

Aggie cagers seek first SWC win tonight

By SCOTT WUDEL
Of The Battalion Staff

The Texas A&M basketball team could use some good news.

The Aggies have lost nine of their last 10 games and hope to climb out of a rut against the University of Houston tonight at 7:30 at G. Rollie White Coliseum.

A&M, 5-13, is winless in seven contests against Southwest Conference opponents this season.

The Aggies have not been 0-8 since 1954, when they lost their first 10 conference games before finishing 1-11.

The Houston Cougars bring a 12-6 record to the Coliseum and hope to improve their 4-3 SWC mark. UH was upset by Southern Methodist University last Saturday 81-75.

The game will be televised regionally by Home Sports Entertainment.

A&M coach Kermit Davis Jr. is well aware of the team's problems this season.

"Nobody likes getting beat, nobody likes losing," Davis said. "Nobody on our staff, nobody on our team has accepted losing, that's part of the trials and tribulations of getting something going."

A&M's last win came two weeks ago, when they rolled over nonconference opponent Centenary 103-82 in College Station.

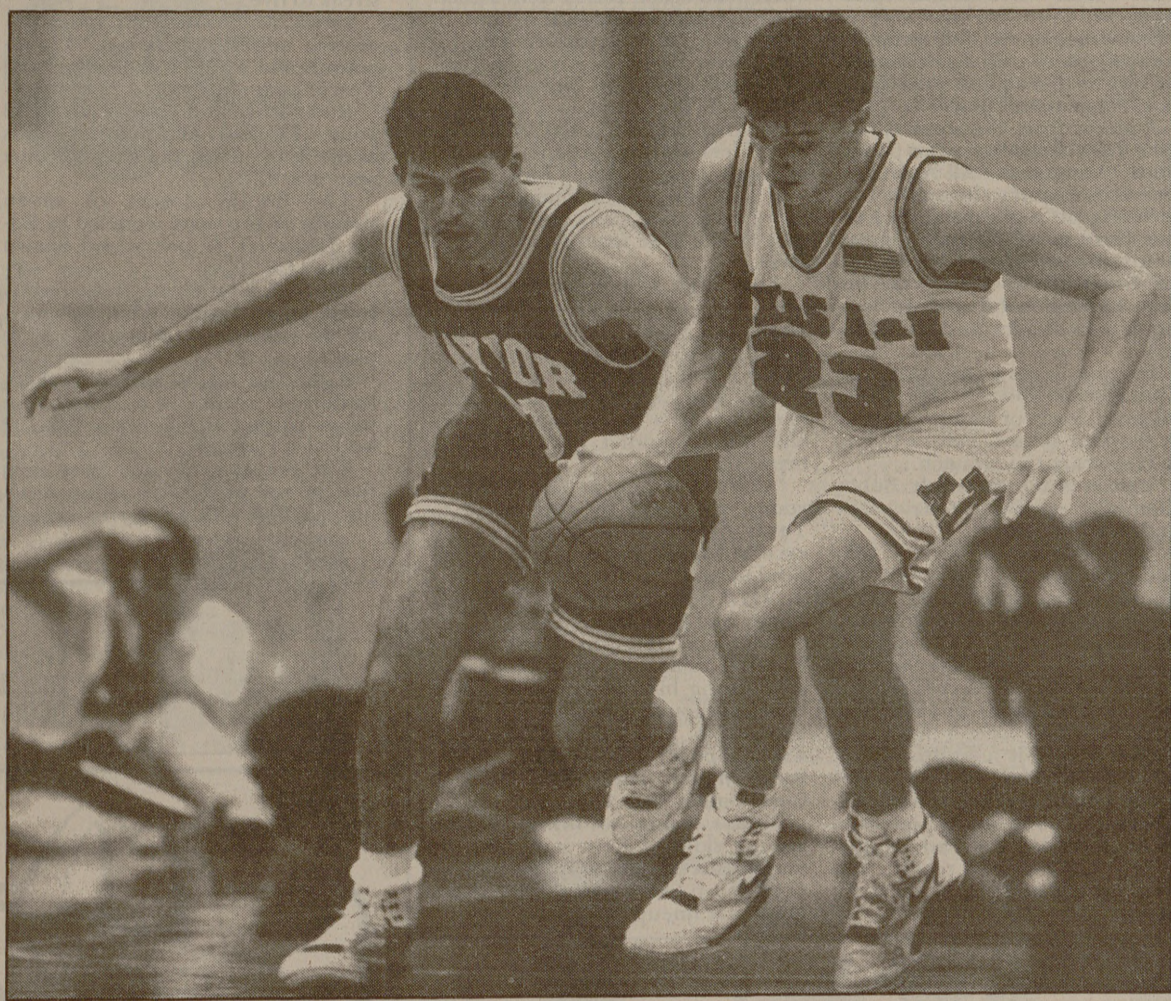
The Aggies have been defeated by more than 20 points in each of their last two meetings against SWC teams in the last week.

Davis said opponents see A&M as an easy target.

"When you have a lack of size and a lack of depth, no matter what, defensively you get taken advantage of," he said. "When you're not winning a lot of games, teams feel more confident playing against you."

Davis said he plans to take advantage of cheap baskets against the Cougars, or slow down UH by running time off the clock.

"The way we have to play Houston, you've got to either score in the first 10 seconds of the (shot) clock, or the last 15 seconds," he said. "A-



HUY THANH NGUYEN/The Battalion

A&M guard Brooks Thompson, who scored a career-high 22 points against Rice on Saturday, and the rest of the Aggies play the Houston Cougars tonight in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

nothing between that is not a good shot for us."

Davis also said A&M rebounding is critical to the Aggies' chances of upsetting Houston.

The Cougars boast one of the top rebounding tandems in the conference.

Alvaro Teheran, UH's 7-1 center,

posts up for more than nine rebounds a game, while 6-5 forward Darrell Mickens pulls down a 9.2 average.

The Cougars leading scorer is Byron Smith, who is averaging more than 18 points a game.

The Aggies are lead by Lynn Suber, with 14.4 points a game.

Houston has won seven of the last eight meetings against A&M, including both contests last season. A&M last victory over the Cougars was in the 1989 SWC Postseason Classic.

Davis said he believes tonight's game will be decided in the first five minutes.

The Aggies are 3-4 at home.

Rebels' stronghold on No. 1 loosening

Associated Press

UNLV continues unbeaten, but the Runnin' Rebels' dominance is no longer unquestioned.

For the first time in four weeks UNLV (15-0) failed to get all 64 first-place votes in weekly poll of sports writers and broadcasters.

Arkansas remained in the No. 2 position after victories over Texas A&M and Baylor.

In other Southwest Conference news the Texas Longhorns



were hoping to jump into the Top 25, but the team failed to even come close.

Seton Hall, the No. 25 team, received 161 votes while Texas could only manage 21 after victories over Texas Tech and Texas Christian.

In the poll released Monday, two voters picked Ohio State as No. 1. The Buckeyes moved from fourth to third after beating Indiana and Minnesota last week.

Ohio State (17-0) was one of four teams in last week's Top 10 which did not lose.

The others were UNLV, a winner over UC-Santa Barbara and Louisville; Arkansas and St. John's, which jumped from No. 10 to fifth with victories over Connecticut and Villanova.

UNLV, the defending national champion, is on a 26-game winning streak and has been No. 1 for 11 straight weeks. In the latest poll, the Runnin' Rebels got 1,598 points, 82 points more than Arkansas and 108 more than Ohio State.

Completing the Top 10 are No. 4 Indiana, St. John's, Arizona, Duke, Syracuse, North Carolina and Kentucky. Arizona dropped to sixth from fifth; Duke moved from ninth to seventh; Syracuse dropped from sixth to eighth; North Carolina dropped from No. 7 to No. 9 and Kentucky dipped from eighth to 10th.

Nebraska (17-2) advanced three spots to No. 11.

Completing the Top 25 are UCLA, Utah, Louisiana State, Virginia, East Tennessee State, Southern Mississippi, Georgetown, Pittsburgh, New Mexico State, Oklahoma, New Orleans, Georgia Tech, Kansas, Seton Hall.

Georgia Tech, which also beat Clemson and North Carolina last week, returned to the rankings after having missed four of the last six weeks. The Yellow Jackets had been as high as 14th earlier in the season.

Kansas is in the poll for the first time this season after being No. 1 for four weeks last season and never falling out of the Top Five. The Jayhawks beat Wichita State and Colorado last week.

Seton Hall (13-4), which handed Connecticut its fifth straight loss on Saturday, re-joined the Top 25 after dropping out last week.

Connecticut, which was 19th, dropped from the poll after matching last season's loss total when the Huskies went 31-6 and fell just short of their first Final Four.

Michigan State (12-6), which was 22nd last week and had been No. 4 in the preseason poll, lost both games last week and dropped out, while South Carolina (14-5), which had been No. 25, split two games last week but fell out as well.

Top 25

The Top Twenty Five teams in The Associated Press 1990-91 college basketball poll. First-place votes are in parentheses, last week's position and records through Jan. 27 are listed:

| | |
|-------------------------|------|
| 1. UNLV (62) 1 | 15-0 |
| 2. Arkansas 2 | 20-1 |
| 3. Ohio St. 4 | 17-0 |
| 4. Indiana 3 | 18-2 |
| 5. St. John's 10 | 15-2 |
| 6. Arizona 5 | 16-3 |
| 7. Duke 9 | 16-4 |
| 8. Syracuse 6 | 17-3 |
| 9. North Carolina 7 | 14-3 |
| 10. Kentucky 8 | 15-3 |
| 11. Nebraska 11 | 17-2 |
| 12. UCLA 11 | 15-4 |
| 13. Utah 20 | 19-1 |
| 14. LSU 16 | 13-4 |
| 15. Virginia 18 | 14-4 |
| 16. E. Tennessee St. 12 | 15-2 |
| 17. Southern Miss. 15 | 12-2 |
| 18. Georgetown 21 | 12-5 |
| 19. Pittsburgh 17 | 15-5 |
| 20. New Mexico St. 23 | 15-2 |
| 21. Oklahoma 13 | 14-5 |
| 22. New Orleans 24 | 17-2 |
| 23. Georgia Tech | 12-5 |
| 24. Kansas | 13-4 |
| 25. Seton Hall | 13-4 |

Legendary Gridder Grange dies of pneumonia

LAKE WALES, Fla. (AP) — Red Grange, football's "Galloping Ghost" whose blazing speed catapulted the game to front-page headlines, died Monday at a Lake Wales hospital after a lengthy illness. He was 87.

Grange, who had been hospitalized since July and on the critical list for a week, died of complications from pneumonia about 4 a.m.

After a sensational career at Illinois ended in 1925, Grange signed a contract with the Chicago Bears. His impact was immediate.

On Thanksgiving Day, a crowd of 36,000, then a record for a pro football game, packed Wrigley Field to watch the Bears play a scoreless tie with the Chicago Cardinals.

With Grange the drawing card, the Bears went on a 12-day, eight-city barnstorming tour. The Bears drew 73,000 to the Polo Grounds for a game against the New York Giants, a turnout that did much to save the financially troubled New York franchise. Another 75,000 turned out in the Los Angeles Coliseum to watch

the Bears play the Los Angeles Tigers.

A glimpse of the future was provided when, before the 1926 season, his agent demanded a five-figure salary and one-third ownership of the Bears on the threat of Grange holding out.

Bears owner George Halas refused the demand, and Grange's appeal was such that he was able to field a nine-team American Football League to challenge the NFL. The rival league lasted a year.

Grange finished up his pro career with the Bears. He spent 13 years as player, coach and promoter of pro football and was a charter member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

He wound up his playing days in 1934 with the Bears, finishing his career as a pass receiver and defensive back. Grange scored 56 touchdowns in his pro career.

Grange, nicknamed "Red" in his younger days for his hair color, made his jersey number "77" famous during the years 1923-25 at Illinois.

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