HE BATTALION ESDAY, JANUARY 22, 1974

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Roundballers improve during holidays Mercer, Joseph and Johnson tabbed all-tourney

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Ind Eugen Sports Editor I work for Over the holidays, UCLA and ay finan & M proved that when it comes ued carrie o basketball, nothing is constant. motor b For the Aggies it was a seasoninstructional break full of ups and downs , the Tenut coach Shelby Metcalf saw n's lobbrame marked improvement.

"The fans that didn't see us play over the holidays should be pleased with what we've accomplished since last semester," said Metcalf. "Of course, I wish we would have learned a little more." FREE

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competition. "Overall I was pleased with the caliber of teams that we played and we found out a lot about the team," said the Aggie mentor. Teamwise, the Ags split the The Ags left College Station two games of each of the three with an unblemished 4-0 mark be- tournaments. Individually, Jerry fore hitting the rough tournament Mercer, Cedric Joseph and Mike

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Johnson garnered all-tournament the postmen said the big men honors.

(Thornton) were probably the most improved individuals over the break," said Metcalf, "but ther. "Mercer, Joseph and Thornwe had some other good things happen as well." Johnson hit 28 points, his high

as an Aggie, against Denver in only natural but we just can't let the Bluebonnet Classic in Hous-

"Mike has really learned our system well for a freshman," Metcalf said of the Chicago native. "He has matured to the point that when he isn't scoring he doesn't let it affect other parts of his game. He still plays tough defense.'

Thornton, a junior college transfer from San Antonio, appears R to be quickly becoming the apple of Metcalf's eye.

"John is so versatile and solid it's unreal," said Metcalf. "We can use him in the pivot to rest Joseph or Mercer or outside when Knowles needs a breather. His attitude is just great and it adds a lot to the club."

Other bright spots for the Ags include the new stability of Randy Knowles who was struggling in the early going.

"Randy is working as hard now as when he was a sophomore and has finally found the groove" said Metcalf. "Mike Floyd is finally

hopefully have found a peak at "Mike (Johnson) and John which to level off.

"We just haven't found the consistency we need yet," said Reuton all play some great games but we need to keep playing that way. At times we let up and that is people sneak up on us."

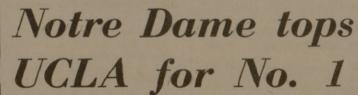
Players and coaches alike felt the highlight to the holiday activities was the Marshall Memorial Tournament in Huntington, W. Va.

"Hezekiah Ward, one of the few people we met up there from Texas, just about adopted the team and made the holidays great," said Metcalf. "Even though we didn't play real well, the personal touch made the trip worthwhile."

The Ags are 9-5 with a 1-1 conference mark entering tonight's contest with Texas Tech.

Holiday Results

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A&M	I well the state to the state	OPI	
171	Va. Commonwealth	72	
65	Geo. Washington	91**	
86	Northwestern	84**	
89	Okla. Christian	68**	
67	Tulsa	88**	
79	Florida State	99**	
99	Denver	84**	
100	Southwestern	87	
90	SMU	75*	
72	TCU	88	
*-Southwest Conference			



By The Associated Press Notre Dame's basketball team joined Ara Parseghian's football team Monday as sovereign of all it could survey-No. 1 in The

Associated Press poll. Dick "Digger" Phelps, young coach of the Fighting Irish cagers, anticipated the outcome when, holding one finger on each hand high in the air, told a Sunday night pep rally:

"I want to thank you fans for being the No. 1 sports fans and No. 1 sports town in America."

Notre Dame, in ending UCLA's 88-game winning streak with a dramatic come-from-behind 71-70 victory Saturday, bumped the great California team out of first place for the first time in three years.

The Irish collected 36 of 51 first-place votes from a panel of sports writers and broadcast-

The Bruins have won the last seven NCAA championships and nine of the last 10.

Notre Dame's tenancy on the poll's penthouse could be shortlived. The Fighting Irish have a return engagement with the Bruins next Saturday night at UCLA's Pauley Pavilion, and the West Coast giants have let it be known they will be out for blood.

The Top Twenty, with firstplace votes in parentheses, season records through games of last Saturday and total points. Points tabulated on basis of 20-18-16-14-

2-10-9-0-1-0-0-4-0-2-1;			
. Notre Dame (36)	10-0	990	
. UCLA (15)	13-1	944	
8. N. Car. St.	11-1	782	
. No. Carolina	12-1	651	
Maryland	10-2	649	
6. Marquette	14-1	510	
7. Vanderbilt	12-1	423	
3. Providence	13-2	375	
Alahama	10-2	334	



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