

# Texas A&M The Battalion Sports

February 15, 1982 Page 15

## Aggies to battle Razorbacks in tie-breaker

by Frank L. Christlieb  
Sports Editor

It's safe to say that the Texas A&M basketball team has had a lot of luck on its side during the last two weeks.

After sharing first place in the Southwest Conference with the Arkansas Razorbacks after a 95-77 victory over the Houston Cougars Feb. 1, the Aggies have stumbled to the pressures of tough road games, falling as far as two games behind the Razorbacks.

However, they've rebounded from those road losses to Baylor and Texas Tech by coming home to G. Rollie White Coliseum to record key victories over SMU and Rice.

While Texas A&M has been winning its last two games, the

Razorbacks have found road pressure, namely that encountered in Waco and Houston, totally frustrating to their efforts. They've watched what seemed a safe two-game lead over the Aggies dwindle into nothing, creating the current first-place tie between the two teams.

But any luck the Aggies have had in creeping back into a first-place deadlock will disappear when they meet Arkansas in Fayetteville tonight at 7:10. And just when Texas A&M might need an extra dose of luck, as does any team meeting the Razorbacks in Barnhill Arena, the Aggies will have to rely solely on themselves to achieve their two goals — a victory and a quick escape from Fayetteville.

Texas A&M coach Shelby

Metcalf kidded after Texas A&M's 82-71 victory over Rice Saturday night that the Aggies might need bullet-proof vests for tonight's game. During the past five years, Barnhill Arena has developed a reputation as one of the most dangerous spots in the nation to play.

"It's a double-header," Metcalf said. "The big game's going to be getting in and out alive, and the other's going to be beating Arkansas."

Metcalf, with a 174-102 career SWC record, needs three victories in the Aggies' four remaining regular-season games to surpass former Arkansas coach Glen Rose as the all-time league leader in victories. Rose finished a 23-year career with 174 victories.

The Aggies have not won at Arkansas since 1971, when Metcalf's 9-17 squad defeated the Razorbacks 87-83. Arkansas finished with a 5-21 record that season.

Metcalf said the Aggies played one of their best games of the season in defeating the Owls to raise their conference record to 8-4 and overall record to 15-7.

"I thought we played an outstanding game," Metcalf said. "Rice is very well-coached and they've got a bunch of competitors. I'm glad Ricky Pierce (forward, who scored 34 points against Aggies) is a senior — he's a machine."

"I don't know whether we're on a roll, but if there's a good time to go to Arkansas, this is as good a time as any."

Center Rudy Woods, who had a season-high 22 points and 14 rebounds against the Owls, said the Aggies didn't allow thoughts about Arkansas to enter their minds during the Rice game.

"We never looked past Rice because of the caliber of players they have," Woods said. "Even if Arkansas had won (Saturday against Houston), it wouldn't have really made any difference because we would have played hard anyway — it was going to be a showdown anyway."

"I'm the type of player who plays them one at a time," Woods said. "Overall, as a team, we're very confident — we know what we can do."

Tyren Nauels followed Woods with 21 points, while forward

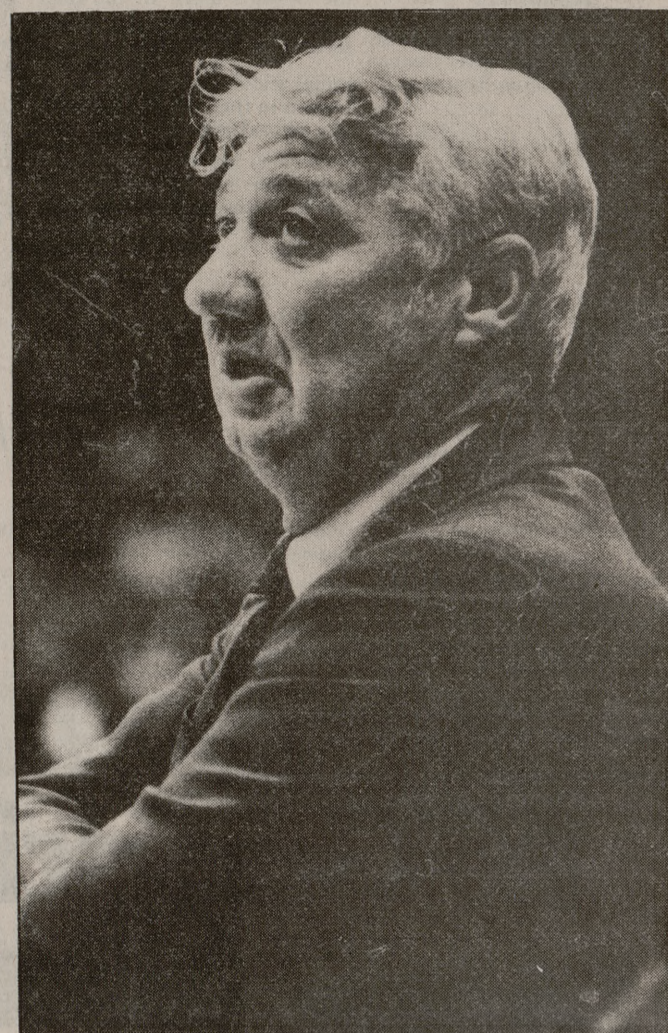


photo by C. Michel Chang

Texas A&M's Shelby Metcalf, whose worries will be two-fold tonight when his Aggie basketball team faces the Arkansas Razorbacks in Fayetteville, keeps a watchful eye on the G. Rollie White Coliseum scoreboard. The Aggies, tied with the Razorbacks for first place in the Southwest Conference, hope to leave Fayetteville with a victory and as little trouble as possible from the Arkansas spectators.

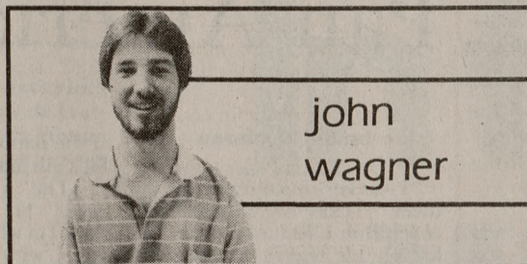
## Barnhill frightens the lion-hearted

The guys were sitting around talking sports. Basketball was the subject of the day, and the talk centered on the championship hopes of the 1981-82 Texas Aggies. On the division set, the Houston Cougars were in the process of leading Arkansas its second straight loss, and the guys were excited.

The Razorbacks seemed due for a slump, and if there were ever a time to slump, this had to be it. When the game was over, the guys sang out in unison.

"This means if we beat Rice tonight, we'll be tied for first with Arkansas, and then we get to go up to Fayetteville on Monday to play the Razorbacks in a battle for first place, or we can call it ESP, or perhaps a case of reading the sports section too much, but the living room became strangely quiet. A sudden fear spread among the guys, a dread so intense that it cut short their animated discussion of Southwest Conference championships. It was the same fear that currently analyzes college basketball coaches, causes referees to hourly wince at their whistles and forces mild-mannered ball players to run for their lives. The guys were scared of Barnhill Arena.

Playing in Barnhill has become a survival test for the Aggies. Opponents call it "Barnyard Arena." Opposing teams don't dare get near the place. Coaches worry about their safety. Players worry that the game might be close, and heaven forbid if the contest goes into overtime.



john wagner

The arena has become a jungle, a place where rabid Razorbacks in red hats do everything they can to help Coach Eddie Sutton's troops get the job done. If it helps to throw ice, so be it. If it helps to intimidate officials, so be that. If it helps to spit and curse at players, so be that, too.

At Barnhill, anything goes, and usually does.

What a difference 500 miles makes. Here in Aggieland, we worry about whether the newspapers we hold up during the introduction of the enemy are "rude." Our student leaders stay up at night, wondering about the extra work our new tradition has forced on the folks who clean up G. Rollie White Coliseum. The yell leaders go crazy if any poor soul loses control and boos, and if our "pep" band

plays a new song, coliseum officials stop play to commemorate the occasion.

Other coaches love to play here. LSU coach Dale Brown couldn't say enough about G. Rollie White. Rice coach Tommy Suitts said his team gets fired up playing in the coliseum.

"This is my favorite arena in the league. I'd rather play here than in anywhere," Suitts said after the Owls lost to the Aggies by 11 points Saturday night. Even after losing by 11. Coach?

"The fans here really help us. We played really well. The Aggies just played better," Suitts said.

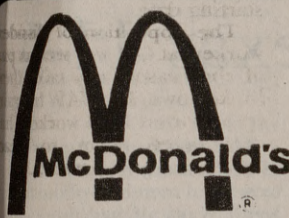
Great. The last thing the Aggies need is for their fans to help the other team.

On the other hand, coaches hate playing in Barnhill. Texas' Abe Lennox says the best thing about playing Arkansas in the hills is that you get to leave after the game. The Razorbacks have to stay. Other coaches complain about the lack of fair calls from the referees. Is it a justified complaint? Shelby Metcalf thinks so.

Metcalf said Saturday that getting a fair break from the officials is tough in Barnhill, but that isn't the hard part.


"In Barnhill, the big game is getting in and out alive," Metcalf said.

He laughed, but don't think he was joking. Barnhill Arena is a tough place. Just ask the guys. They know, and they're scared.



# McDONALD'S

## INTRAMURAL HIGHLIGHTS



DRIVE-THRU WINDOW

At University Drive

Now on S. Texas Ave.

At Manor East Mall

BREAKFAST EVERY MORNING

### IM Game Plan

**TENNIS ENTRIES OPEN:** Today is the first day of registration for the 1982 Tennis Doubles tournament. Classes A and B will play single elimination, while Class C will play round robin. The fee is \$1 per person. Entries close next Tuesday, February 23, and matches begin March 1.

**WRESTLING ENTRIES OPEN:** Today and close at 5 p.m. on Monday, March 1. The entry fee is \$1 per person for this single-elimination tournament. Practice times have been scheduled in Room 260 GRW from 8 to 10 p.m. on February 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 23, 24, 25, 28, and March 1. Matches will begin on Tuesday, March 2 at 8:00 p.m.

**TABLE TENNIS ENTRIES CLOSE:** Tomorrow, February 16 at 5 p.m. is the deadline for entering the Class A and B single elimination Table Tennis Singles tournament or the Class C round robin tourney. The entry fee is \$1 per person. Matches will begin Monday, February 22.

**EXTRAMURAL MEETING:** The bi-monthly meeting will be Tuesday, February 15 at 6:30 p.m. in 164 East Kyle. Each club is expected to send a representative.

**TABLE TENNIS SCHEDULES:** Will be ready in the IM office after 2 p.m. on Thursday, February 18. Participants must check schedules personally (do not call).

### The TAMU team handball club practices regularly. Here Karen Laberman takes a diving shot and is our McDonald's® "Be Our Guest" winner this week. Karen can pick up her free meal coupon in the Intramural Office.

### Free Throw Winners

G. Rollie White Coliseum was the sight of the Annual Intramural Free Throw Contest Tuesday night and 77 Aggies gave it their best shot.

Each contestant took 20 shots from the free throw line, and when it was over, the winners were announced. Bill Reed sank 19 out of 20 and walked away with the men's division awards for Highest Total and Most Free Throws in a Row. Denise Pearce made 17 buckets to win the women's division for Highest Total, but Cindy Berry took the Longest Streak award with eight buckets in a row.

The team competition was equally exciting. Brett and Scott Kendall and Glen McNeil called themselves the "Jets" and captured the Men's team title with a total of 47 out of 60 baskets. "Cool and the Gang" — Ann House, Lynette Ginn, and Cindy Berry — sank 41 off the backboards to win the women's team award.

But the corec team, "Wrecking Crew", won overall with 50 out of 60 made free throws. Brett Kendall, Lynette Ginn, and Jim Fischer combined their individual totals to win that team effort.

Congratulations to all the winners and to all who competed this year! See you at the Slam Dunk Contest!

### Attention: Faculty & Staff

The Intramural Office is now accepting reservations to see the Houston Rockets play the San Antonio Spurs on March 2, 1982 at the Summit in Houston.

Anyone interested in participating in this special event may sign up at the Intramural Recreational Sports Office, 159 East Kyle through February 19th. The trip package costs \$20.00 and will include:

- 1) All-U-Can eat and drink at Mama's Pizza from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.
- 2) Roundtrip bus transportation in Arrow Coach Lines (refreshments provided).
- 3) Your ticket to the game.

This will be an excellent opportunity to see high-scoring Moses Malone, meet other faculty and staff from across campus, and see quality NBA basketball!

### That's Handball??

It's TEAM Handball. It's playing soccer with the hands, ice hockey without ice, water polo without water.

Essentially a simple game, team handball combines the skills of running, jumping and throwing into a fast moving, exciting sport. Not to be confused with another "handball" played with a small ball and four walls, Team Handball is played on a court similar to a basketball court. The basic objective is to out-manuever your opponent by dribbling and passing and then throw the ball to a goal.

Since it combines the basic skills of other, more popular games, Team Handball can be easily played and enjoyed at first attempt by players of any age. The TAMU Team Handball Club encourages anyone with an interest in trying the sport or seeing how it's played to come to their practices which are held Tuesdays from 8 to 10 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 12 noon in DeWane Fieldhouse. Members are more than willing to teach newcomers how to play.

The TAMU Club currently has about 10 practicing members and will go to the National Team

Handball Tournament in New York in April. Karen Laberman, the club's president, reported that there are very few teams for A&M to compete with. The problem, she says, stems from the fact that Team Handball is a relatively new sport.

Women in the United States did not begin playing Team Handball until 1974 when it was learned that it would be included in the 1976 Olympics. Naturally, one of the goals of the U.S. Team Handball Federation is to develop the game in the United States. The TAMU Club is working toward that goal and struggles to generate interest in a number of ways.

In the past, club members have conducted clinics to teach area junior high school and high school teachers how to teach the game to their students. Laberman says she would like to see Team Handball included as an intramural sport, so more people would try it.

Anyone interested in learning about Team Handball is encouraged to go to one of the team's practices on Tuesdays or Saturdays or to contact the Intramural Office for more information.

### The 1982 Free Throw Contest was held last Tuesday in G. Rollie White Coliseum. Denise Pearce, women's winner, attempts one of her 20 free throws here.

### Sports Club Action

**MEN'S LACROSSE:** Saturday, February 20 at 1:00 on the Drill Field, the TAMU Lacrosse team will take on the team from Sam Houston State. The match-up is sure to be a good one. On Sunday they play Rice here at 1:00. Both are conference opponents.

**RUGBY:** The women's team will travel to New Orleans for the Mardi Gras Tourney this weekend, while the men's team takes on the "Heathens" in College Station, Saturday at 1:00 p.m. on the Drill Field.

**VOLLEYBALL:** The men's A and AA teams are away this weekend. They will be competing against a variety of teams from all over Texas at the College of the Mainlands in Houston.

**WRESTLING:** The TAMU Club travels to Denton and North Texas State University for the Texas State Meet Friday and Saturday.

### Acknowledgements

McDonald's® Intramural Highlights is sponsored each Monday in the Battalion by your local McDonald's® Restaurants at University Drive, Manor East Mall, and Texas Avenue. Pictures by Michel Chang, Steven Ward, and Tom Davies.