

Matson Enjoys Cage Return, Is Favorite With Kids

If Randy Matson ever has to retire from athletics because of injury, the ailment likely will be "writer's cramp."

The world's shot put king, now a very valuable member of A&M's basketball varsity, always is the last player to reach the dressing room after a game. He's always detained enroute by a group of small-fry seeking autographs. A gracious, non-complaining guy, Matson patiently stops and signs 'em all.

Matson decided to come out for basketball this year after a two-season layoff. In high school he won all-state honors at center while performing for the Pampa Harvesters.

At the season's outset, Aggie Coach Shelby Metcalf warned fans not to expect a lot of points from Matson. The 6-6½, 235-pounder seconded that motion not long ago when he said: "My job is not to score points. It is to get the basketball off the boards and play defense. John (Beasley) will take care of the points for us."

Does Matson enjoy college

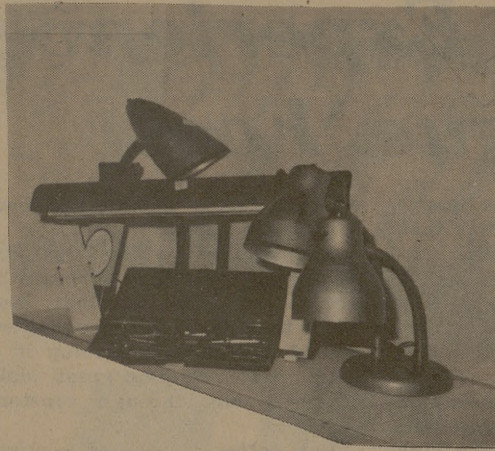
basketball? After the 81-60 victory over Baylor the afternoon of Jan. 15, he appeared on Dub King's TV show and the same question was put to him. "I knew beforehand that I'd like it but I didn't know it would be as much fun as it has. I really am enjoying playing again."

Matson and Beasley have become a fearsome twosome on the boards and now the Aggies have a 47-32 ratio in rebounds after five Southwest Conference games. That is one of the big reasons the Aggies currently rule the roost with a 5-0 reading.

Matson's presence on the basketball squad has had a psychological effect on the other Aggies. Knowing how dedicated he is to any task he undertakes, the others have followed suit and all are putting out that extra effort.

Grabbing rebounds, playing defense and signing autographs—that makes Matson a real triple threat star in Aggieland basketball.

"What I like," says Metcalf, "is Randy's two-hand dunk that goes through the floor."

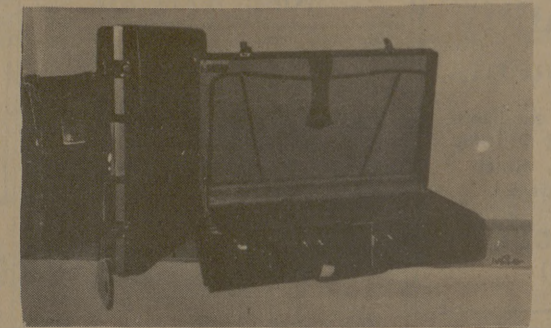


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STARTS SUNDAY

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NOTES and QUOTES

Coach Tom Chandler's 1966 Texas A&M baseball squad opens practice next Monday. Ten let-termen return from last year's squad that posted a 10-5 SWC record. . . .

Richard Barker of San Saba and Rickey Williams of Austin return for their final tennis campaign at A&M this spring. Both elected to redshirt last season. The season before Barker teamed with Luis Rojas of San Jose, Costa Rica, to win the SWC doubles title. Barker also was run-

ner-up in singles. Rojas returns, too, for his final season. . . .

Eddie Dominguez fouled out against Houston last Saturday night. It was the first disqualification of the year for him. In fact, in 14 previous games he had accumulated only 7 fouls. . . .

John Beasley will be observing his 22nd birthday anniversary Saturday when the Aggies play TCU in Fort Worth. "It's just another day," John says. "I hadn't even thought about it but I've never played on my birthday before."

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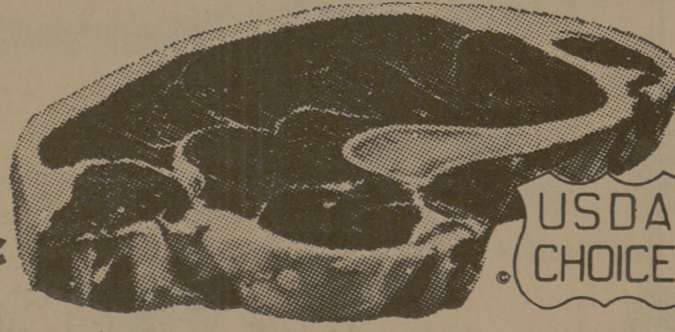


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