

**Pre-Vet Meeting**

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Wed, March 10<sup>th</sup>  
8:30 p.m. MSC 226  
**Dr. Larry D. Claborn**  
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Are you looking for a summer job or internship but don't know where to begin? Well, look no further. The Career Center is offering a free job search seminar for students who are interested in learning how to find summer jobs or internships. The seminar will be held on March 11th at 3:00 p.m. in Rudder 302.

**Surprise victory over Rice has A&M primed for tournament**

By WILLIAM HARRISON

According to the Texas A&M men's basketball team, their biggest win of the year, a season-ending upset knocking the Rice Owls out of the Southwest Conference co-championship just isn't good enough.

The Aggies shocked the Owls 82-76 Saturday in front of 5,010 vocal fans at Autry Court, otherwise known as the "Jungle Gym." A&M head coach Tony Barone said the game was a big win, because the team stepped up with nothing to gain except to out-play a team poised to become conference champions.

"We were going to play Houston in the first round of the tournament whether we won or lost, so the game for us shouldn't have had any meaning," Barone said.

"But these kids stepped up and played with tremendous intensity, and that gives you some momentum going into the tournament."

Out of breath as they walked out of a long, physical practice at G. Rollie White, the Aggies talked like it was business as usual after the Rice win, even though their first contest in the SWC tourney against the physical Houston Cougars looms over them.

A&M point guard David Edwards said that the team beat the Owls more mentally than physically, and were confident they could beat Rice after a last second one-point loss in January at A&M.

"They don't have great players on their team, (and) we did everything we had to do in order for us to win," Edwards said.

"We took them out of everything they were trying to do." A&M forward Damon Johnson said the team picked up the pace against the Owls, understanding and putting the game's implications into perspective.

"Coach made it seem like it was a championship game, (be-

cause) it was a championship game for them, and everybody knows there's no credit for second place," Johnson said.

"Our main objective was to be a spoiler and that's what we were."

Barone said that his team played, for the most part, a good game, offensively taking advantage of early inside baskets and defensively overloading the Owls' scorers and offensive game plan with good intensity.

"We put more pressure on them, and I think if you're going to win a championship, you have to handle pressure," Barone said.

"I felt that our team played with a good focus. Rice was undefeated at home, and our defensive intensity in the first half was excellent, and it was a good win for us." He added.

Johnson said that Rice's center Brent Scott had a difficult time getting the ball and that messed up the Owls' game plan because A&M was smothering him with a lot of players and a lot of different defenses.

"We pressured the ball. It's hard to make a pass when you have somebody all in your face, (and) it's hard to catch the ball when you can't even be seen," he said.

The Aggies face immediate problems as they prepare to face a tough first round match-up against Houston.

Johnson said that Barone and the team were anticipating Houston's physical play by pitting themselves against each other in hard practices, like they did to prepare for Rice.

"Coach wants to have nice, short, crisp workouts, but they have to be crisp and they have to be a 110 percent effort," Johnson said.

"We're trying to get used to what Houston does - they play physical, (and) the only way to get used to it in a game is to have it in practice."

**Gortana wins again**

Aggies finish a shot off pace to take second place

STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

Junior Marco Gortana won his second golf tournament of the young Spring season Tuesday after firing a final round 68 for a 213 total and a two-stroke victory at the Louisiana Classics.

"Ever since the first tournament in Hawaii I have been in a groove," Gortana said. "I am just playing well and with a lot of confidence."

Gortana is the first Aggie to win two tournaments in a season since 1984 when All-American Phillip Parkin accomplished the

feat. A&M coach Bob Ellis said that Gortana has a shot at All-American honors as well.

"I think Marco has an excellent chance to be an All-American," he said. "He came of age in Hawaii, and he has developed into a solid player."

Southwestern Louisiana won the team championship over A&M by one shot despite a late charge which saw the Aggies make up nine shots in as many holes.

"I am very proud of the way our kids fought back," Ellis said.

**Lady Aggies**

Continued from Page 7

Methodist plays sixth-seeded Houston at 2 p.m. while second-seeded Texas tackles seventh-seeded Rice at 8 p.m.

If A&M does not win the tournament and automatic bid to the NCAA tournament, Hickey said she is not sure if the Aggies will be involved in further post season play.

"I don't think we will get a Na-

tional Invitational Tournament bid because there have been many upsets in the Big 8 and Southeastern Conference tournaments," Hickey said. "It will be interesting to see what the NCAA does because there will be many 20 win teams floating around."

Hickey added that A&M deserves some tournament success.

"Our girls have a real good work ethic and we have a good season," she said. "There were a couple of games we should have won but didn't. Their attitudes remained positive."

"They deserve some magic."

**Norwood**

Continued from Page 7

is either a bold-faced liar or a gung-ho Texan wanting nothing to do with our president's home state.

Profit motive aside, the ill logic surrounding conference tournaments comes in the smaller leagues, where tourney winners receive automatic bids. Never mind that the regular season champions sweated and bled their way through nearly 30 games over three months to earn their title. In the minds of those who offer NCAA Tournament bids, the team that wins the conference tourney goes to the Big Dance, leaving everyone else trying to even make it to the NIT.

If only the tournament winners received bids to the NCAA's in every league, imagine the mayhem in the larger conferences. Here in the SWC, the potential for upsets in this year's tournament is a great one. Regular season champ Southern Methodist has a shaky hold on the top seed, and Houston and Rice have both been schizophrenic throughout the past two months.

After defeating Rice at Autry Court Saturday, Tony Barone's Texas A&M squad is probably feeling more confident than any other team in the SWC right now. That confidence could conceivably manifest itself in a SWC Tournament championship this weekend. If the NCAA followed the guidelines set for smaller leagues,

A&M would get the SWC's only bid.

A&M has improved greatly, mind you. But SMU has earned their expected NCAA invite, in addition to the at-large bids that Houston and Rice are in the running for.

Some tournament winners do benefit, and deservedly so, from automatic bids. A prime example comes from the Sun Belt Conference where Western Kentucky, a team previously on the bubble for an at-large bid, defeated 13th-ranked New Orleans in the tournament championship game. With the Privateers assured of a high seed, 24-5 WKU doesn't have to worry about settling for the NIT now.

The Hilltoppers' case is a rare one, though. Every year, many bubble teams who played tough regular season schedules have ended up on the outside of the NCAA's looking in while such conference tournament champs as Coastal Carolina, Siena and Campbell are routed in the opening round by the top seeds. It's hardly fair, but whining about something that will not change accomplishes zilch.

All we can do is hope that as many deserving teams as possible get NCAA bids this year, including Houston. And we can also hope that more conferences follow the lead of the Big 10, where there is no postseason tournament.

Having the regular season champ gain the automatic bid is the fairest method, as the Big 10 has proved. Even if Indiana is the team that gets it.

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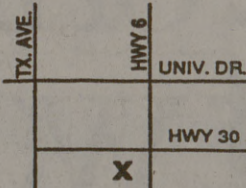
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