

sports

Wrestlers go to state

BY MIKE BURRICHTER
Sports Editor

The Texas A&M wrestling team heads to El Paso this weekend for the Texas Inter-Collegiate State Wrestling Tournament.

The Aggies enter the tournament for the first time in seven years as decided underdogs. During the past seven years, the Ags have come up with five state championships and have finished second twice.

Last year, the Ags were unseated as state champions by Richland College. This year, Texas A&M finished its dual-meet season with an 8-2 record, the only conference loss coming to Richland by a score of 30-18.

Coach Bob Santini will lead an Aggie team with four returning state champions into the meet.

Santini, a junior from Pittsburgh, Pa., has won the state championship at the 167-lb weight class for the past two years. However, he lost his first match in state competition last week to an opponent from Stephen F. Austin. He should enter the state tournament, he says, seeded second.

Like Santini, John Sweatt, a junior from Ada, Ok., has won two consecutive state titles. Sweatt wrestles in the 142-lb weight class and was the chosen as the most valuable wrestler in last year's state tournament.

"John will hold the number one

seed, and should continue as number one throughout the meet," Santini said.

The other returning state champions are Bill Kelvey and Curtis Templet. Kelvey is a senior from Ellicott, Md., who won the state title in the 118-lb weight division two years ago. Last year he lost his title to a wrestler from Richland College. Santini said he will probably be seeded second this year. Templet is a junior from Baker, La. He won the heavyweight (over 190 lbs) in 1978. Last year he finished third in state.

Four freshmen are on this year's team. They are Bob Merriman, at 126 pounds, Don Parsons at 150, Phil Schaver at 158 and Mike Walch at 177.

Senior Ric Vigue, who wrestles in the 134-lb class and junior Bud Moore, who wrestles at 190, make up the rest of the team.

The 11-team tournament, hosted by UT-El Paso, will begin on Friday.

Basketball

Aggies can wrap it up on Friday

United Press International
A co-championship was clinched in College Station Tuesday night, but that was sort of expected.

What wasn't expected was that Rice would finally beat Houston and that somehow Abe Lemons and Gerald Myers would manage to get into a yelling match.

At least it wasn't dull around the Southwest Conference.

Texas A&M, the team picked all along to win the Southwest Conference title, grabbed at least a share of it Tuesday night with a somewhat ragged 57-48 conquest of last-place TCU.

The Aggies' victory, combined with Arkansas' upset loss to SMU the night before, put Texas A&M a game in front of the Razorbacks with one game to play in the regular season. It was the 11th title for Texas A&M in its 65-year basketball history and the first for the Aggies in four years. Texas A&M (13-2 in league play compared with Arkansas' 12-3) can wrap up the undisputed crown with a win over Houston Friday night.

Coach Shelby Metcalf was carried off the court on the shoulders of his players and the A&M seniors cut down the nets, just the things that are supposed to happen when a team wins a title.

"TCU came down here and made us earn the win," said the relieved Metcalf, whose team had a 14-point halftime lead cut to seven in the first minutes of the third period.

In Houston, meanwhile, the Rice Owls were picking up their first victory ever over the Houston Cougars, 81-74; and in Lubbock the Texas Longhorns were grabbing third place by themselves with a win over Texas Tech, 76-63, a contest spiced by the Lemons-Myers shouting match.

Texas owned an 11-point lead five minutes deep in the second half

when Longhorns forward John Danks, who had scored 18 points, picked up his fourth foul on a charging call.

Lemons heatedly disputed the call with the officials and Myers moved in to support the decision. Before anybody knew it the two coaches were yelling, not at the officials, but at each other.

They never came close to getting physical and, just to make sure, some players stepped between them.

"Abe said the call was bad and I said the call was good," Myers explained. "Both of us were just standing up for our team and neither one was trying to intimidate the officials. Both of us just lost control. But I just take it as the heat of the game. There is nothing to hold a grudge about."

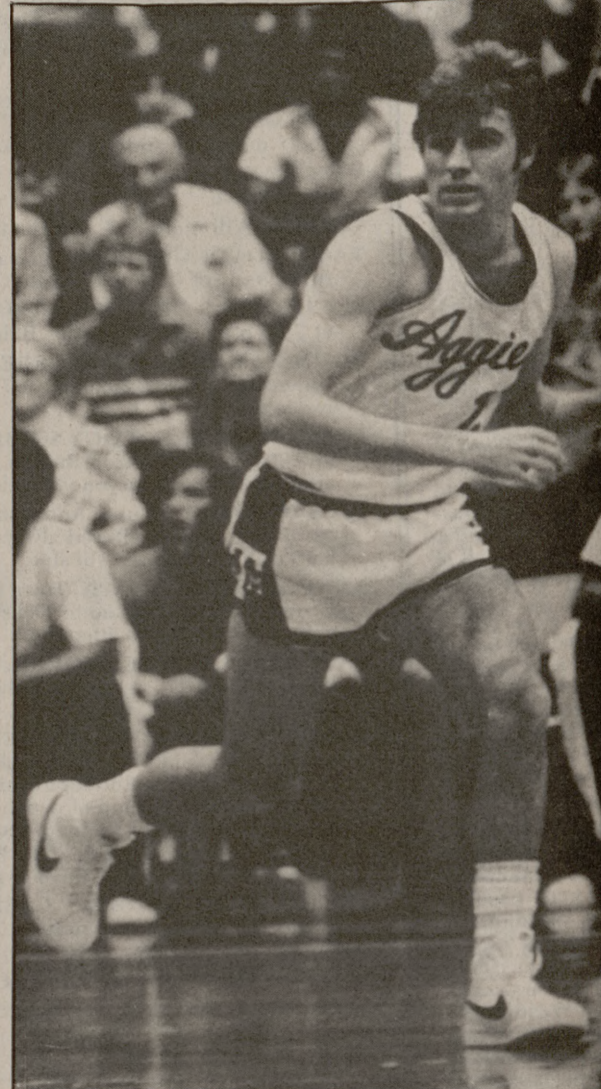
Lemons agreed. "They let the game get out of control," the Texas coach said. "We could have had a real donnybrook out there. I apologized to Gerald and he apologized to me. It was just a thing in the heat of battle. There wasn't much to it."

Texas, however, took over third place in the league with a 9-6 record, and a win Friday night at home against Rice would give the Longhorns a bye in the opening round of the SWC's post-season tournament.

That might not be too easy to do, however, since Rice pulled off one of its biggest wins in years Tuesday night.

The Owls had lost to Houston the 17 previous times they had met, but Rice dominated their intra-city rivalry on this occasion.

If both Arkansas and Texas A&M win this weekend, the first round of the conference tournament next Monday would have Baylor going to SMU, TCU traveling to Texas Tech and Rice meeting Houston again, this time on the Cougars' home court.



Senior Dave Goff dribbles down court against TCU. Staff photo by Lisa...

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WAC ref claims coach hit him after game

United Press International
DENVER — Western Athletic Conference referee Cary Toone has accused veteran Colorado State University coach Jim Williams of "shoving" him following last week's Colorado State-Air Force game at Fort Collins.

Irv Brown, the WAC's supervisor of officials, said Toone told him Williams shoved him after the game in the officials' dressing room. Toone had ejected the 64-year-old Williams from the game which the Air Force went on to win 67-59.

League Commissioner Stan Bates asked Toone and the other referees the game, Jim Clark, to file a report on the incident.

Colorado State University Athletic Director Thurman McGraw also was investigating Toone's allegation, but said he was still gathering information.

"I have discussed it with Williams and I talked to the officials Sunday," said McGraw. "I'm clear yet as to what happened."


Toone, who lives in Salt Lake City, Utah, is in his first year officiating in the Western Conference.

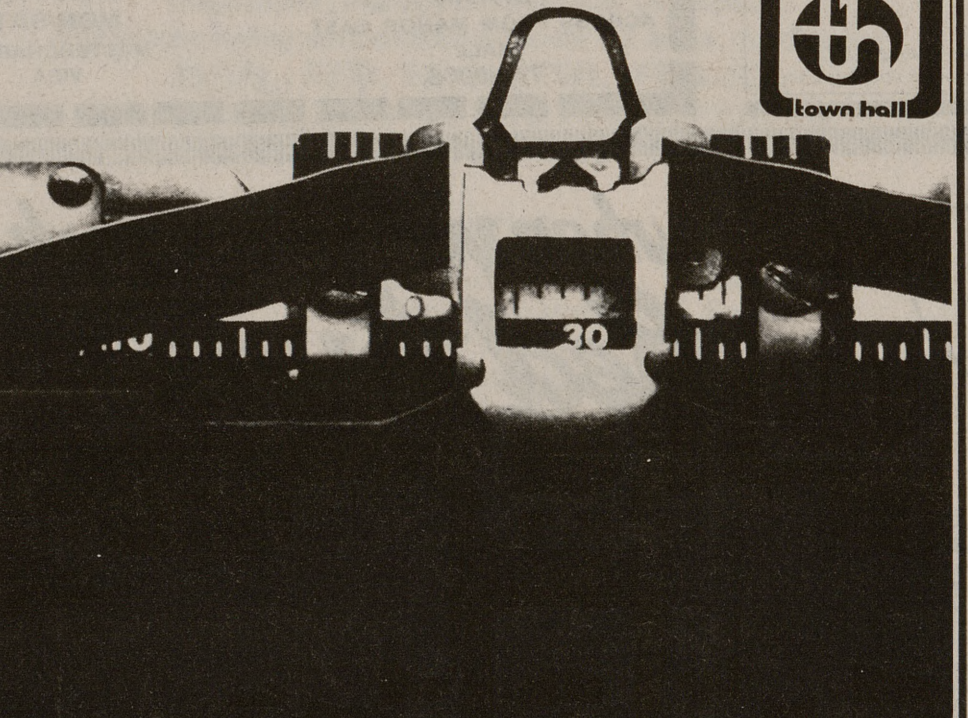
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