

Aggie Hustle Guy Overcame Temper To Become One Of SWC's Finest

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By LANI PRESSWOOD
"Paul Timmins will never play varsity ball in the Southwest Conference."

Abb Curtis has been eating these words for the last three years. The Assistant Executive Secretary of the SWC made the statement to a Fort Worth Star-Telegram reporter after seeing the volatile Timmins play in an A&M freshman game.

Paul made the All-SWC frosh team that year and has since come on to be an Aggie regular and team captain. This season he is again a strong contender for all-conference honors.

To reach this level, the 5-11 scrapper has had to overcome the barrier Curtis thought was unsurmountable — his own fiery temperament.

In a well-circulated quote, Aggie cage mentor Shelby Metcalf remarked, "Paul just decided he'd rather play than officiate."

In a more serious vein, Metcalf credits "maturity" as being the prime factor in Timmins' current court behavior.

Timmins himself speaks openly and frankly on the subject. "I'd always had that reputation. A lot of the time it's just been that I'm mad at myself. I have to give Coach Metcalf a lot of credit. He said he'd put me on the bench for it and it worked. It probably helped my playing too."

Paul's reputation now rests on another trait he has always possessed—desire. He puts forth that intangible 110 per cent every time he walks out on the floor. He was dubbed "the Aggie hustle guy" as a sophomore and the verdict hasn't changed.

Metcalf labels him, "one of the greatest competitors this school has ever had. I'm a big Timmins fan and I always have been. He's an inspiring type ball player."

The Clear Creek playmaker combines effort with natural

court savvy. His intelligence comes through clearly in conversation. He is highly articulate and possesses a razor-edged wit. His good-natured offcourt manner belies his high-spirited game personality.

The Clear Creek School District was the earliest recipient of Timmins' basketball ability. He started playing organized ball there in the fifth grade and continued up through high school.

The quintets he played on during his schoolboy career were consistent state powers. The 3A championship barely eluded the Wildcats his last two seasons. During his junior year a team

from Linden-Kildare eliminated them in the semifinals because of a sophomore sharpshooter named John Beasley.

Another deadeye who played in that game was Bennie Lenox, one of Paul's closest friends. For two years at Clear Creek and two at Aggieland the pair formed a dangerous and determined back-court combination.

Timmins calls the Clear Creek program he played under "probably the best in the state." His high school mentor was George Carlisle, now at Rice.

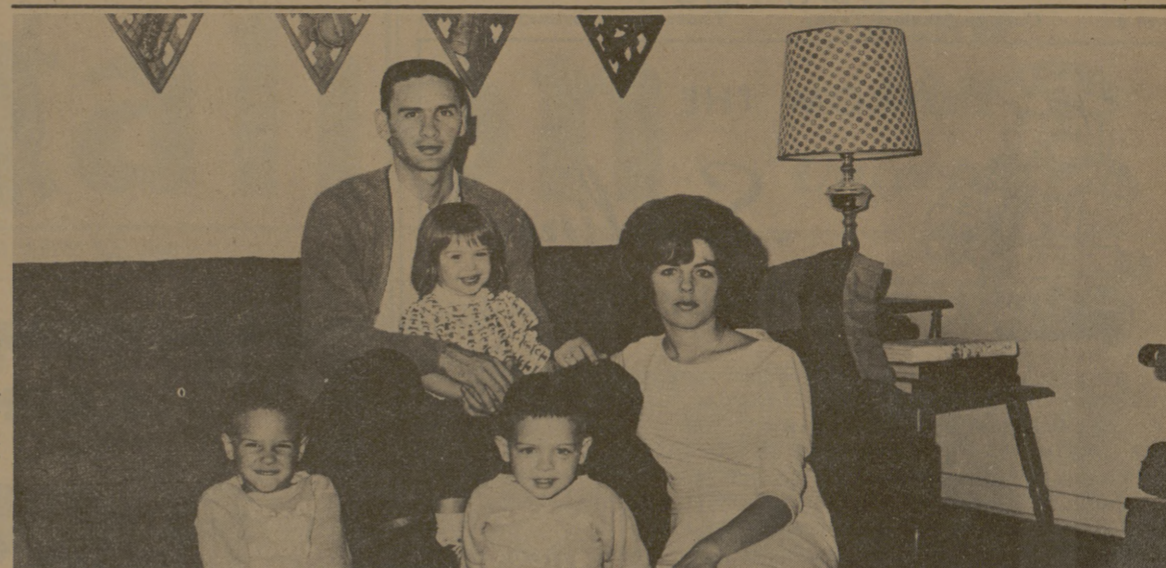
Paul married as a high school junior and before graduation acquired the nickname "Pops."

His A&M teammates have picked up the tag and now use it automatically. He and his wife Cooky have three children.

"Cooky has been an understanding wife," he reflects, "she never complains even though I spend 75 per cent of my time away from home."

Timmins is a P.E. major and plans to go into coaching after graduation. He possesses all the essentials to become one of the finest coaches A&M has ever turned out.

But Paul still has seven games left as an Aggie and you can bet that he'll be right in the middle of all of them.



PAUL TIMMINS AND FAMILY
... from left, Guy (4), Bain (3), Stacy (1½), Paul and wife Cooky.

AFL Yields To Colleges On Signings

NEW YORK (AP) — The American Football League fell in line with the requests of the National Collegiate Athletic Association and the policies of the rival National Football League Wednesday by banning the premature signing of college players to professional contracts.

It refused, however, to delay its annual draft meeting until after the bowl games have been played or to ban the signing of redshirts. The NCAA had asked both leagues to take those steps to prevent early signings.

Rules of both pro leagues make players eligible for the draft in the senior year of the class with which they first entered college. The wording of the AFL statement virtually duplicates that made by NFL Commission Pete Rozelle last month. Both leagues agree not to sign college seniors until their teams have completed the season, including bowl games.

And both include redshirts who actually are playing out their extra season of college eligibility. The AFL action came just before the deadline set by James J. Corbett, Louisiana State University athletic director and chairman of the NCAA committee on college-pro relations.

Palmer Outlines Needed Changes

NEW YORK (AP) — Big-time tournament golf needs a new look and should be streamlined to fit the modern era, says Arnold Palmer.

In an article in Golf Magazine, Palmer listed a four-point program for improving the pro tour. They were:

1. Limit the number of official purses of \$100,000 or more. There could be a separate tour for less experienced players with tournaments of lesser purses.

2. Set up tournaments on a five-year plan stretching from the East to the West to enable clubs to plan a long-range program.

3. Rate players by money winnings and drop those who don't show reasonable progress.

4. Discourage the sponsoring of pros.

Palmer suggested that only the best courses be used and that a club be given a five-year tournament lease in order to make innovations, such as underground television cables and bleachers.



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