

4 starters back

# Ag basketball team begins pre-season practice for '74

By MARK WEAVER  
Staff Sports Writer

With the Aggie football team just into Southwest Conference play, Shelby Metcalf and his troop of roundballers began their official pre-season basketball practice last week.

Six lettermen and four returning starters are back from last year's 15-11 squad. Four junior college transfers and a freshman will also be competing for this year's team.

Despite the number of experienced players, Metcalf says the competition for starting berths is wide open. Part of the reason is the four outstanding junior college transfers and the return of a 1972-73 letterman.

The transfers are 6-5 junior Sonny Parker, 6-6 junior Barry Davis, 5-10 junior Gates Erwin and 6-7 sophomore Steve Jones. Chuck Tone, a 6-7 senior who lettered in 1972-73, returned to school after sitting out last year. The only freshman is 6-7 Doug Mezger.

Lettermen returning from last year's squad are 5-10 senior Mike Floyd, 6-8 senior Cedric Joseph, 6-9 senior Jerry Mercer, 6-7 senior John Thornton, 6-7 senior Webb Williams and 6-4 junior Ray Roberts. Squadmen Steve Chambers, Dale Donaldson and Kim Wyatt are also competing for spots on the squad.

"Our team has good speed and quickness," said assistant coach Norman Reuther. "If we can prepare them well, we will have a good team."

Reuther said there have been no bad experiences in the first few days of practice. There are new people learning a new system and this takes time, he said.

"Thornton has a good chance of starting, but right now it's hard to say who will be the starting five," Reuther said. "Thornton exhibited great leadership last year and averaged 22 points in the last eight games."

## Ag golfers make plans for season

The golf team has worked hard in preparation for its fall tournament schedule and conference competition this spring.

Coach Bob Ellis narrowed the number of players from the original 63 to a mere 15. The remaining players are: Monte Shauer, Bill Hodges, Steve Whiteside, Steve Hughes, Clay Dozier, Al Pryor, Jerry Orebaugh, Bobby Baker, Gail Mayfield, Ed Pennington, Charlie White, John Laing, Craig Schurmbush, Tom Sutter and Bill McEntire.

Ellis' aim is to attain national recognition. "People like to be associated with a winner," he said. "Our goal is to build a championship team." He added that the facilities for golf at A&M are the finest he's seen anywhere.

In the SWC, the Aggies should expect toughest competition from both Houston and Texas, although SMU is also expected to contend. Nationally, the Ags will tee it up against such standouts as Florida, Oklahoma State, Wake Forest and Alabama.

Overall, the potential is here. The question is whether or not the experience the team acquires this fall will provide them with the confidence needed to compete to their capability in the spring.

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The Aggies open the season Nov. 30 against Texas Lutheran in G. Rolie White Coliseum. There will be a scrimmage 9:30 on the Saturday mornings of home football games. Practices begin around 4:00 p.m. and are open to the public.

This year the Aggies will play a 10-game junior varsity schedule beginning Nov. 30 and ending Dec. 14. They will be coached by ex-Aggie basketballers Bob Gobin and Charlie Jenkins.

## Batt sports

### Ag water polo team fares well on road

By PAUL McGRATH  
Staff Sports Writer

Returning from a very successful trip to Arkansas this weekend, the water polo team plays its final home game against the College Station Water Polo Club this Thursday.

Coach Dennis Fosdick's Aggies collected four victories while on the road to stretch their season record to 12-2-1. Competing in the Hendrix Invitational Tournament, the Ags made it their fourth time in a row to sweep the tourney.

### The AP Top 20

The Associated Press Top Twenty college football teams, with first-place votes in parentheses, season record and total points. Points tabulated on basis of 20-18-16-14-12-10-9-8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1:

|                    |       |       |
|--------------------|-------|-------|
| 1. Ohio State (50) | 6-0-0 | 1,196 |
| 2. Oklahoma (8)    | 5-0-0 | 1,082 |
| 3. Michigan (1)    | 6-0-0 | 923   |
| 4. Alabama (1)     | 6-0-0 | 887   |
| 5. Auburn (1)      | 6-0-0 | 699   |
| 6. S. California   | 4-1-0 | 628   |
| 7. Notre Dame      | 5-1-0 | 529   |
| 8. Texas A&M       | 5-1-0 | 507   |
| 9. Nebraska        | 4-2-0 | 355   |
| 10. Penn State     | 5-1-0 | 314   |
| 11. Texas Tech     | 4-1-1 | 188   |
| 12. Florida        | 5-1-0 | 184   |
| 13. Texas          | 4-2-0 | 182   |
| 14. Arizona State  | 4-1-0 | 125   |
| 15. Maryland       | 4-2-0 | 94    |
| 16. Arizona        | 5-1-0 | 88    |
| 17. N. Caro. St.   | 6-1-0 | 55    |
| 18. Tulane         | 5-0-0 | 46    |
| 19. Miami, O.      | 5-0-1 | 35    |
| 20. California     | 5-1-0 | 28    |

Others receiving votes, listed alphabetically: Baylor, Illinois, Kansas, Miami, Fla., Mississippi State, North Carolina, Oklahoma State, Pitt, Purdue, San Diego State, Temple, UCLA, Wisconsin.

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