

Basketball

vs. Texas
at G. Rollie White
Women 5 p.m.
Men 7:30 p.m.

Where is support?

G. Rollie White Coliseum was once known as the Holler House on the Brazos. Few things evoked more fear in the heart of a basketball coach than the thought of making a road trip to College Station.

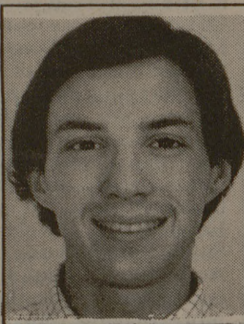
It was in G. Rollie that unfortunate teams were given the task of facing the Dean of Southwest Conference basketball, his students and a 12th Man numbering about 7,000.

Coach Shelby Metcalf vanquished many a foe — 40 of his last 47 — with past teams that earned names like "The Wall."

But part of the strength of that wall was and always will be the 12th Man — the undying support of the student body for their team.

Metcalf has seen that support come and go in his 21 seasons at the helm of the Aggies, but usually the support was there when the team needed it.

Lately, however, it seems that if there is a crowd it is there more in body than in spirit. At times the 12th Man gets into the game like it was the sixth man on the basketball



bill robinson

that needs support the most.

And, as Metcalf said, "experience is something you just can't buy."

"They're improving and they're working hard to earn the crowd's respect," he said. "We need to gain everyone's respect and we need a crowd."

"We had a responsive crowd against Houston and they helped us a lot against TCU."

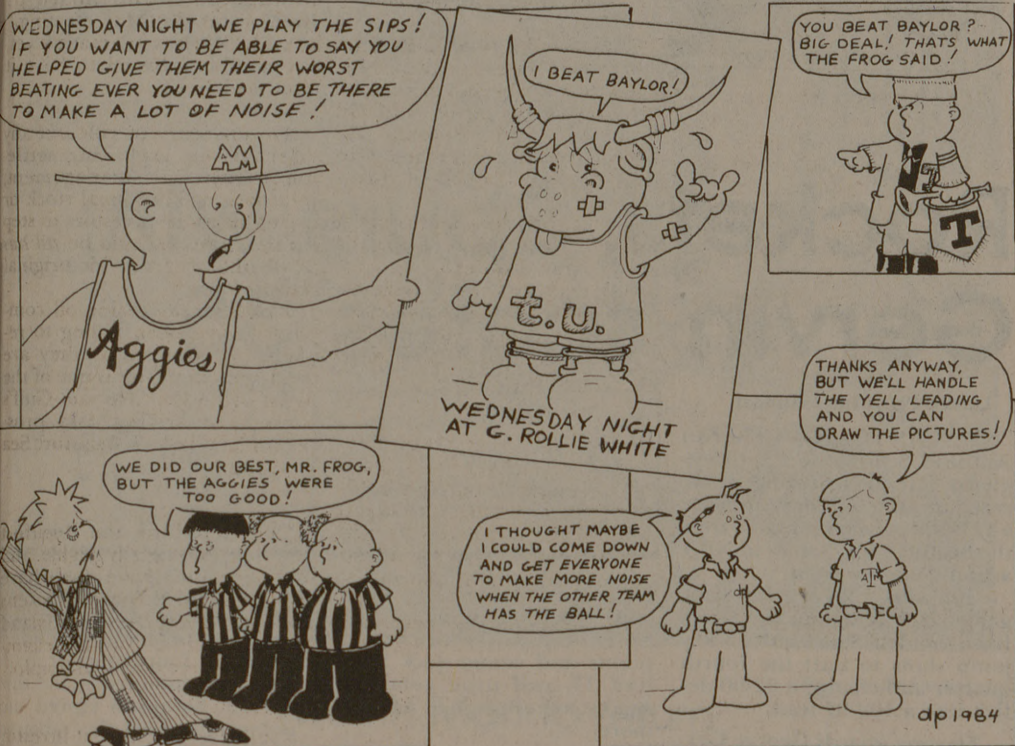
The results of the Houston and TCU games proves how essential a supportive crowd is to a good basketball team.

The Aggies are a good basketball team already, and with a crowd behind them, they become great.

Just look at the results.

All that is necessary to maintain and increase upon those results is for the crowd to be consistent — to develop spirit and enthusiasm — to make G. Rollie what it once was: The Holler House on the Brazos.

(Bill Robinson is the Assistant Sports Editor of The Battalion and is a senior journalism major.)



Aggies face dynasty

By BILL ROBINSON
Assistant sports editor

When someone mentions a basketball dynasty, most often the term evokes thoughts of men's teams like Kentucky, UCLA, DePaul and North Carolina.

It is rare that anyone considers a women's team when assessing dominance in the sport.

But there have been quite a few women's teams that could have competed effectively against a large number of men's basketball programs at major universities.

Consider The University of Texas.

Coach Jody Conradt has led the Longhorns to a top 20 finish each of the last six seasons and her teams at Texas have amassed a 228-43 record.

Awesome. Awesome is the only word that can be used to describe the No. 1 Texas team that comes into G. Rollie White tonight at 5 to face the Texas A&M women.

Aggie coach Cherri Rapp agrees with that assessment.

"Texas doesn't have a weak spot on their whole team," Rapp said. "We will try to pressure their guards. Hopefully this will make them make turnovers and we'll get some easy baskets."

And pressure on the Texas guards is essential to prevent them from getting the ball inside to All-America center Annette Smith.

The Aggies are also strong at center this season and that should provide for an interesting matchup.

Michell Tatum scored 18 points and pulled down 8 rebounds Saturday against Arkansas in a 69-63 loss.

That decision dropped the Aggies to 1-3 in conference but Rapp is still optimistic about Texas A&M's chances.

"Any team can beat any other team on any given night," she said.

But it will be the toughest battle the Aggies have faced all season — almost of David and Goliath proportions — because the Longhorns are at the point where they have little to gain but everything to lose.

Tonight is Texas A&M's final home game of the season. The Aggies close out their schedule in Lubbock Saturday against Texas Tech.



Photo by DEAN SAITO

Coach Shelby Metcalf looks at Aggie comeback against TCU Saturday.

A&M faces Texas

By BILL ROBINSON
Assistant sports editor

Over the years the rivalry between Texas A&M and the University of Texas has not been as intense on the basketball court as it has on the football field.

Perhaps that is why the series statistics are so even over the 67 years since the teams first faced each other for the opening tip-off.

On paper there are many similarities between the Aggies and the Longhorns.

To look at shooting, scoring and rebounding statistics, it would seem that the two teams are fairly evenly matched. And if the youth and inexperience of each team is considered that assessment becomes even more plausible.

Only the record-book belies that comparison.

While the Aggies have posted a respectable 10-7 record this season, 3-3 in the Southwest Conference, Texas' record is a dismal 5-11, 1-4 in conference.

And the Aggies have a five-game win streak against Texas dating back to the 1980-81 season. What's more, the Longhorns are in the midst of a 17-game conference road-game losing streak dating back to January 9, 1982. They have won only one on the road since that date.

Coach Shelby Metcalf said the game should prove interesting.

"I'd just like to keep that (the streaks) intact," Metcalf said. "It's going to be a tough game for us."

"They played Arkansas real close and had a 25 point turnaround against Baylor in their last game."

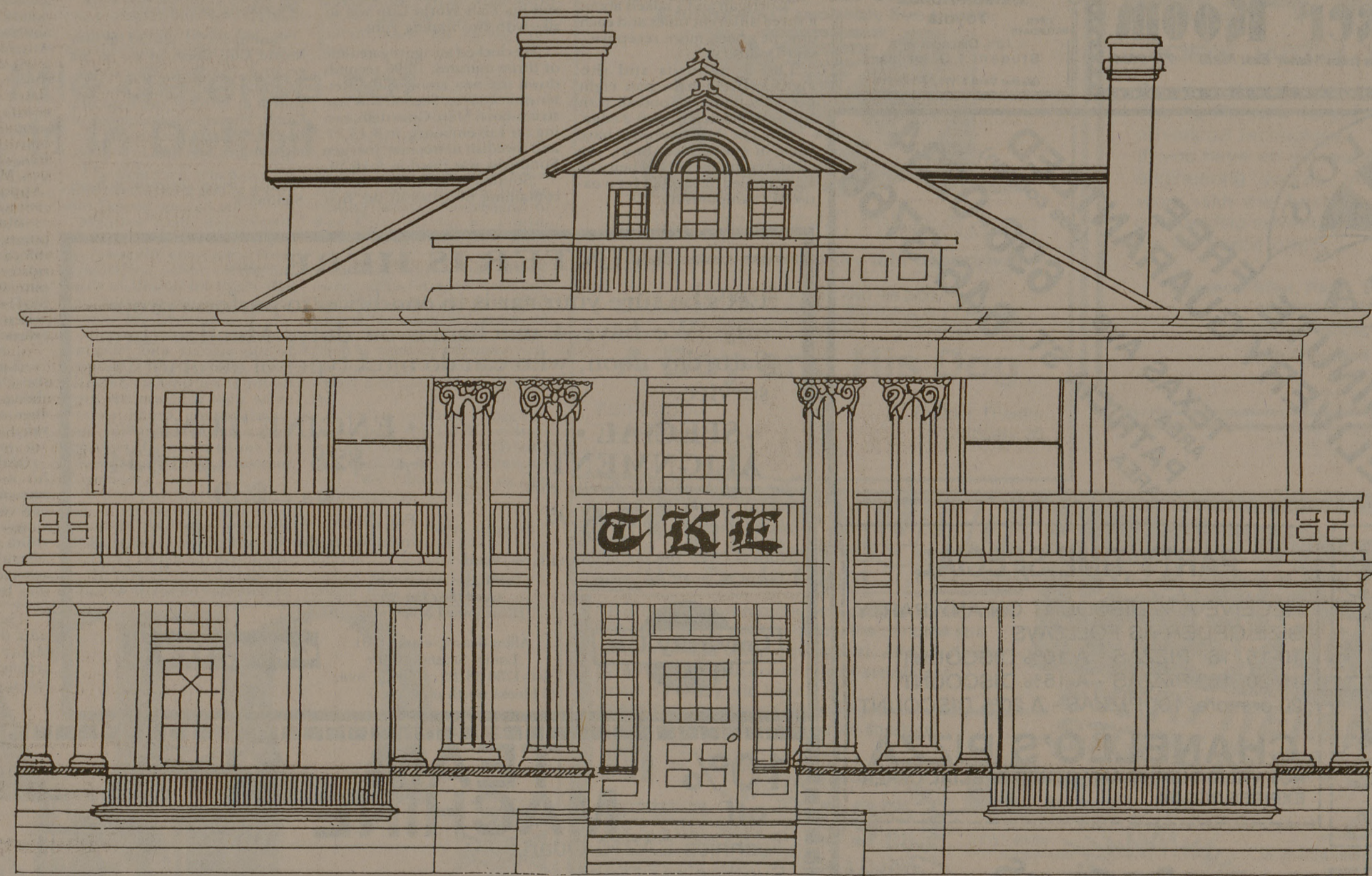
Even so, the Longhorns haven't been noted for playing outstanding basketball this season and that turnaround came against a Baylor team that has lost 11 straight and is shooting just 38 percent from the floor.

But the Aggies can't afford to be lazy.

Texas A&M needs to contain the Longhorn's 6-4 forward Carlton Cooper, who is averaging 17.9 points while pulling down 9.4 rebounds each game. Other threats are 6-8 center David Seitz and 6-3 guard Marcus Bolden.

Guards Todd Holloway and Kenny Brown continue to lead the Aggies in scoring and team rebounding is second in the conference.

Tip-off for the game is 7:30 p.m. in G. Rollie White.



Tau Kappa Epsilon

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