

Cagers open season with victory

By TONY GALLUCCI
Staff Sports Writer

The Aggies blistered the basket for 55 second half points to move away from a 29-29 halftime deadlock and take their first win of the season, 84-74, over Texas Lutheran College. Barry Davis led a balanced scoring attack with 24 points to gain high point honors for the Ag. Davis, a Junior transfer from Hill JC, also led in rebounds with 15.

The Bulldogs of TLC were the only ones on the court who didn't show the opening game stiffness. Even the officials had their troubles. Team captain John Thornton said, "It was the first game jitters. Everybody hustled so much we made stupid mistakes."

"They were tight," said Aggie head coach Shelby Metcalf. "But they opened up the second half and started playing like we expected to."

"I thought Barry Davis played an outstanding ball game and what pleased me more was Mike Floyd playing like he did when he was a sophomore. Chuck (Tone) played well for being out of competition for a season."

TLC was led by point man Herbert Lee. Lee led all scorers with 26 points, hitting 8 of 13 from the field and 10 of 12 at the free throw line. "TLC played a smart ball game," said Metcalf. "But of course this is their third." Lutheran came to College Station with an 0-2 record, losing to Texas A&I 96-88 and South west Texas State 88-81.

After the cold first half in which the Ags could muster only 36 per

cent from the field they returned to hit 53.3 per cent the second half. Besides Davis, the Ags had three other players in double figures. Floyd had 16, Sonny Parker hit for 14 and Webb Williams ended with 10. Thornton was fifth with seven points. For the Bulldogs, postman Steve Porter was the only man in double figures besides Lee, with 19.

Transfer Gates Erwin was injured in the game. The junior starter has a possible pulled hamstring.

In the prelim, the Aggie Junior Varsity waxed San Antonio College, 84-66, paced by Kim Wyatt's 20 points. Doug Mezger poured in 15 to help out. Leroy Baerwald contributed 9 points, followed by Dale

Donaldson, Steve Chambers, L. R. Vela and Brian Barrett each with eight points. Bruce Ott had seven points.

The Ags play Houston Baptist tonight at 7:30 p.m. in G. Rollie White Coliseum. The JV team will play Blinn Junior College at 5:15.

HBC, coached by Lonnie Rickards, will bring in a talented trio of Mack Coleman, a 6-9 Senior, Robert Paige, a 7-0 junior, and Raymond Prejean a 6-7 Junior. The Huskies are expected to be much improved since last year. Their rough schedule is showing though as they have lost their first two games to New Mexico State 82-53 and UTEP, 68-54.

	fgm	fga	ftm	fta	reb	pf	tp
Thornton	1	2	5	6	4	4	7
Davis	7	10	10	13	15	3	24
Mercer	1	4	0	2	2	4	2
Parker	5	11	4	4	5	5	14
Erwin	0	1	0	0	0	3	0
Williams	5	8	0	0	2	4	10
Roberts	0	3	0	0	1	0	0
Floyd	5	2	6	6	2	3	16
Joseph	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Tone	3	6	0	1	1	2	6
Jones	2	6	1	1	2	3	5
TOTALS	29	63	26	33	40	32	84

	fgm	fga	ftm	fta	reb	pf	tp
Young	1	3	1	1	2	2	3
Price	3	7	0	1	9	5	6
Porter	5	13	9	13	9	4	19
Lee	8	13	10	12	4	4	26
Jay	3	5	0	1	4	5	6
Silva	0	2	3	4	4	3	3
Randle	1	1	1	3	0	1	3
Jones	4	6	0	1	0	1	8
TOTALS	25	50	24	36	38	25	74

Tornadoes unpredictable when stirred by boosters

By TONY GALLUCCI
Staff Sports Writer

It seems like innocent stories stir up tornadoes and stories that carry a hint of trouble stir up little more than dust these days.

In a story I wrote entitled "Memories relived in AAA Football", BATTALION, Sept. 25, was a small paragraph describing the A&M Consolidated High School Band as an octopus and a motocross track. The paragraph was simply a transition in the story. But with all the trouble it caused it might as well have been the entire story.

My phone rang off the hook for a week after the story was printed. I heard everyone from irate parents to band booster members to completely unmentionable one sided conversations.

I got the story a dozen times about the band winning the sweeps-takes five years in a row and how they couldn't possibly have been as bad as I made them out to be. I was invited to be the guest of various

folks at succeeding games to see the band at its best.

I didn't accept the invitations but I did attend almost every game this year.

I attended more out of sympathy than anything else. I felt there was a debt to be paid as maybe I had caught the band at a particularly bad moment. A journalist does not like to be portrayed as one who writes only one side of a story when two are available.

Yet at the first game after the story, where were the parents who had griped so much? I had fully ex-

Commentary

pected a standing ovation for the band, a show of confidence, but where was it? The band's show progressed and digressed all through the season from supposedly intricate designs at the Tomball game to standing monotony at Homecoming.

Maybe the lack of luster of which the band is capable is why the phone calls stopped after the first game following the article. Rumors are rampant that the band is suffering a lot of problems. Let us examine the problems and their source.

Consider having to put on a good show week after week when the show is constantly changing. Band director Charles Maxwell says "we like to provide variety." But isn't this a bit much?

Let's consider the marching contest of last weekend where the band failed to repeat as sweepstakes winner ("Consol band takes 2nd division award", BATTALION, Nov. 21).

I waited all season for the sweepstakes contest so that I might show a good side of the band and give them credit where they deserved it.

Yet the band took a second division rating in marching. First division ratings are required in each of three competitions to earn the sweepstakes award. The Tiger band lost out in round one.

I wrote about 20 students being suspended from school after liquor bottles were found on the bus. All kinds of threats were received about the consequences of printing the story. Most of the threats appealed to my fear of telephone calls.

Yet I received no phone calls after that story. Where were the irate parents, the concerned band boosters?

Maxwell said that printing the story would seriously hurt the school's attempt to uphold moral values. But is the school trying to uphold them or mask them?

Maxwell stated that the "students have gotten more than their punishment, they have suffered enough." Let's consider this in the light of no students caught drinking.

The students were summoned after someone, as yet unconfirmed, remembered who was sitting in the seats where the bottles were found. Where were the chaperones? Twenty kids drinking white wine on a 44-seat bus and no one notices? Yet they remembered who was sitting in what seat.

Or were the 20 students punished for leaving wine bottles on the bus? Word has it that this has been going on for years but so go rumors. So also go kids. This bunch, though, was too drunk or too stupid to take their incriminating trash with them.

So when it comes to punishment let us punish correctly. If it is against the rules to drink on the bus let's enforce it. One problem solved; no drinking, no harsh or unfair punishment. Admission of guilt or not; let's not punish for leaving trash when the actual crime committed in extreme proportion is allowed to continue.

I contend that the happenings of weekend last reflect poorly on the school and not the students involved. I call for the complete erasure of bad implications on the students' records and that the students be allowed to make up missed work without penalty.

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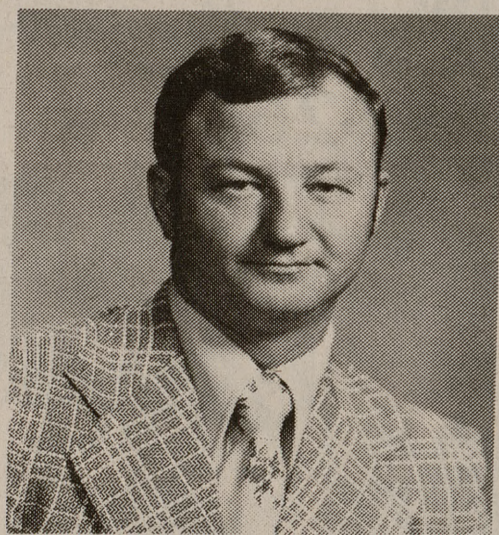
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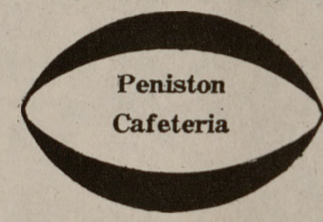
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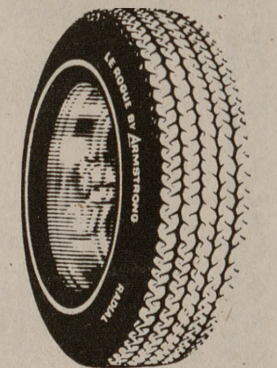
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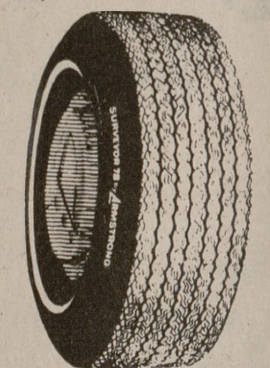
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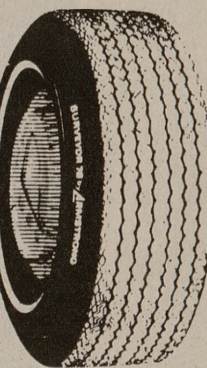
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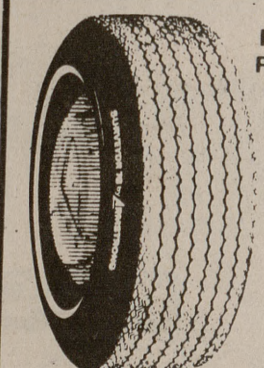
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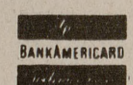


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