

Basketball

Aggies vs. SMU
at The Summit, Houston
6 p.m.

SWC quarterfinals tonight

A&M confident of upset

HOUSTON — The ninth Southwest Conference basketball tournament resumes tonight with four clubs squabbling for the right to face the league's two powerhouses.

The Aggies play Southern Methodist, the SWC's third place finisher during the regular season, at 6 p.m. The Ponies are hopeful of joining Houston and Arkansas in the NCAA tournament.

That game will be followed by a matchup between Texas Tech and Rice — the Owls making their first ever appearance in the tournament quarterfinals.

Even though the Aggies finished fifth in the regular season and lost to SMU twice during the regular season, Coach Shelby Metcalf is confident.

"There is not a player on our team that doesn't think we can win," Metcalf said. "That's what makes for upsets."

"But I know this. We will have to draw a royal flush. We will have to play as good as we've played all year to win. We could play hard and SMU could still blow us out. I'm

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reach Sunday afternoon's finals.

Fifth-ranked Houston, which will meet the Tech-Rice winner Saturday night, and No. 8 Arkansas, which will take on the SMU-A&M survivor in the semifinals, are expected to meet for the third consecutive Sunday.

If the Hogs and Cougars do meet in the title game, the outcome will likely determine which team gets to play in the Midwest Regional and which one will be sent into the West Regional of the NCAA tournament.

"If we lose we will probably go to Pullman, Wash.," said Houston coach Guy Lewis. "That's as far away as they could send us."

The SMU Mustangs bring a 24-6 record into the tournament and beat Texas A&M in their two previous meetings.

"But the only way we did it the last time," said SMU coach Dave Bliss, "is for Larry Davis (a forward who has a 40 percent free throw shooting average) to make nine out of 10 free throws."

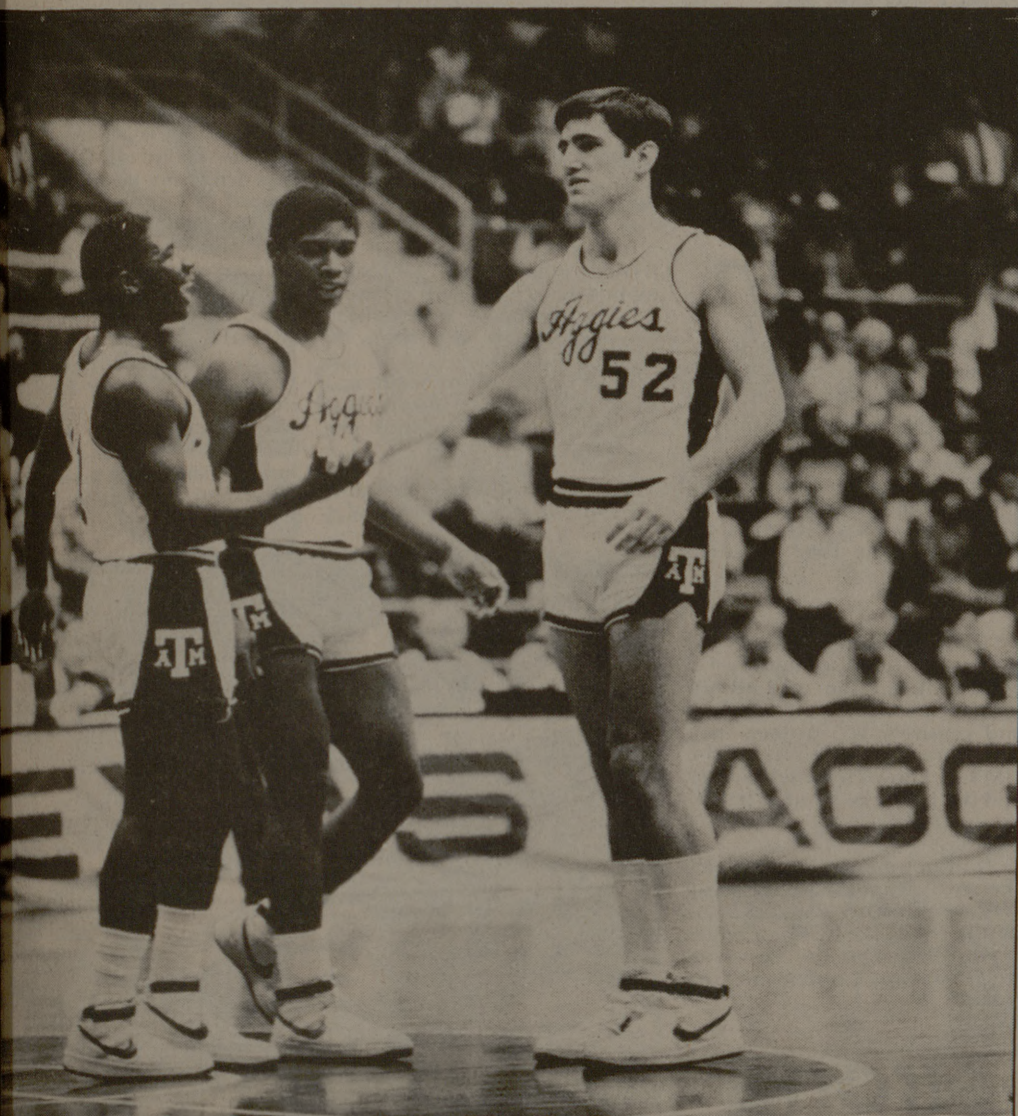


Photo by JOHN RYAN

Todd Holloway and Roger Bock celebrate the Aggies' 75-54 victory over Texas Tuesday with a high-five. Hol-

loway celebrated his selection as the SWC Newcomer of the Year yesterday.

Rice at SWC quarterfinals for 1st time

United Press International

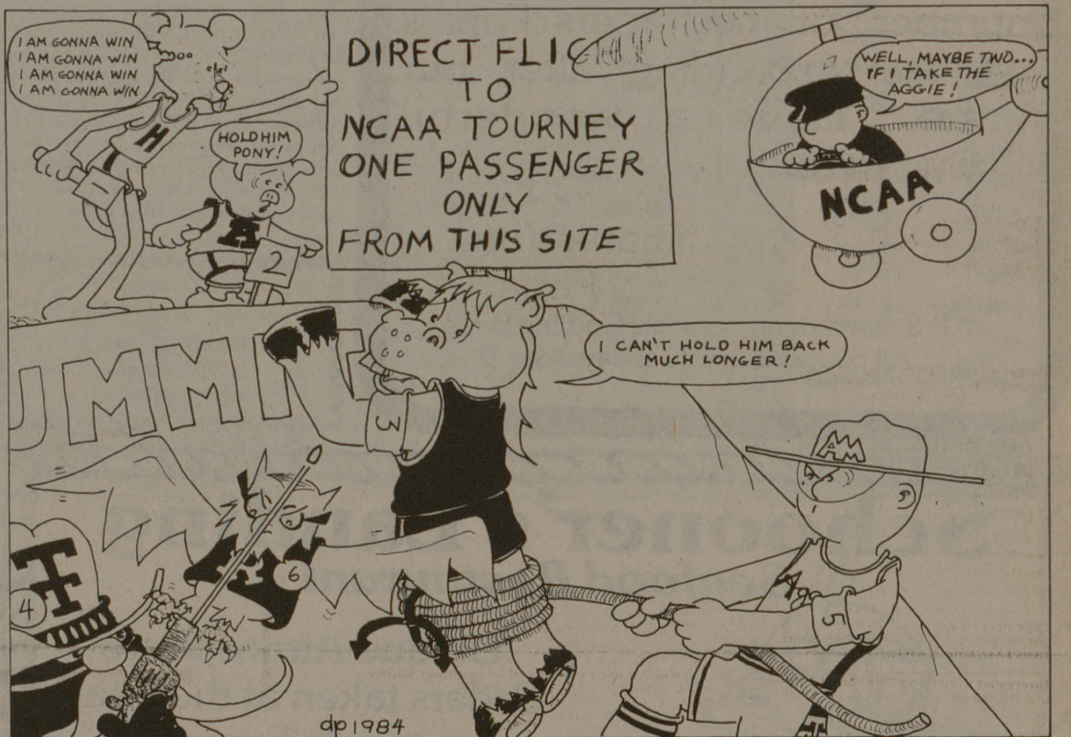
HOUSTON — Rice coach Tommy Suits does not get too many opportunities to sound off before a large audience and when he did Thursday he took advantage of it.

Suits, in his third season as the Owls coach, has brought his team to the SWC tournament quarterfinals for the first time.

Suits said he thought every conference team should come to the glamour portion of the league tournament instead of having home-sites to start the event.

"I proposed that last year," Suits said, "but they turned me down. I guess they thought it was just my way of trying to get here since they probably felt I never would any other way."

"But now that I am here maybe they will vote differently."



Aggie star Holloway top SWC newcomer

United Press International

HOUSTON — Texas A&M freshman Todd Holloway was named Southwest Conference newcomer of the year, the only Aggie to receive all-conference honors this season.

Holloway, the Aggies starting point guard, led Texas A&M to a 14-13 record, averaging 12.4 points per game. The Aggies were preseason favorites to occupy the SWC cellar — they finished this year fifth in the conference.

He is the Aggies leader in assists and steals. Holloway started 23 games this season for the Aggies.

Akeem Olajuwon and Michael Young, two of the cornerstones in what has been the most successful streak in the history of Southwest Conference basketball, were named Thursday as unanimous selections to the 1984 United Press International all-conference team.

Olajuwon came to the University of Houston from the other side of the globe and Young walked to the campus from just a few blocks away, but together they keyed a string of 39 consecutive wins within the conference, two straight league titles and two trips to the Final Four.

Young, the conference's

leading scorer, and Olajuwon, the nation's leading rebounder, were joined on this year's first unit by teammate Alvin Franklin and two members of the Arkansas Razorbacks — 7-foot Joe Kleine and playmaking guard Alvin Robertson.

Of that group only Robertson and Young are seniors. Olajuwon and Young are the only repeaters from the 1983 first team.

Olajuwon was selected player of the year in the league, Houston coach Guy Lewis was named coach of the year.

The UPI all-conference team was chosen by a select group of writers and broadcasters.

This year's second team was made up of SMU's Jon Koncak and Carl Wright, Carlton Cooper of Texas, Dennis Nutt of TCU and Bubba Jennings of Texas Tech.

Going into the SWC tournament, which resumes in Houston Friday night, Young was the conference's scoring leader with 20.7 points per game. Olajuwon, meanwhile, had claimed 13.9 rebounds per contest, easily the tops in the nation.

Together they have kept the Cougars among the nation's elite despite the fact Clyde Drexler and Larry Micheaux — two of the key members of the

1983 squad — moved on to the pros this season.

Franklin, meanwhile, steadily improved during the year to solidify the Cougars' backcourt and wound up averaging 12 points per game.

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