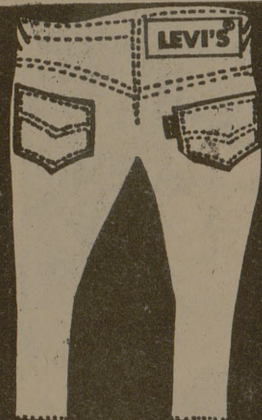


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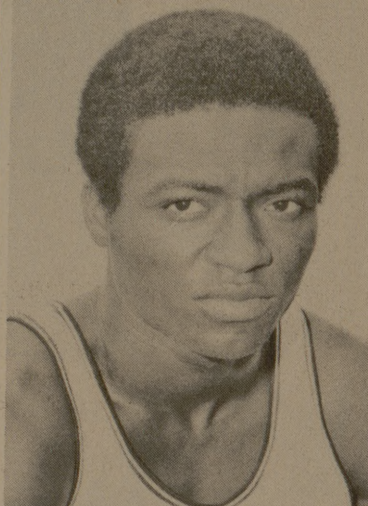
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A&M basketball is exciting sport

Excitement is the theme of Aggie basketball, and indications are that the coming year should be even more interesting than 1971-72, which saw the cagers of Shelby Metcalf finish third after being picked to come in last in the Southwest Conference.

Newcomers made the difference, and this will be the case



Mario Brown

again, although only two players graduated from last year's squad.

The A&M system of basketball features a dual post offense with one guard. Senior Mario Brown played that point position last season, and his flashy style of ball handling gave fans their fill of excitement.

Two other starters return, senior Jeff Overhouse and junior Randy Knowles. Overhouse was Sophomore of the Year in the league two years ago. At 6-7, he plays a very physical game from his post position. Knowles, 6-6, specializes in 30-foot jump shots, but he handles the ball well and can rebound. On a short team last year, he was called upon to play the post several times. This year, he will be used primarily at the wing.

One of the brightest additions

to the team will be 6-8 sophomore Cedric Joseph. As an Aggie Fish, he was named the Outstanding Player in the SWC freshman loop. He is expected to hold down the other post from the beginning of the season.

This leaves quite a battle for the wing position, the only starting spot to be determined. Sophomore Mike Floyd, 5-11, could play here, or start at the point, moving Brown to the wing. Floyd matched Joseph's 20.9 per game point output last season, but he missed six contests with a broken foot.

Junior college transfer Chuck Tone will battle Floyd for the fifth position. He is a 6-7 shooting ace from Ft. Dodge, Iowa. With Floyd's shooting eye and ball handling, defense could be the determining factor.

Size and quality will be the trademarks of bench strength, with 6-8 junior college transfer C. W. Guthrie, from Great Bend, Kansas, being the backup man at the posts. Webb Williams, a 6-7 sophomore, will fill in at the wings. Williams may be the fastest man on the team and should develop into a fine player. Other top substitutes will be seniors Bob Gobin and Wayne Howard.

Future talent will be developed on the redshirt team, including 6-10 junior college transfer Bruce Ott and 6-8 sophomore Jerry Mercer.

This year's schedule begins

Nov. 28 with Wayland Baptist at home. Non-conference opponents include Texas-Arlington, Angelo State, Oklahoma State, George Washington and East Texas State. The Aggies play in the All-College Tournament in Oklahoma City and the Bluebonnet Classic in Houston.

Metcalf, who is assisted by Jim Culpepper, has compiled a 124-100 record in nine seasons at A&M, best in the SWC. Aggie teams have won titles in 1964 and 1969 since he got the head job, and only twice have had losing seasons, one of the better sports records here.



Shelby Metcalf

Swim program improved

Since Dennis Fosdick became A&M's swimming coach two years ago, the water sport program has improved by leaps and bounds. And the native Californian has a group of outstanding recruits and his Coach of the Year in the SWC award to prove it.

The Aggies topped off their seven-month season by finishing a surprising third place in the conference meet, with everyone rising to the occasion for their best times of the year.

Another highlight of the school year was a Christmas vacation trip to Brazil for Fosdick and a group of his swimmers for meets, demonstrations and some water polo matches.

But the youthful coach is not satisfied with these accomplishments and has big plans for his program. Losing no one to graduation, he returns only three seniors this year, plus a group of recruits with some five All-Americans among their numbers.

"Water polo brought a lot of these kids here," Fosdick said. "That and A&M's educational reputation. We're getting a lot of help from Aggie graduates, too." A&M plays water polo as a club sport, but this is a big thing in many of the top high school and junior college swim programs in the nation.

The new swimmers are Steve Moore, Santa Clara, Calif., Mike Vanderhurst, Lynbrook, Calif., Tom Heholt, Grosse Point Woods, Michigan, Nash Dowdle, Midland, Casey Cutler, New Trier East, Calif., Jim Yates, Santa Clara, Calif., Paul McKinzie, Sunnyville, Calif., and Gordon Brown, Los Altos, Calif.

They will join standout lettermen Steve Prentice, Doug Meaden, Eric Wolff and Lester Ham-

man, all of whom competed the national swim meet at Point last year. Fosdick says this year's goal is to send individual entrants and the team to nationals.

An addition to the program at A&M is Steve Montgomery, who will assist Fosdick work with the Health and Physical Education Department. Montgomery is the former Park High School coach.

Track outlook is promising after frustrating 1972 season

Aggie track took a downward plunge in 1972, but things definitely look better in the years to come.

Injuries and a shortage of top-quality seniors hurt the thinclads of Coach Charlie Thomas and his assistant, Ted Nelson.

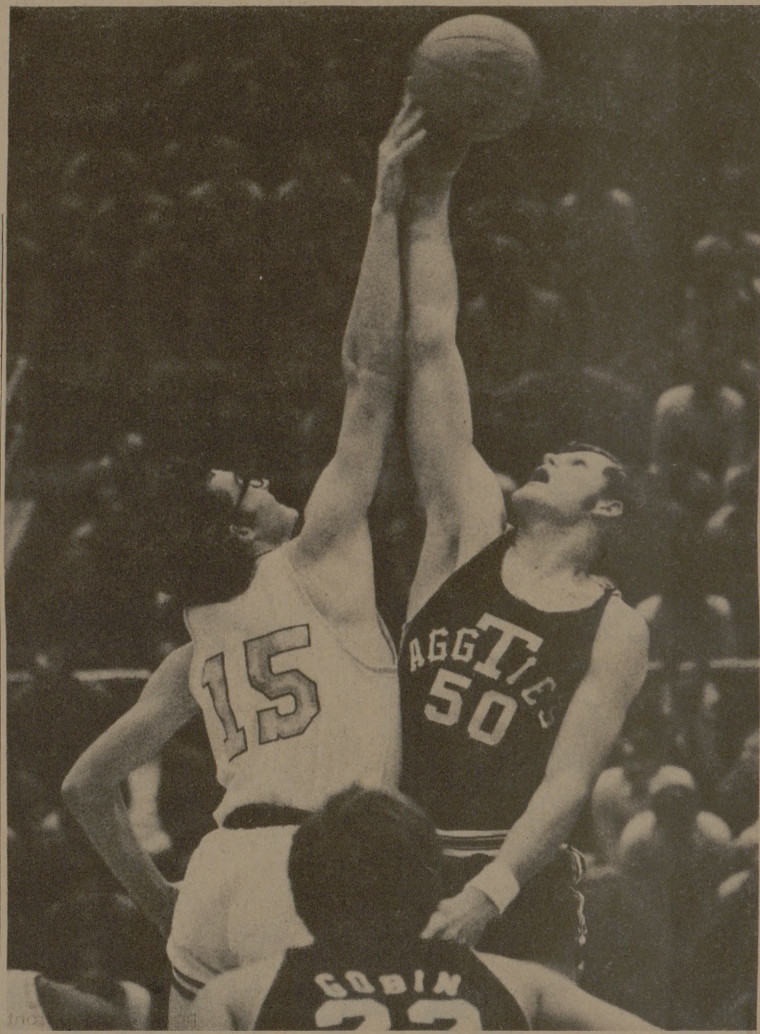
A fifth place finish and no first place events were the results of the Southwest Conference meet, but A&M still can claim two outdoor and one indoor world record.

The main losses to graduation were high jumper Marvin Taylor, hurdler David Prince, pole vaulter Billy Hoffman and sprinter Steve Barre.

The standout lettermen include half mile-mile relay men Willie Blackmon and Horace Grant, quarter mile-mile relay team members Robert Brew, Doug Brodhead and Wayne Mills, sprinters Gerald D'Ambrosio, Marvin Mills, Billy Porter, Donny Rogers and Alan Swagerty, hurdler Scott Jones, high jumper Phil McGuire and pole vaulter Harold McMahan.

Incoming freshmen are led by the Sealy standout Sammy Dierschke, who may rank with Randy Matson as one of Thomas' greatest recruiting accomplishments. Listed as a sprinter, Dierschke was named the outstanding schoolboy tracksters in the state.

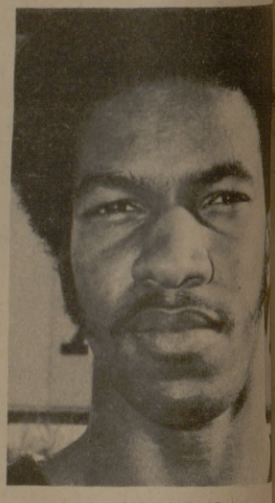
A pair of African distance runners will be on the squad. Tingan and T. B. Yemmas from Ghana, have been Quartermiler Harold Davis, Houston Jones, miler Paul Miller, man of Houston Milby and miler Keith Bucy of Midland the additions in the events. New field men are Grice, a long jumper from Ton Worthing, Craig Cates shot putter from Lubbock, terrey and javelin thrower Newton of Salem, Kansas, Jack Graham from Albuquerque, New Mexico.



ONE OF THE TOP players in the conference is A&M post man Jeff Overhouse, shown here jumping for the opening tip. In the foreground is another Aggie senior, Bob Gobin



Dennis Fosdick



Willie Blackmon

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