

CURTIS MILLS, (440) takes handoff from Steve Barre on the first handoff of the 440-yard relay in Saturday's dual meet with Rice. The Aggies team of Barre, Mills, Donny Rogers and Rockie Woods won the event in 41.2. (Photo by Mike Rice)

## Recruiting's a necessity

By JOHN CURYLO

No matter how good or how bad a team does, college basketball coaches cannot rest on their laurels or go into seclusion as a result.

They can't keep their minds off the future, either, even while the season's going on, because next season and the ones after that depend very heavily on recruiting.

Basketball recruiting is altogether different than football. The big thing is the physical problem of seeing and meeting the boys you are trying to lure to your school. It's hard for two coaches to cover all the prospects while they're still coaching their own squad for two games a week.

"It's hard to tell from films," says Aggie Coach Shelby Metcalf. "In football, you either whip your man or you don't. You can see this in films real well. But in basketball, a coach has to see a player in person. On film, you can't tell speed, poise, or aggressiveness. As a result, we have to travel a lot to watch these guys play while our season is going on."

On this year's Fish team, the five scholarship players are Bobby McKey, Joe Arciniega, Randy Knowles, Johnny Mayo, and Jack Vest. The home towns of these athletes are Dallas, Lynwood, California, Geneva, Ohio, Taft, and Kerrville.

Using this team as an example, that's an awful lot of traveling. After all, these are the boys that Metcalf and his assistant, Jim Culpepper, were able to bring to Aggieland. The number of others they visited and watched obviously took a great deal of time and effort.

Coaches can use alumni to help sell the school, but who knows more about the coach's style, personality and program than the coach himself? This includes actual facts and overall impression.

The most important thing is the player himself. A coach must be absolutely certain that the product he is getting is the best. In return for a full scholarship, a basketball mentor wants only the best in return.

And, just as a player can only be assured by personal contact, the same goes for a coach, only moreso. Some very important items on the checklist are character, maturity, and intelligence. The two must work together four years, and they need to know each other well.

We'll use the Fish again as an example and pick out McKey to show all these things up close. McKey's main talent is ball handling and leadership, although his shooting has been improving all year. He seems to me to be the best prospect for next year's varsity team.

At 5-11 and 160 pounds, he does not appear on paper to be a coach's dream. Yet, he signed with the Aggies and looks like a good one. How did Metcalf know he wanted him?

My guess is that much research went into the pursuit of the Dallas Thomas Jefferson athlete. Watching him in person, Metcalf and Culpepper were able to see his ability. Even closer, they could tell his competitiveness and total involvement in the contest.

"McKey's biggest asset is that he is mature enough to take coaching rather than criticism," Metcalf explained. "This is very important for improvement, and that means a lot to a player to be improving all the time."

Another good point about him is that he is unselfish and has the ability to work with his teammates. It took much talk between player and coach to determine this, and to sell McKey on A&M.

So, for next year, whether it be high school players or junior college talent, Texans or out-of-staters, it's a sure bet that much time and effort by the coaches will go into making next season and the ones after it full of the kind of talent that they feel they need.

### Class B wrestling finals this week

Intramurals continue this week with the finals in Class B wrestling coming up early next week. Both A and C classes in volleyball are underway.

The open soccer tournament has begun, with several teams being entered. The tournament is sponsored by the Intramural Office, but no points will be given to the winning team.

The intramural office has asked all teams to pick up their softball equipment as soon as possible. Class B and D will be starting as soon as wrestling is finished.

The office also announced plans for a women's volleyball tournament. Anyone interested in fielding a team is to contact the intramural office. Plans for mixed double teams also are being made.

### West out for year

LOS ANGELES (AP)—All-pro guard Jerry West, injured Tuesday night in a game at Buffalo, will be out of action for the rest of the National Basketball Association season, the Los Angeles Lakers said Wednesday.

### KAMU sets tryout date for second drama

Tryouts for KAMU-TV's second major drama production will be held in the television studios 7:30 p.m. Monday.

"A Dream for Dawn" will go into rehearsal by the end of the week. The 60-minute color dra-

ma will be taped entirely in the channel 15 studios using specially built sets and television effects. Broadcast tentatively is set for May.

The play's author, Bob Robinson, will direct the television adaptation.

"We need people for four male and three female parts," he said, "as well as anyone interested in building sets, getting props and working on the sound track."

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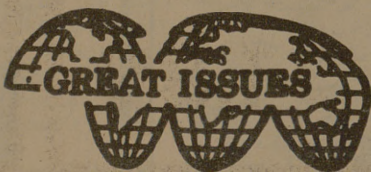
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