

# Sports

## Ags still knocking at SWC title door

A&M takes slim hope to Arkansas

By **KEN SURY**  
Assistant Sports Editor

The back door to the Southwest Conference title hasn't closed on Texas A&M yet.

Although that door isn't wide open, the Aggies still could share the SWC championship with current co-leaders Texas and TCU if they beat Arkansas in Barnhill Arena Saturday.

But it's not that simple.

A&M (17-10 overall and 11-4 in the SWC) hasn't beaten Arkansas in Fayetteville since 1971. But while the Razorbacks (12-14 overall and 4-11 in the SWC) are suffering their worst season since 1974, the Aggies won't be taking them lightly in their 108 p.m. regionally televised contest.

"Our biggest thing right now is to get ready for Arkansas," A&M guard Don Marbury said. "We'll need to play smart and play hard."

But defeating Arkansas will not be enough for A&M to claim the title.

The Ags need Texas Tech to pull another upset as it did Wednesday in knocking off front-runner TCU, 62-52. Tech travels to Austin Sunday to play Texas, which hasn't lost a SWC game at home this season.

A&M also needs Houston to drop TCU to its fourth SWC loss Saturday in Hofheinz Pavilion.

"Houston's such an up-and-down team this year," Marbury said. "TCU could have trouble again Saturday. I feel like it's gonna be a good game."

The Cougars may have an added incentive to beat TCU since it will be Houston Coach Guy Lewis' final game in Hofheinz Pavilion.

But while A&M Coach Shelby Metcalf knows the possibilities for a SWC title are there, he said he'll only concern himself with Arkansas.

"(The SWC championship's) out of our control," Metcalf said. "The thing you have to consider is that TCU and Texas haven't lost a game

at home. We lost a home game and that's the difference."

That home game was the Aggies' 58-56 loss to SMU, which started A&M's slide from the top of the SWC to its current third-place status.

"SMU hurt us physically and we started losing," A&M guard Todd Holloway said. "But I think we're back together after these last three wins (over Texas Tech, Houston and Rice)."

In Wednesday's game at Autry Court, the always-vocal Rice students tried to help break A&M's current win streak through verbal abuse.

"S-M-U, S-M-U," was one of the chants the students shouted at Holloway when he approached the free-throw line. Holloway missed the front-end of a one-and-one at the end of the SMU game which would have sent the game into overtime.

But Holloway shrugged off the shouts as he hit 13-of-14 free throws on the night to help A&M beat Rice, 70-62.

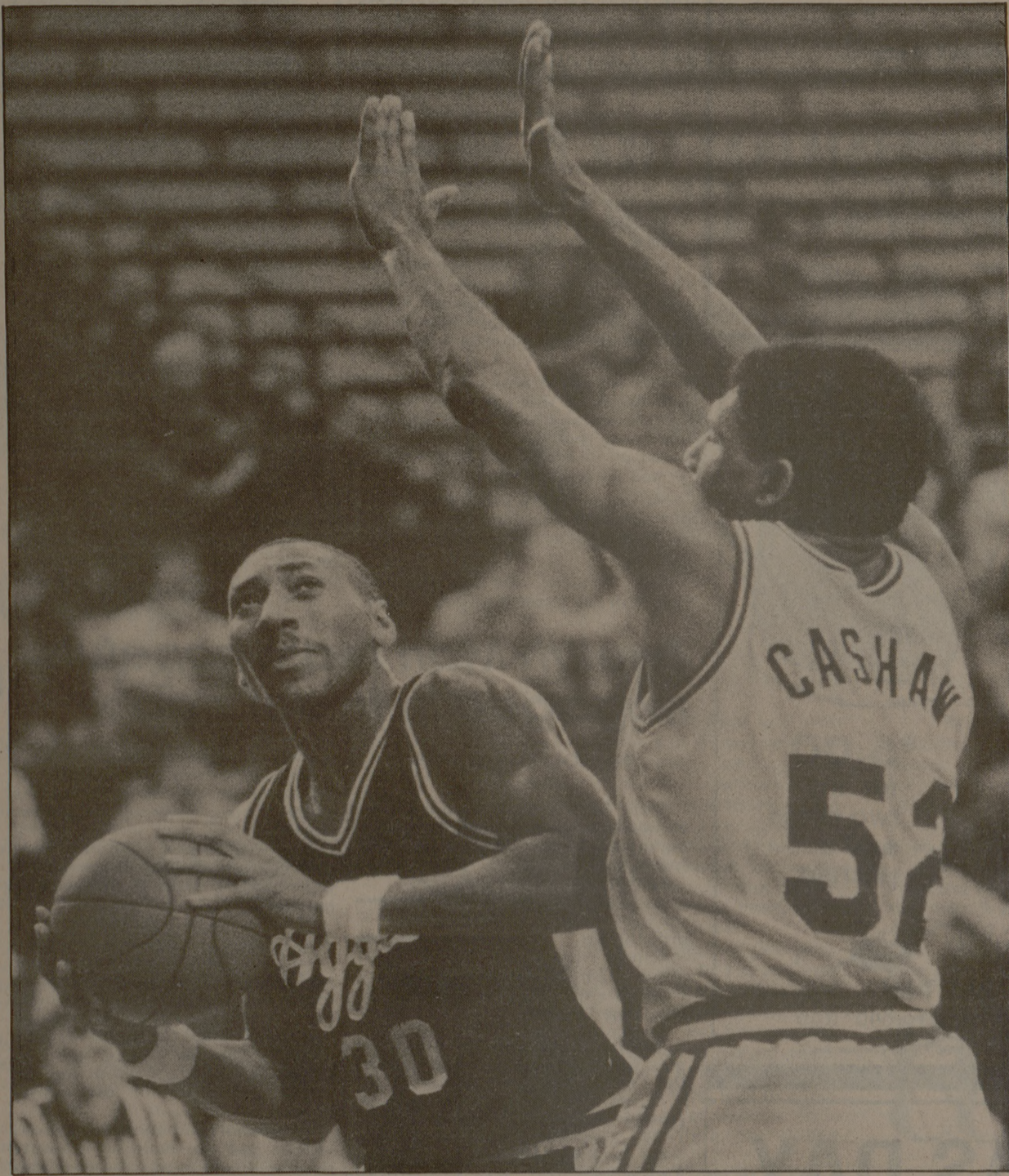
Holloway and Marbury received a lot of abuse from the Rice students due to the pair's Jan. 16 charge of marijuana possession in Calvert.

One spectator had a cellophane bag of fake marijuana which he continually waved in the direction of the two A&M guards.

The Owl fans had a vast repertoire of chants aimed at Marbury and Holloway on the night, including "Junn-kie," "Buss-ted," "Huntsville" and "Micheal Ray," the latter in reference to the NBA's disqualification of New Jersey Net Micheal Ray Richardson for using cocaine.

But Wednesday's abuse was only a prelude to what the Aggies can expect in Arkansas. The weather in the Ozarks isn't always hospitable for airplane landings and the Barnhill Arena fans aren't ever hospitable to opponents.

"You know sometimes getting in and out of Fayetteville is tougher than playing the Razorbacks," Metcalf said.



A&M's Jimmie Gilbert moves in position for a shot, despite pressure from Rice's Terrence

Cashaw Wednesday night. The Aggies close the SWC regular season against Arkansas Saturday.

Photo by DEAN SAITO

## Lady Ags gun for upset in the Ozarks

By **DOUG HALL**  
Sports Writer

Saturday's 4:30 p.m. game between Texas A&M and Arkansas has all the makings of a great basketball game:

• Location — The fourth-place Lady Aggies (16-11, 9-6) must travel to Fayetteville, Ark., in the

### Women's Basketball

heart of the Ozark Mountains, to play the third-place Arkansas Lady Razorbacks, who are 10-1 in Barnhill Arena this season.

• Importance — Arkansas (20-6, 12-3) still has a chance of moving into second place and thus receiving an opening round bye in next week's SWC postseason tournament in Dallas.

A&M is trying to end its second season under Coach Lynn Hickey with momentum going into the conference tourney.

• Revenge — The Lady Ags are out to avenge their 74-65 loss at the hands of the Razorbacks earlier this season in G. Rollie White Coliseum. A&M went into the locker room at the half leading 37-28, but suffered through a second-half lapse which allowed Arkansas to rally for the win.

A&M Assistant Coach Eileen Feeney said the Lady Ags have taken several steps in this week's workouts to prevent another UA comeback.

"Arkansas is similar to Texas Tech on offense because they are very patient," Feeney said. "So we have been working on adjusting our defenses. Every time (UA) comes down the floor, we'll give them a new look."

Arkansas Assistant Coach Don Paul said the A&M game also is important for his team.

"We think (the Lady Aggies) are playing a lot better now than when we played them earlier this year," Paul said. "We're not taking (A&M) lightly."

"Their girls are probably thinking, 'Hey, we know we can beat them.' They have to be fired up."

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