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A&M, Baylor square off for TV game

Bears throw size, speed, McKinney against Aggie defense

Collecting losses on their 2-3 Southwest Conference record like a sinking ship collects water, the A&M basketball squad travels to Waco Saturday to play the Baylor Bears in the first of many must-win games to come this season.

Against the Bears, the Aggies will find one of the fastest teams in the conference. In fact, Baylor coach Carroll Dawson thinks there is nobody faster.

"We finesse the ball pretty well," said the first year mentor, "but we need a big strong man when we play teams like A&M."

Baylor's "big" man is Charlie McKinney whose height is an imposing 6-6. However, the spring in his legs more than makes up for his deficit in inches as he is one of the conference's leading scorers, averaging 21.2 points a game, and, more surprisingly, he is the league's leading rebounder, pulling 14.9 balls off the boards each game.

The Bears are not without inches, for in addition to the jumper McKinney, Baylor has two of the leagues top freshmen in 6-8 Tom Hutchinson and 6-10 Gary McGuire. Averaging over 10 points a game, McGuire is the front runner for this year's SWC Freshman of the Year award.

Joining McKinney at forward is 6-6 senior Lee Griffin while Tom Corley and Steve Dallas hold down the guard positions. Corley has hit 19, 17 and 12 points in his last three games while Dallas got nine assists against Arkansas.

As a team, Baylor is hitting 48.8 per cent from the field and are close to 80 percent from the free throw line.

"This may be the roughest game left on our schedule," said Aggie coach Shelby Metcalf. "We need the same effort against Bay-

lor that we had against Texas.

"Baylor's front line of McKinney and Griffin has more speed than our front line and their guards are bigger than our guards. Baylor creates problems for us. They have a real sound team."

Starting against Baylor will be 6-6 senior Randy Knowles and Jerry Mercer at the forwards, Mike Floyd and Mike Johnson at the guards and Cedric Joseph at the post.

Knowles is the No. five rebounder in A&M history with 609 and needs but three points to pass Billy Bob Barnett and become the No. 7 scorer in history. Knowles now has 1,062 points to Barnett's 1,064.

The team co-captain from Geneva, Ohio had a slow start this season but has been hot during SWC play.

Also having a good SWC season is Joseph, who has been hitting from the field at a .540 norm during league play after having a rather uneven start in the pre-conference games. The 6-8 junior from Fort Worth Arlington Heights holds the A&M record for rebounds in a single game with 23 against Angelo State last year.

Joseph is averaging 12.8 points and 9.7 rebounds a game this year and has 35 assists, second highest on the team and a remarkable amount for a player his size.

His spirited play has gotten him into foul trouble quite frequently as he has fouled out of three of the five conference games and has totaled 22 penalties for an average of 4.4 per game.

The tip-off is scheduled for 2:10 p.m. with television coverage

starting at two.

After the Baylor contest the Aggies return home to face the

Arkansas Razorbacks in the White Coliseum Tuesday p.m.

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