

REVIEW OF BASKETBALL SINCE ITS INAUGURATION AT A. AND M. COLLEGE IN 1913.

(By James Sullivan)

Basket ball at the A. and M. College of Texas is a new game as compared with the other major sports as the 1920 team is only the eighth quint to represent the College in this branch of sport. The spring of 1913 marked the entry of this sport at the College and a baby team was turned out that season. Eddie Driess of San Antonio has the honor of being the captain of the first basket ball team at A. and M. and F. D. Steger, then general secretary of the Y. M. C. A. coached the team. No college games were scheduled that season, but the team played several of the leading Y. M. C. A. teams of the state together with normal schools and fast high school teams. Only six games were played, however, and the Aggies won four and lost two, dropping one each to Galveston Y. M. C. A. and to Houston High. The A. and M. five scored 311 points to their opponents 96 during the season.

Little improvement in the team in 1914 was made and again only a modest showing is credited to the five representing A. and M. that season. Of the seven games played the Aggies registered five victories. Only two college games were included in the schedule, both being Howard-Payne of Abilene, Texas. Captain Peters of Hondo led the team and it was again coached by F. D. Steger. This team scored 271 points while their opponents were scoring 108 in the seven games.

It was not until 1915 that the Aggies really broke into conference in basket ball. This year they played fifteen games winning thirteen and losing two, one to Texas Christian University and the other to Rice Institute. This team met and defeated some of the best teams in the State, among them the Decatur Baptist College, Southwestern University and Baylor University. The Aggies ran up a total score of 497 points to their opponents 272. The team was captained by "Nic" Braumiller of Texarkana and was coached by F. D. Steger. On this team were such men as Dudley Everett, Marion Settegast and Max Gilfillan whose athletic ability has been recognized on numerous occasions as each of them have been the choice of several coaches in picking an all-State and an all-Southwestern foot ball team. This team scored 497 point to their opponents 272.

The season of 1916 opened with every prospect of the Aggies being first under the wire. Thirteen games were played that season including games with Baylor, Tulane University, Southwestern University and Rice Institute. The Aggies and the Longhorns did not meet since the Longhorns were still using the outdoor court and would not agree to play on an indoor court, thus no game was scheduled. The Aggie five were runners-up for the conference title, winning eleven of the thirteen games played, scoring 442 points to their opponents 174. Such men as "Nic" and Walter Braumiller, Marion Settegast, Gilfillan and Burkett played on this team. "Nic" Braumiller was again captain and the team was coached by D. V. Graves.

The Aggies were coached in 1917 by Lieutenant Morris, an old West Point star and Assistant Commandant of the Cadet Corps at the College. Lieutenant Morris got better results with his team than any man who had

up to that time directed the destinies of an A. and M. quint. Burkett, Settigast and Gilfillan formed the nucleus of the team and around them a hard fighting fast five was formed. The four Texas games that season formed the climax of a successful year. The Aggies set an association record by shutting out Daniel Baker without a score. Gilfillan and Burkett were chosen on Ruggles' all-conference team that year. The Aggies scored 504 points to their opponents 362. With this team graduated Captain Burkett, Settigast and Gilfillan.

The season of 1918 opened with only two letter men answering the call for basket ball. Coach Bible was called into the service and W. L. Driver at this juncture took up the work of endeavoring to develop a winner in basket ball for A. and M. With a green team the Aggies won ten and lost eight games during the season, scoring 329 points to their opponents 311. The conference title this year ended in a decided muddle. Texas had split even with Rice and Baylor, while the Aggies had performed the same feat. All teams were short on veteran material that season and very few out-standing stars were shown. That season, however, developed some fast men for the Aggies who afterwards proved their mettle. They were Longcope captain of the 1919 team and McQuillen, captain of the championship 1920 quint. "Tubby" Starnes of San Antonio was captain of the 1918 team.

With the return of many students from the service the basket ball season of 1919 opened with every prospect of a championship team and but for an unfortunate loss at Waco to a team that had been defeated by the Aggies three times that season by scores of 41 to 8; 39 to 5 and 56 to 24, would have won the conference title. Of the four games played between the Aggies and the Longhorns that season each team won two. In these games the Aggies scored 86 points and the Longhorns 84, or an average of 21 1-2 and 21 points respectively to the game. It is thus seen that the teams were very evenly matched and both played true to form. The season as a whole marked the most successful year in the history of the College. Eleven of the fourteen collegiate games were won with a total of 535 points against their opponents 294. Eddie Longcope was captain and the team was coached by W. L. Driver.

By defeating the Longhorn two games here Friday and Saturday nights the Aggies closed the basket ball season of 1920 with nineteen straight victories and won the Southwestern conference championship. The team representing A. and M. College met and defeated all the leading teams in the conference, playing four games each with Baylor University, Rice Institute, and Southern Methodist University and the University of Texas. Two games were played with the Baylor Medics of Dallas and one

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