

# Rice basketball team ready for 'big game'

**United Press International**  
It has been rare over the past 10 to 12 years that the Rice Owls have been involved in a "big game."  
But they will be involved in one Wednesday night, at least a relatively big one. And the outcome will help determine if the Owls are ready to move out of one Southwest Conference neighborhood into another.  
"We've worked hard and finally gotten in a position to have a crucial game," said Rice coach Tommy Suitts. "Now, if we can win this one, we will be OK."

The Owls, having split their first two league contests, will host the Texas Tech Wednesday night in one of three league games on the agenda.  
A Rice win would firmly implant the Owls in the middle portion of the SWC pack, which would not be all that spectacular but which would be a sharp improvement from the spot in which they usually find themselves.  
The Owls won the SWC in 1970 and since then have not finished any better than fifth. They are the only team never to

have won a game in the league's post-season tournament.  
Their opponent Wednesday night is a sharply improved club that will bring a 2-1 league record into the contest and which has had a week to stew over a 20-point loss at home to Houston.  
"There are probably not many people outside our program who think we can win it," said Suitts, whose team played decently in a losing effort against Texas A&M, played well in a loss to SMU and then beat both TCU and Texas.

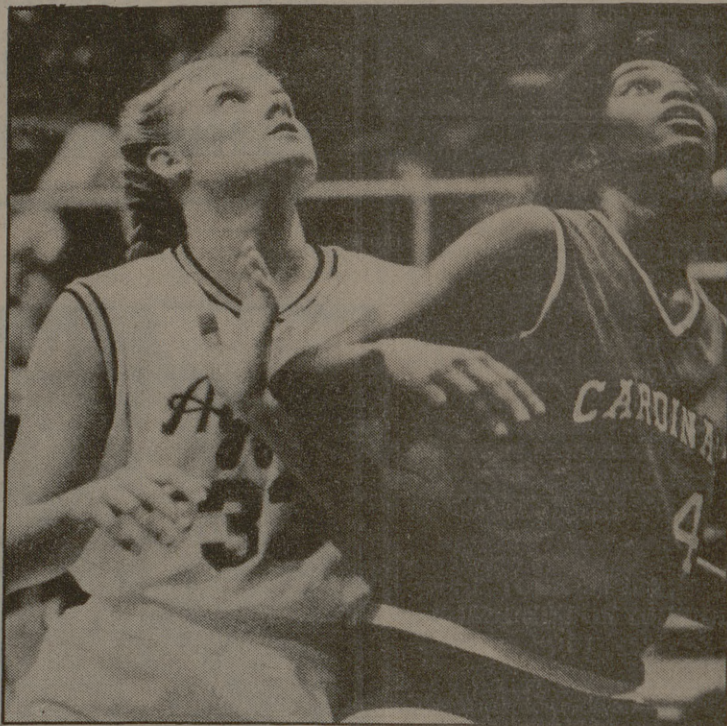


Photo by Donn Friedman

Forward Janet Duckham, No. 33, muscles her way into the lane in a game earlier this season. Duckham had 8 points and 7 rebounds against Wayland Baptist.

# Women looking for win against Mustangs today

By **DONN FRIEDMAN**  
Sports editor

The Texas A&M women's basketball team travels to Dallas today to try and improve their 0-2 SWC record against SMU. The game is scheduled as the first half of a double-header starting at 5 p.m. The men's teams play after the women's match-up.  
Head women's basketball Coach Cherri Rapp said the team was ready to put a notch in the conference win column.  
"Our Christmas break took a toll on us," she said. The team was rusty against Rice but the victory against Wayland Baptist last week showed the Aggies were getting back in tune, Rapp said. The Aggies defeated Wayland Baptist 82-65.  
The women, who have 7-5 record overall, started conference play losing 72-69 to Rice. Post-Michell Tatum and forward Lisa Langston each scored

14 points against the Owls in Houston. Tatum also pulled down 14 rebounds.  
The Aggies then traveled to San Antonio, where behind forward Jenni Edgar's 19 points they defeated the University of Texas at San Antonio 70-68 in a non-conference game.  
Returning to G. Rollie White for another SWC game, Texas A&M fell to Baylor 77-44, despite Tatum's 20 points and 11 rebounds.  
Coming off the loss to Baylor, the Aggies played a conference match-up. Edgar popped in 24 points, and the Ags won handily 82-65.  
Edgar's stats show the presence of an early season shooting slump as the Ags long-range bomber has only made 67 of 117 field goal attempts, 59.9 percent. But she seems to have recovered from that early season shooting slump, Rapp said. Against Wayland Baptist Edgar hit 10 of 17 from the field.

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# NCAA broadcasting rights dispute awaiting action by Supreme Court

**United Press International**

**WASHINGTON**—The federal government Tuesday opposed the NCAA in a dispute pending at the Supreme Court over the group's multi-million-dollar arrangement with television networks to broadcast college football.  
The National Collegiate Athletic Association has asked the high court to rule that it can continue its broadcasting deal, which involved \$74.3 million in payments in 1983, and audiences of up to 22.5 million for each game broadcast.  
A federal appeals court had ruled the package is anti-competitive because it reduces the number of games available to TV viewers nationwide.

Last July, Justice Byron White, one-time All-America halfback, issued an order allowing the NCAA to continue its normal broadcasting schedule until the high court settles the case. The court's decision is likely by July.  
In legal papers submitted to the court Tuesday, the federal government urged the nine justices to uphold the lower court's ruling against the NCAA.  
"It is clear, and both courts below found, that absent these controls the amount of such broadcasting would be much greater, the televised games would better coincide with consumer preferences, and payments received would vary considerably to reflect anticipated

viewer interest in each particular football match-up," government lawyers argued.  
Also, Solicitor General Rex Lee argued, NCAA's joint operating venture restricts the opportunities for smaller schools to appear on television, and reduces the chances for major football schools to appear "as frequently as consumer demand would dictate."  
The exclusive NCAA contracts result in advertisers paying "more than they would pay if schools could sell rights outside the package as well."  
It also allows "the chosen few networks to deliver larger audiences to advertisers than would be the case if there were competing local or regional telecasts

arranged by those schools to sell their television rights to broadcasters but for NCAA restraints," Lee argued.  
The television contracts were challenged by the University of Oklahoma and University of Georgia, big football schools which want to make their own deals.  
NCAA rules restrict their six appearances every two years. Each broadcast can net a school up to \$600,000, plus national publicity.  
The athletic association, composed of 785 member colleges and 100 athletic conferences, has contracts with ABC and CBS to telecast 14 afternoon games each fall. A separate arrangement with Turner Broadcasting System allows the showing of evening games.

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Oklahoma and Georgia, other major football powers, argued the plan's equal payments for every game television nationally and regional amounts to illegal price fixing. Also, the NCAA's threat to exclude members that violate the rules of an illegal boycott, they argued.  
A federal district court agreed, holding the payments were unlawfully fixed. The association placed unenforceable controls on the schools.  
The 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver upheld the ruling on grounds NCAA's rule on the TV schedule violates antitrust law by reducing the number of games that may be shown.  
But the NCAA said plans with similar features have been in effect since 1951 and have not been challenged.

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