Broussard And Company

Owls Invade

By RONNIE KLINE

Same old story at College Station's White coliseum: "Oh, that Broussard and Oh, those free throws!" Playing for ten minutes as if they really meant business, the Rice Owls finally succumbed to a strong Aggie five, which could go all the way, by a score of 88-73. In those first ten minutes, Jim Fox hit ten points, and with 9:36 remaining in the half, the farmers held a slight 25-24 margin. From then on, the Aggs combined some fine sharp-shooting with an excellent full court press to take a thirteen point lead, 53-40, at the half. During one five minute period, A&M threw in twenty points to our ten. Half-time statistics were quite revealing: Rice had 4-9 at the free throw line, while A&M had capitalized on fifteen out of seventeen charity tosses. We mentioned that press — on at least four occasions, the maroon and white forced the Owls into costly floor mistakes.

Coming back in the second half, A&M seemed even sharper, building up a twenty-one point lead and coasting the rest of the way. The Aggies' Jerry Windham did a superb job guarding Kendall Rhine as the Owl center was limited to ten points; a sagging defense limited Rice's ability to get the ball to the big sophomore.

All in all, it was a bad evening for the Owls (even Coach Frankie drew a technical foul), who'll be seeking revenge on February 20.

Tomorrow evening, the big blue ventures into the "mighty un-friendly" confines of Gregory Gymnasium to tangle with the Texas Longhorns. Although possessing only a mediocre 3-3 conference record, the Steers are practically unbeatable at home. However, if the Owls ever had a chance to win in Austin, this is it. We recall last year's thriller which Texas won, 81-79, in the last minute, after the Owls had lead all the way. This year, the blue and gray contingent is considerably improved, as its resounding 89-64 conquest of the Longhorns here in Houston will attest. On the other hand, the orange and white has lost a lot of its finesse, with Lassiter and Almanza having departed. We look for an exciting battle, for the loser will most certainly be eliminated from title consideration.