SMU to Edge A & M; Rice Loses Three

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With the first half of the 1959-60 SWC basketball season over, the race for the conference title appears to have narrowed to a two team battle between the Mustangs of Doc Hayes and the Aggies of Bob Rodgers.

Contrary to the opinion of the Thresher sports staff, we are picking Max Williams, Steve Strange, and company to win the conference crown. Victims of only Texas on the road and conquerors of the Aggies in College Station, the Mustangs face the remainder of the season knowing that of the top four teams in the conference, they must face only slumping Arkansas on the road.

Five In Double Features

On the other hand, Bob Rodgers' crew must face both SMU and arch-rival Texas on the road. However the Cadets gave proof in Fayetteville Tuesday night that a partisan crowd alone is not enough to derail their title intentions. In Tuesday night's 77-68 victory over the Porkers all five of the Cadets starters scored in double figures. Needless to say, such scoring is tough to defense.

Davis, Dueitt, Speer Lost

Elsewhere on the Rice scene, the mid-semester break did little to improve the athletic situation at Rice, as the Owls lost three athletes, for three different reasons. Starting guard James Davis, third leading scorer for the Owls this season, was forced to withdraw from school due to financial reasons. Next came the news that the SWC had rejected Rice's request for the reinstatement of the eligibility of footballer Larry Dueitt for the 1961 season.

And finally came the announcement that football and track star Gordon Speer had signed with Montreal of the Big Four Football League for an undisclosed bonus, thus making Speer ineligible for the upcoming track season.

Open With Aggies

Last week Coach Del Morgan announced Rice's 25 game varsity baseball schedule for this spring. The Owls open the season March 12 with a non-conference game with the Aggies in College Station, return home to face Texas Lutheran March 18, and then open conference play by entertaining TCU on March 19.