Poor Aggies Fall To Rival Longhorns

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Saturday, the 1959-60 SWC basketball campaign draws to a close with front running Texas assured of the conference crown, while Rice's Owls rest firmly in last position in the league standings.

But the saddest coach in the conference may not be Johnnie Frankie of the cellar dwelling Owls but Bob Rodgers of the first division Texas Aggies.

Rodgers Fast Starter

Two years ago Rodgers came to College Station amid the publicity and fiendish announcements of support which are almost annually accorded the newcomers to the A&M athletic family. Inheriting an impeccably coached squad from a somewhat less impeccable recruiter, Ken Loeffler, Rodgers immediately set about to bathe Aggieland in national basketball glory.

Twice winning the conference's pre-season tournament, twice leading the league at mid-season, and this year ranked tenth in the nation and seeking a pre-season tournament of more national prominence than the defunct conference tourney, Rodgers' Aggies have now twice collapsed before the late season surges of slower starting conference teams, finishing fifth and second the past two years.

For Rodgers, this year was the worst, as the Cadets fell to both the Mustangs of Doc Hayes, whose teams have won or shared four league crowns in the past five seasons, and arch rival Texas, under the expert direction of Harold Bradley.

Bradley Chose Opposite Road

Also inheriting an outstanding squad in his rookie year in the conference, Bradley chose a course opposite to that of Rodgers. Starting slowly and completely disregarding any alumni pressure for early results, the Steers came on in the second half of the season to upset SMU and A&M in succession to cinch a share of the conference title.

Thus has little, round Bob Rodgers and the long-faced and quiet (for a while, at least) supporters of the Brazos bottom boys learned the painful lesson enumerated by the old proverb, "Don't count your roosters until you get a square egg," or something about as stupid.