler's been there," Metcalf said. Smith agreed, "They played good man-on-man. They've got some good players and they came to play."

Dave Goff, Aggie point guard, admitted the team lapsus. "Yeah, we got caught looking ahead a little. But they played good and we just couldn't find the hole. We played real hard tonight. We were a little tight I think."

"They were hitting all their free throws — we pressed them so much and the refs were calling the game so tight — they had so many opportunities."

Assistant coach Barry Davis insists he wasn't looking ahead, but added, "I didn't think they'd be that tough, either. These guys have to play teams like Arkansas and then they have Rice — what would you do."

That game is over now, fortunately it goes into the books as a win, and now the Aggies can worry about the team they were thinking about all weekend. The team leaves this afternoon for the hills of Fayetteville where no Aggie basketball team has won a game in nine years. In the championship years of 1975 and 1976 the Aggies were twice victims of the Hogs in four overtime games.

Game time is 7:30 p.m. with broadcast on the Aggie Basketball Network. Local audio can be found on KTAM-AM radio with DeWayne Staats and David Walker.

Ladies' soccer team opens — ranked first

By MIKE BURRICHTER
Sports Staff

The Texas A&M women's soccer team will kick off the 1980 season Saturday when it meets Southwest Texas State University in Georgetown.

The Aggies, ranked number one among Texas college teams, have a six-match schedule, including three home games. They have been invited to participate in tournaments in Colorado, Louisiana, Wisconsin, Indiana and Houston.

The Texas A&M women, who lost only once last semester in 17 games, will return to College Station Sunday to play Baylor at Cain Field at 2 p.m. The Aggies posted a 14-1-2 record last semester. Their lone loss came against the University of Mexico at Monterrey.

The Ags also won two tournaments last semester, taking the state tournament in Dallas and the Austin Women's Soccer League Tournament. The Dallas

tournament consisted of 10 Texas college teams. The Aggies won that one by defeating the University of Texas in the finals.

"We are ranked number one at Texas at the collegiate level, but the Austin tournament was probably makes us the best team in the state," coach Alan Heath said. The Aggies scored over 100 goals in as many games as their opponents last semester, booting 40 goals to their opponent's 23.

The Aggies' three home games are against Baylor this Sunday, Stephen F. Austin on March 20 and Texas on March 29. Aggies will travel to College Station Feb. 16; to Sam Houston State March 22; and to Trinity April 12. The SFA and UT games will start at 1 p.m. on Cain Field.

To begin the season the starters will be Jamie Fougere, Becky Carpenter, Lani Jansen, Donna Ellerbe, Adele Farris, Chantel Fougere, Carol Sivan, Stephanie Barrett, Melinda Felger, Lucy Bourne and Tim Gerber.

Girls take second in Rice tourney despite playing indoors in the dark

The Texas A&M women's tennis team placed second in the Rice Quad Invitational tournament over the weekend. The tournament, moved indoors because of rain, began at 9 p.m. Friday and ended at 5 a.m. Saturday at the Houston Indoor Racquet Club.

"This was the only time we could get the courts," said Texas A&M tennis coach David Kent. "They played all through the night without a break. I've never seen anything like it."

The A&M men's tennis team was to play Southwest Texas State Saturday, but the matches, in College Station, were postponed. The two teams will meet today at 1:30.

The women met nationally-ranked Trinity in their first match Friday night. Trinity won, 8-1, and eventually went on to win the tournament. The only Aggie victory came in the last match, when Kathleen Sissom and Liliana Fernandez, the

third ranked doubles team on the A&M squad, beat Trinity's number three duo.

Saturday proved a better day for the Aggie women. In matches beginning at midnight, they beat Rice 7-2, and East Texas State 8-1.

Terri Neutze, Liliana Fernandez, Judy Willard and Ferol Hinkle won their singles matches against Rice opponents. The doubles teams of Maylyn Hooten and Neutze, Willard and Hinkle and Fernandez and Kathleen Sissom all won their matches.

The women won all of their singles matches against ETSU. Hooten Neutze, Sissom, Fernandez, Willard and Hinkle all won in straight sets. The doubles teams of Hooten-Neutze and Hinkle-Willard also won.

"They played their best tennis of the year," Kent said. "Terri Neutze

was outstanding the entire tourney." The women now have a season record of 2-2 and the men are 1-0.

— Mike Burrichter

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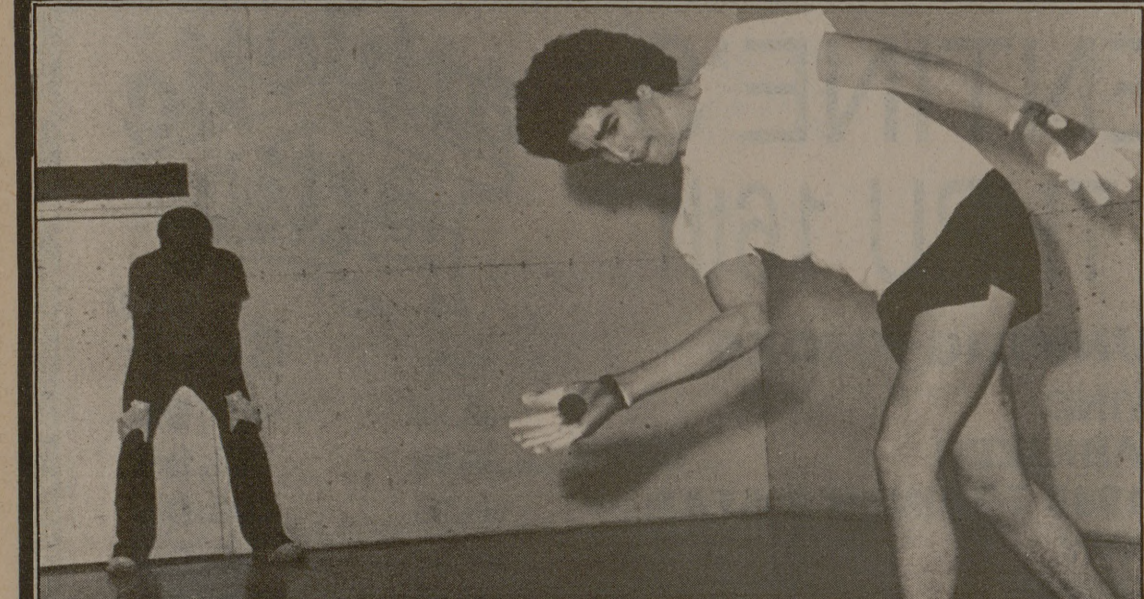
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McDONALD'S INTRAMURAL HIGHLIGHTS

At University Drive At Manor East Mall



JOY McCARTHY, a sophomore aerospace engineering major demonstrates his serve in a practice match with DAVID WASHINGTON. Both are competitors in the I.M. handball tourney.

Did You See?

A really close defensive battle in Fish AB when H-2 eased over the M-1 Fish 16-15. H-2 players included Mark Lendale, Chris May, Ed Gardner, Doug Trawick, Doug Head, Dan Roffec; M-1 team members were Greg Mayton, Bill Dast, Bob Appleton, Thomas Reynolds, Bob Batrico, Mike Legatick, Quotin Bach, and Stewart Atmar.

D-1 "B" gave it the old Aggie try against K-1 #1 in Corps AB Competition. K-1 #1 bested D-1 "B" 38-8. D-1's players were John McAdams, Jeff Kins, Terry Smith, Eddy Mearey, Tim Schmidt, Scott Jordan, Abe Wyant, and Mike Chandler. K-1's roster included Blaine Smith, Charlie Canedy, Brian Truelove, John Guess, Rocky Smith, Ted Ihrke, Tim Sullivan, and Robert Smith.

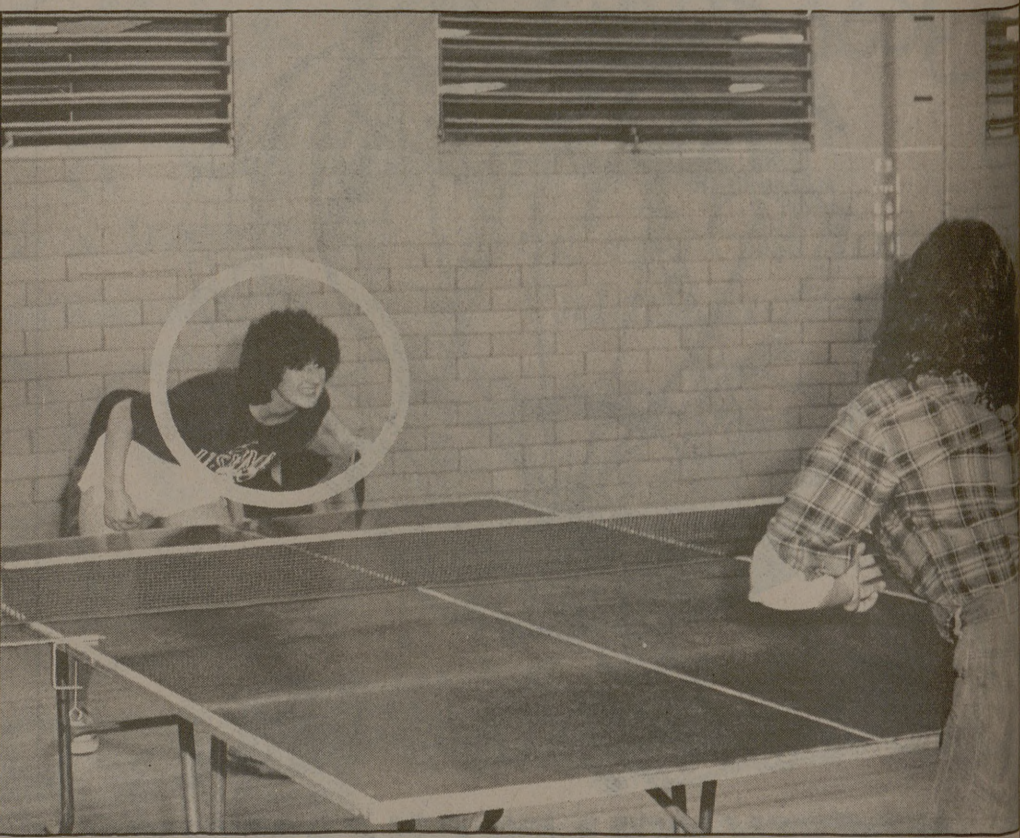
Another really close game as VD's fell to EZ's in a men's independent AB contest, 27 to 28. At the half, however, the VD's were

ahead 13-9. VD's team included Phil Whisnand, Greg Buenger, Jim Schulze, John DeGroot, David Herring, Harry Boothe, Joe Bob Stricklin, Jay Jones, and John Tarlton. EZ's players were John Gayle, Jerry Stubbs, Barton Davis, Rick Huffman, Russell Lambert, Wayne Preston, and William Conaster.

snip & clip

Entries Opening

Tennis Doubles	Monday, February 11
Wrestling	Monday, February 11
Play Begins	
Horseshoes	Monday, February 11
Slow Pitch	Monday, February 11
Special Events	
Fencing Tournament	Saturday, February 16
	10:00 a.m. 261 G.R. White



"I-spy" participant ELLEN FRISCHE, a chemical engineering major, enjoys a table tennis match during IM Women's Dorm competition. Ellen can pick up a McDonald's "Be our guest card for Free Food in the IM office."

Coming Soon — A Sporting Event

Ref's Corner

Any student who would like to officiate Intramural Soccer should see Dave Kerr in the IM office before February 19. Games will be played Monday through Thursday at 3:45 and 4:45 pm and Sunday from 12:30 to 5:30 pm beginning March 3. Pay will be \$3.10/game with games lasting 55 minutes. All students are welcome.

IM SPORT SHORTS

Sports Shorts

It takes two to tango and two to play TENNIS DOUBLES. Swing your partner out of love and onto the tennis court. The IM tennis doubles competition opens for entries today, February 11, and close Tuesday, February 19. Mosey down to the IM office in DeWare Fieldhouse to sign up and reserve a court to practice your back swing.

Don't forget to check your SOFTBALL schedules. Today is the day softball starts play. Don't forfeit because you forgot to check. Come by the IM office in DeWare Fieldhouse today!

Dirty Sock Award

The most recent Dirty Sock Award went to the Spence Sharp Shooters. Spence showed great sportsmanship during a recent game in women's dorm basketball. Congratulations, gals!

Acknowledgments

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