

Rice Will Host SWC Tournament Over Holidays

By TED HERMANN

With the Conference opener only two weeks off, I would like to predict the outcome of this year's race, which I think will be close as last year's and in which the champion will probably lose 4 or 5 games. My predictions and reasons, in order, are as follows:

TCU — best overall strength, good rebounding and depth, will withstand tough conference pace better than other teams.

TEXAS TECH — best balanced team in league, lacks overall speed.

RICE — Robitaille will give the Owls confidence and leadership which has been lacking the past two seasons, best defensive team in league, shooting appears to be only problem.

A&M — fine all-round strength, lack shooting ability.

SMU — hit hard by graduation, shooting at near 50 per cent clip, good for several untimely upsets.

ARKANSAS — like SMU, will improve as season progresses and will pull off several upsets.

TEXAS — improving but not enough experience.

BAYLOR — just not enough horses.

A brief note about the SWC Tournament which will be played in Rice Gym next Friday, Saturday and the following Monday. The first round matches TCU and Baylor, SMU and Arkansas, Rice and Texas (Friday night at 7:30), and A&M and Tech.

Never knowing when to quit, I predict that Tech will win the tournament crown by defeating Arkansas, and Texas will defeat Baylor for seventh place.

One last note, the above opinions are based on past records, preseason reports, and results from the early weeks of the season. And any similarity to well-coordinated well-supported reasoning is simply a mistake.