

Aggies Take On Tulsa In Cage Opener Tonight

By RONNIE GREATHOUSE
Battalion Sports Editor

A&M embarks on what may be a new era of basketball tonight when it takes on the tough Tulsa Hurricanes at Tulsa.

The Aggies' colorful new coach, Ken Loeffler, brings one of the nation's outstanding won-lost records into this season opener with Tulsa. The Hurricanes dumped the Aggies last year, 57-45, and are expected to be just as potent this season.

Coach Clarence Iba led his Tulsa Hurricanes to a Missouri Valley championship last season, beating out a great University of Houston team.

"We're on the right track this year. The boys seem to be trying, and they're aggressive," said Loeffler. "We need a big guy to help us. With a big guy I think we could win consistently."

Two seniors, two juniors and a sophomore will start for the Ca-

dets tonight. Tallest starter is Al Love, a 6-5 senior from Oklahoma City, who has improved steadily since workouts began this year.

Bill Brophy, 6-3 from Haver-town, Pa., is the other senior on the first-team. Brophy was the leading scorer for the Aggies last season with 336 points. He was tops in rebounds and field goals, and his 14 points per-game average also ranked him No. 1 on the A&M team.

George Mehaffey and Roger Harvey, are the two junior starters. Mehaffey, a 6-4 St. Thomas of Houston product, won a starting berth as a sophomore last year and finished third in scoring among Cadet cagers. Harvey was injured during the latter part of last year, but still managed to finish fifth in scoring with 108 points.

Hustling Fritzie Connally, 6-3, is the only sophomore on the starting five. Outstanding as a freshman, Connally scored 122 points and averaged 15.2 points per game.

Ten players will make the three game tour that begins tonight. Saturday the Aggies move into Nashville, Tenn. to battle Vanderbilt and next Monday, Dec. 5, they play Memphis State at Memphis.

Carter Williams, 6-4, John Henry, 6-3, John Fortenberry, 6-2, Bryan Sutherlin, 6-0, and Ted Harrod, 6-0, make up the rest of the traveling squad.

Last year the Aggies compiled a record of four wins and 20 losses. They managed to down only one conference foe and that was Arkansas. In the past two seasons A&M has finished in the loop cellar, and has won only six games.

Loeffler has been in the coaching field for 25 years and has coached both college and professional teams. For the past six years he was busy leading the LaSalle Explorers through an amazing record of 145 games won and only 30 lost. LaSalle played in a post-season tournament every year of his regime there.

The Explorers won the NCAA title in 1945 and were the runners-up last year.

A&M's freshmen team opens its season against Allen Academy at Bryan Dec. 8. Coaches John DeWitt and Joe Hardgrove report that the Fish team's overall strength is the strongest in many years.

The Fish will play their first home game against the University of Houston Kittens Dec. 14.

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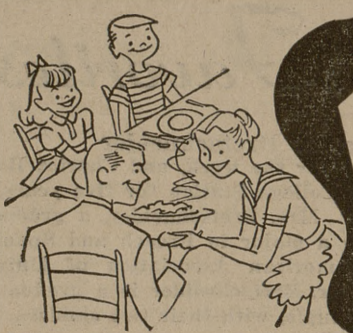
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