

Aggie Basketball Teams Open Workouts Today

The A&M varsity and freshman basketball squads hit the courts for their opening workouts at 5 p.m. Thursday.

Coach Shelby Metcalf will welcome back eight varsity lettermen from last season's Southwest Conference Champions.

"I'm real anxious to get started again," said the good-natured mentor. "If some key boys play like they're capable of, we could do as well or better than we did last season."

Metcalf considers his starters to be John Beasley, center, Ken Norman and Bill Gasway, forwards,

and Paul Timmons and Dickie Stringfellow guards.

Metcalf will miss Bill Robinette, steady forward, and super-star Bennie Lenox as he prepares for the coming campaign.

"Their loss will hurt us of course," says Metcalf, "but we've played a lot of kids last year who are coming back and they are bound to be improved."

"We'll be a more exciting ball club this year I think. We'll fast break more and press more on defense. I've been working on a second offense for us because the rest of the conference pretty well scouted us last year."

"Without a doubt, Beasley is the finest prospect in the league. He's grown an inch and is up to 6'9" now."

"Gasaway and Timmerman are going to have a real battle at their position. Timmerman is a better shot but Gasaway is steadier and makes fewer mistakes."

Senior letterman Paul Timmons has been selected as captain for the 1964 season. He will serve as intermediary between Metcalf and the players.

"Our season is going to hinge on the performance of our forwards more than any other thing," said Metcalf.

Metcalf is high on his freshman team, calling them the best ever assembled since he's been here.

"We should be able to compete this year, but we could have a better ball club and not do as well as last year. The whole league should be improved with the possible exception of Rice."

The Cadets open their season December 1 at Memphis State.

INTRAMURALS

Two records were set last week during the finals of the Intramural swimming meet. The Maroon Band 400-meter relay team posted a new mark of 1:21.1, Sq. 12, D-3.

E-2 shaved 4 of a second off the old 100-meter butterfly record by finishing in 18.8.

Complete results of the meet:

Class B: 400-meter medley—M. Band (1:21.1), Sq. 12, D-3.

100-meter freestyle — William Cain, (1:01.4), Jimmy Upchurch, Henry Tatum.

100-meter butterfly — Norris Henthone, (18.8), Raborn Reber, Richard Taylor.

Backstroke — James Kaster (20.0), James Kizer, Ralph Davis.

Breastroke — Billy Randsell (52.3), Richard McCann, David Harrigan.

Freestyle Relay — B-2 (1:10.6), M. Band, Sq. 10.

Diving—Charles White (90.70), Donald Godbey, Charles Orton.

Class A&C results:

400-meter medley — Dorm 22 (1:26.7), Sq. 12, F-1.

100-meter freestyle — Howard Bennett (1:02.4), Clinton Ward, Jerry Crider.

100-meter Butterfly — Charles Coffin (19.5), Thomas Forgeng, William Russell.

Backstroke — Cornelius Hill (20.4), Harry Towler, Louis Obdyke.

Breastroke—William Vick (50.4), Thomas Forgeng, Michael Dodd.

Freestyle Relay — F-1 (1:09.5), Sq. 6, Puryear.

Diving — Garry Harvison (104.8), John Weber, Ernest Pet-rash.

The meet left the Maroon Band in first place in Class B, F-1 in Class A, and Dorm 22 in Class C.

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FROM THE Sidelines

By LANI PRESSWOOD

Contrary to certain rumors, the Southwest Conference is still planning to play out the remainder of its schedule this season.

Inter-conference warfare begins in earnest this weekend and the bruised and battered SWC is thankful for the reprieve.

The Aggies and TCU have tried five intersectional opponents between them and have come up with the short end of the score in each contest.

SMU's Mustangs were bombed twice by out-of-state foes before humbling Arlington State, 14-0.

A Trull-less Baylor outfit has gone up against a pair of Pacific Coast teams with disastrous results.

And even the Owls from down Rice way have flopped so far. Their win over West Virginia was sandwiched in between a couple of defeats, one a 34-7 drubbing by Stanford.

Only Texas, Arkansas, and surprising Texas Tech have been successful in non-SWC competition. Even three of their wins came against such worthies as Tulsa, Oklahoma State, and Tulane.

One bleak fact arises from this four-week-old picture. The Southwest Conference is a weaker league that it has been in many moons.

There are several possible and plausible explanations for this decline.

The annual siphoning of the cream of the state's high school crop by The University of Texas may be finally taking its toll.

The slump could be due to the relative youth of many of the circuit's clubs.

Or perhaps the law of average has caught up with the loop and this is just a cyclical slump of sorts.

For whatever reason, the league is at a low ebb and there aren't many chances left for it to redeem itself.

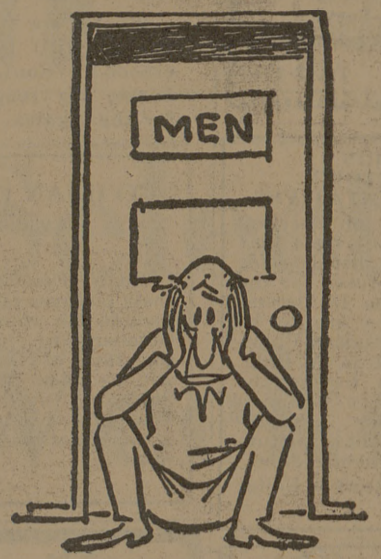
Baylor could help matters by knocking off Kentucky in their late November meeting. TCU could aid the cause with a win over Clemson's Tigers two weekends hence.

The other non-conference clashes still on the docket are not of the type which particularly enhance a major conference.

The Red Raiders have engagements left with Washington State and West Texas State while Arkansas will try to tame Wichita later in the season.

It appears that the league's moment of reckoning as far as internal combat is concerned may have arrived.

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