

Superdome battle

Aggies, Tigers tangle tonight in New Orleans

by John Wagner
 Sports Editor
 Being a Texas Aggie basketball player means never having a chance to rest — especially early in the season.

Coach Shelby Metcalf's squad, fresh off the plane from Milwaukee, Wis., and Saturday's 73-58 loss to the Marquette Warriors, are in the New Orleans Superdome tonight to take on the LSU Tigers. Tip-off time is 7:30.

The Aggies, 2-3 on the year, made New Orleans the third stop on their whirlwind tour of the United States, via the basketball courts.

Texas A&M began the season by participating in the Great Alaska Shootout in Anchorage, Alaska, finishing seventh out of eight teams. After making a stop in College Station to meet Texas A&I, the Aggies traveled to Milwaukee for Saturday's game. After playing LSU, Texas

A&M has tournaments scheduled in West Virginia, Montana and Connecticut. The Aggies open Southwest Conference play Jan. 4 against the Houston Cougars.

LSU is 4-2 this season, after having lost two close games. The defending national champion North Carolina Tar Heels slipped past the Tigers on national television Saturday afternoon, 47-43. Earlier this year, the University of Hawaii defeated LSU

by two points. LSU beat Loyola of Chicago Monday night, 97-80.

The Tigers will start junior Leonard Mitchell and freshman Jerry Reynolds at forward, sophomore Steffond Johnson at center, and senior Howard Carter and junior Johnny Jones at the guard positions.

Texas A&M will counter with Claude Riley and Roy Jones at forward, Jimmy Gilbert at center and Tyren Naulls and Kenny

Brown at guard. Mitchell, who was hit with a one-game suspension because he violated Tiger coach Dale Brown's curfew rules, is LSU's leading scorer and rebounder. Mitchell sat out the Loyola game. Leading the Aggies' in scoring is Brown, averaging 18.2 points a game as well as shooting at a 58 percent rate. Riley is averaging 15.8 points a game and is leading the team in rebounds with 10.4 a game.

Rice shuts down "Machine Gun"

Three SWC clubs take victories

United Press International
 For a little while it seemed as if the Rice Owls basketball team was heading in the same direction as the football team went this season — straight down.

But suddenly the Owls are on a streak and Tuesday night, they put together their best effort since their surprising triumph last season in the Rainbow Classic.

Facing one of the best scoring machines in the country, the Owls' defense suddenly resembled a wall.

Rice defeated Texas Southern, a team that had been averaging 109 points a game, 86-66. At the same time, Harry "Machine Gun" Kelly could score but 12 points.

Kelly led the nation last year with 27 points a contest and was averaging 25 in Texas Southern's first three games this year — all of which had been victories.

Kenny Austin played Kelly man-for-man much of the night, but Rice coach Tommy Suitts said it was not just Austin who did the job.

"We played great team defense," said Suitts, in his second year as the Owls' coach. "This was an important win for us. We beat a good team and we played excellent defense doing it."

While he wasn't guarding Kelly, Austin fired in 23 points to lead the Owls, who are now 3-2 for the year.

Baylor stayed unbeaten with a 58-55 decision over Oral Roberts while the TCU Horned Frogs bounced back from their only setback of the season to down North Texas, 64-58.

The struggling Texas Longhorns, meanwhile, came close but finally fell in overtime to Xavier, 66-64.

Baylor attacked the zone defense of Oral Roberts with the outside shooting of James Stern, who scored 22 points — all from long range.

Baylor trailed midway through the first half, ran off 10 straight points to take the lead at intermission, fell behind again early in the second half and then jumped in front by eight.

TCU let a nine-point lead in the first half slip away and almost let another lead get away near the end of the game. North Texas closed to within a point with 52 seconds left, but the Horned Frogs hit seven out of eight free shots in the final 33 seconds to hold off North Texas.

The Horned Frogs are now 4-1, having lost their first game over the weekend at Long Beach State.

Texas' Bill Wendlandt hit two free throws with two seconds left in regulation to tie the Longhorns with Xavier, but Texas could manage only two points in the overtime.

A desperation shot at the end of overtime by Robert Hughes failed to drop for Texas, which is now 1-3 on the season under new head coach Bob Weltlich.

ORAL ROBERTS (55)
 Cantrell 6-12 0-0 12, Clement 5-9 0-1 10, Acers 6-14 4-7 16, McGee 1-3 1-4 3, Gottfried 2-6 3-5 7, Williams 0-2 1-2 1, Perry 3-3 0-0 6, Hill 0-0 0-0 0, Totals 23-49 9-19 55.

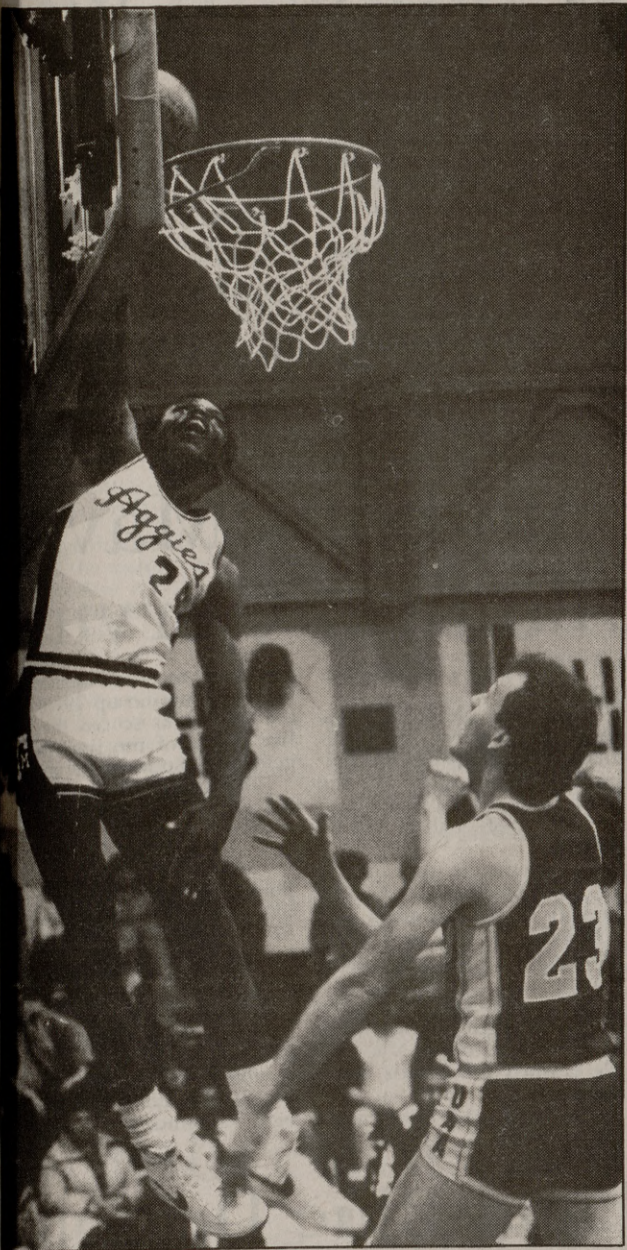
BAYLOR (58)
 Baucham 4-10 1-3 9, Glover 4-5 2-2 10, Hall 1-3 0-0 2, Shakir 2-3 1-3 5, Stern 9-18 4-6 22, Heller 1-4 0-0 2, Kaiser 2-2 0-0 4, Mays 0-2 0-1 0, Dorsey 1-2 2-2 4, Totals 24-49 10-17 58.

Halftime — Baylor 26, Oral Roberts 24. **Fouled Out** — Cantrell, Acers, Stern. **Total Fouls** — Oral Roberts 21, Baylor 21. **Rebounds** — Oral Roberts 32 (Acers 9), Baylor 41 (Baucham 12). **Assists** — Oral Roberts 8 (Gottfried 3), Baylor 15 (Shakir 7). **A** — 5, 150.

TEXAS SOUTHERN (66)
 H. Kelly 5-21 2-3 12, Jones 2-3 2-2 6, Franklin 2-3 3-4 7, Mitchell 3-6 0-0 6, Jefferson 4-8 0-0 8, P. Kelly 2-7 0-0 4, Hillard 6-10 0-0 12, Malone 2-5 0-2 4, Bloodsaw 3-4 1-1 7, Griffin 0-0-0 0. Totals 29-67 8-12 66.

RICE (86)
 Austin 9-18 5-12 23, O'Neal 5-10 2-2 12, Cunningham 2-8-3-4 7, Washington 7-11 2-6 16, Pettit 0-2 0-0 0, Bennett 2-3 2-2 6, Steele 0-2 2-2 2, Johnson 2-4 2-3 6, Barnett 3-5 2-2 8, Shaw 0-1 0-0 0, Witten 1-1 1-1 3, Cashaw 2-4 1-2 3, Semske 0-0 0-0 0, Miller 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 32-70 22-36 86.

Halftime — Rice 48, Texas Southern 31. **Fouled Out** — Mitchell. **Total Fouls** — Texas Southern 31, Rice 17. **Rebounds** — Texas Southern 35 (H. Kelly 9), Rice 53 (Austin 12). **Assists** — Texas Southern 2 (Mitchell 2), Rice 7 (Washington 3). **A** — 3,000.

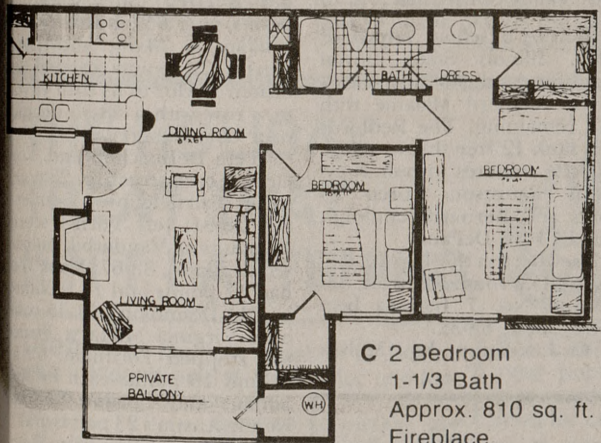


staff photo by David Fisher

The Aggies' Lowell McHenry stuffs the ball as Glen Martens of the University of Alaska-Anchorage Seawolves moves in on defense. Texas A&M, 2-3 on the season, takes on the LSU Tigers tonight at 7:30 in New Orleans' Superdome.

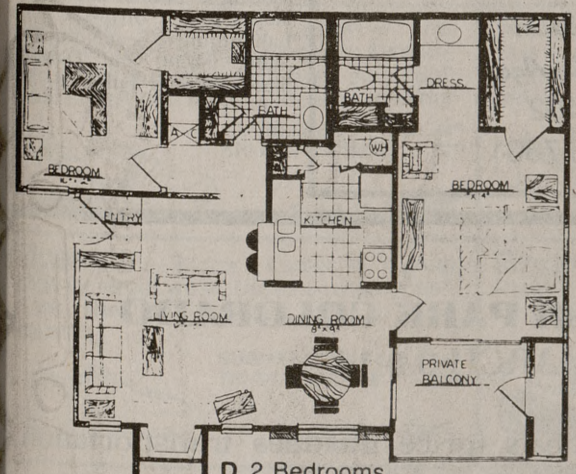
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