Basketball Runs In Randy Knowles' Blood

To most people, basketball is a game. To Randy Knowles it is a way of life.

Knowles, leading scorer and rebounder for the Texas A&M University basketball team, said he just about lives to play the game.

"It gets in your blood," said the dark-haired junior. "I play whenever I get the chance, which is just about every day of the year."

Knowles etched his name into the A&M record books with a 42-point performance against Arkansas Feb. 10. That total represents the most points ever scored by an Aggie in G. Rollie White Coliseum. His 20 field goals were the most ever scored by an A&M player.

"That game was the biggest thrill of my life. It was especially great because my parents came down to see the game," said the Geneva, Ohio native. "My mom hadn't seen me play for three years. I was really high for that one.

"I am a streak shooter. If I hit my first four or five shots, I am usually hot for the rest of the night. If I miss them, I start to press myself. It's like they say, 'when you're hot you're hot and when you're not you're not.' That's the way I've always been."

Sitting and talking in his room in Fowler Hall, Knowles looks taller than his 6-6 and lighter than his 195 pounds.

"When you're as skinny as I am you can run all night but next year I'd like to put on about 20 more pounds so I can battle under the boards better."

The current season has been a slight disappointment to Knowles, who describes it a one of ups and downs. Knowles' roommate, Joe Arcinega, comes in handy during those down moments.

"Joe keeps the situation loose and he can cheer me up when I play a bad game. He makes sure I don't brood over one too long," Knowles said.

Knowles had scholarship offers from over 40 major colleges but chose A&M "because a degree from here will go far after my playing days are over. The alumni here are powerful but I don't plan to quit playing ball anytime soon.

"I want to play pro ball somewhere. I don't care if it's in the ABA, NBA, Europe or Mexico," Knowles said.

After his career as a player ends, Knowles does not plan to leave the game he loves so much.

"I switched my major to P.E. (from Wildlife Science) so I could coach when I can no longer play. Like I said, when it's in your blood, that's the way it is," he assured.

Randy Knowles

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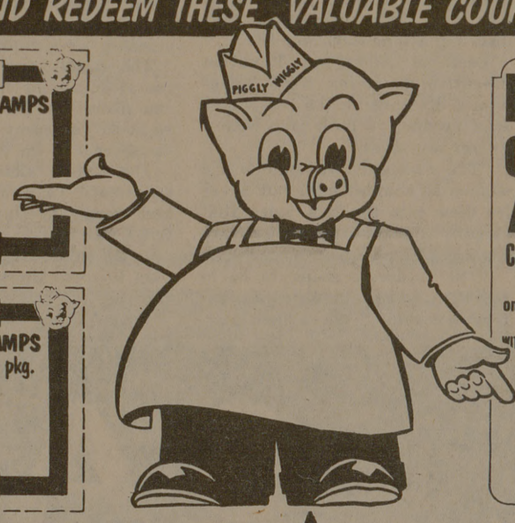

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