

sports

Aggies traveling to Fayetteville

By TONY GALLUCCI
Sports Editor

It has been nine years since an Aggie basketball team last won a game in Fayetteville, Arkansas, but in the minds of many, this is the year it will happen again.

Even in the championship years of 1975 and 1976 when Barry Davis and Sonny Parker led the Aggie team, A&M came out of the "Hills" with more than a few bruises.

In 1975, Arkansas scored a 95-89 win over the Aggies in double overtime. The next year it was 93-91 in double overtime. Those two years, the Aggies won at College Station by a total of three points.

In 1977 and 1978, Arkansas won both the yearly matchups, although the two G. Rollie White games were decided by a single point apiece. Last year, it was again A&M winning at home, this time 74-69 in overtime, and dropping the road game 60-56.

The Aggie-Razorback matchup is one of the best rivalries in the SWC. In the last five years, A&M has won the SWC twice and Arkansas has won or shared the title three times. And this year, it looks as though one of the two will win it all.

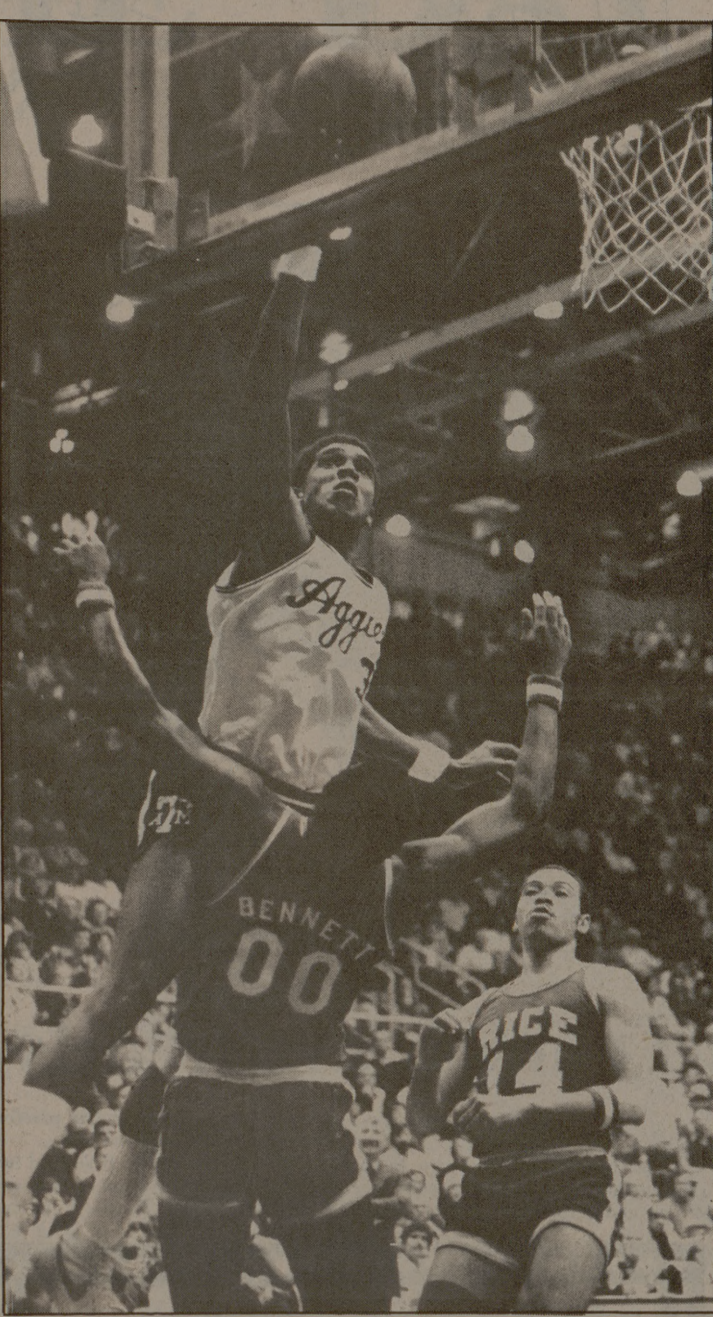
Meanwhile, Arkansas was stomping Baylor in the first of a two-game road trip that ended in disaster. In Houston Saturday, they came up against UH's devastating outside shooters and after three overtimes of near-wins for both teams, the Hogs fell short 90-84. In College Station that night, the Aggies were fighting for their life against Rice.

It is little consolation to the Aggies that Arkansas must play Rice in Houston this Saturday. The Aggies have to play UH in Houston in the last game of the SWC regular season for both teams.

Both teams have at least one other tough game ahead. Arkansas must play SMU in Dallas and Texas Tech at home and the Aggies must get by Texas at home. A&M is now 19-6 for the season and 11-1 in SWC play, while Arkansas is just a step back at 10-2. The Hogs are 17-5 for the year, including the 45-39 loss to the Aggies in College Station in January.

The pressure is on Arkansas tonight as they must win to gain a share of first place. A loss would put the Hogs two games behind the Aggies with only three games remaining for both teams. In addition to Houston and Texas, the Aggies will be hosting TCU.

The Aggies will be starting the usual five tonight — Rudy Woods, Vernon Smith, Rynn Wright, Dave Goff and David Britton. Game time is 7:00 p.m. It can be heard live on KTAM radio with DeWayne Staats providing the play-by-play and David Walker the color commentary.



David Britton goes up for a shot against Rice Saturday. The Aggies travel to Fayetteville tonight to take on the second place Arkansas Razorbacks. The game can be heard at 7:30 p.m. on KTAM.
Staff photo by Lee Roy Leschper

Rice's Pierce honored

United Press International
DALLAS — Rice sophomore Ricky Pierce, a 6-5 transfer student who averaged more than 26 points per game last week in victories over Wright State and Texas Tech, Monday was named the Southwest Conference player of the week.

Pierce scored 27 points in Rice's 55-53 loss at Texas A&M Saturday. That performance, plus bringing down 14 rebounds against Tech and 11 against the Aggies, gave Pierce five of 15 votes cast by SWC coaches.

Houston's Rob Williams collected two votes while SMU's Dave Gehler, A&M's Vernon Smith,

Arkansas' U.S. Reed, Texas Tech's Jeff Taylor and Texas' John Danks each received a vote.

He moved to second on the SWC scoring list, averaging 18.2 points per game, behind Baylor's Terry Teagle, who's averaging 22.3 points per game. Teagle was second in the voting with three votes.

Pierce, who transferred to Rice from Walla Walla Junior College, is averaging 8.3 rebounds per game for the Owls, ranking third behind Texas' Lasalle Thompson and SMU's Bran Branson.

UNM probe continues

United Press International
ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — A federal grand jury investigating a sports scandal at the University of New Mexico resumed its work Monday, calling more witnesses to gather additional testimony.

The panel has not yet issued indictments in its investigation, although it issued at least two "target letters," to former UNM basketball coach Norm Ellenberger and former

assistant coach Manny Goldstein. "Target letters" are sent to individuals who may be the subject of grand jury action, U.S. Attorney R.E. Thompson said.

FBI officials have confirmed the panel is investigating alleged bribery and mail fraud, although the issues being studied were also believed to include gambling.

The scandal broke last fall when police raided the UNM basketball

office. Subsequent disclosures about alleged fixing of player transcripts led to the firing of Ellenberger, Goldstein's resignation, the ineligibility of several basketball and football players, and the forfeiture of basketball and football victories.

The grand jury has met in three separate sessions so far. Witnesses have included UNM officials, officials from other schools and some Albuquerque businessmen.

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