

Davis provides all around play

By PAUL McGRATH
Staff Sports Writer

"I'd rather come out of a game with 15 to 18 rebounds than 30 to 35 points."

So says Texas A&M's leading rebounder and second leading scorer, Barry Davis.

Davis came to the Aggies this year as a transfer student from Hill Junior College. In his last year at Hill he helped guide the team to a fifth place finish in the national junior college tournament.

Davis began his basketball "career" back in the seventh grade. However, his first love was baseball not basketball. Later he played some football before a knee injury

cut his grid days short. He then switched to basketball. Apparently it was a wise choice for he eventually became a two-time All-District player at Galveston Ball High. "Basketball was something I enjoyed doing," said Davis. "It caught on and just got in my system."

He is not the only member in his family to play college basketball. His brother, Dwight, starred at the University of Houston and went on to a pro career in Cleveland.

The problem of suddenly changing from junior college to major college basketball seems to have had little or no effect on Davis. "I'd say we're satisfied with Barry's play," said assistant basketball coach Norm Reuther. "He's a team player and that's the most important aspect. Being a junior college transfer is not always easy. Barry's done well. He's got a lot of character."

Reuther believes that the mental aspect of playing basketball on a collegiate level is about 85 per cent of the game. In close games, says Reuther, mental toughness is required to overcome fatigue. He describes Davis as the type of "men-

tally tough individual that is needed in close games."

"I don't believe in pressure. I feel I can handle any situation," Davis said. "I go out saying this is what I'm going to do and there's no ifs or buts about it."

Reuther says Davis is "one of the better defensive players we have." He credits Davis' junior college coach for having helped Davis come to A&M defensively sound. "He's got a lot of pride in his defensive play and he works hard at it," said Reuther.

At 6-6, Davis is not overly tall at the post position. His defensive strategy for taller opponents is to maintain his position and not let the man get the ball. Logically, a man can inflict little damage without the basketball and so Davis makes it his objective to prevent his opponent from getting it.

Davis leads the Aggies in rebounding with 105 caroms, averaging eight a game. Reuther says, "Barry is a mobile, competitive, tough athlete. He's the kind we like to have inside. . . . He's a strong, tough rebounder and again his indi-

vidual pride shows in his rebounding."

Averaging 14 points a game, Davis trails only Sonny Parker in team scoring. Much of the offense is keyed off the post man who has the option to pass to the open man or go

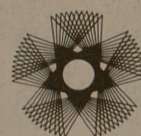
to the hoop himself. Again Reuther says Davis has been doing a fine job in this aspect also.

As for personal goals, Davis says he has none except to win the conference. He says in the SWC "every game is like playing for the championship. You know you have to win." He looks for a close race this year with no pushovers.

Then again, neither is Barry Davis.



BARRY DAVIS



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Women may get benefits from NCAA convention

By TONY GALLUCCI
Staff Sports Writer

Women's athletics in the United States may have benefited by a near mistake by the National Collegiate Athletic Association, say observers.

Associate Athletic Director Marvin Tate and Athletic Council Chairman Charles Samson attended the December convention of the NCAA and returned bearing good news for women.

Samson explains, "There is a women's organization, the AIAW (Association for Intercollegiate Women's Athletics), that is considered to be a counterpart of the NCAA. This group was conducting its convention in Houston on the same day as our convention. "At a round table discussion a day and a half before the business meeting where voting takes place a resolution was introduced. Basically it was a prerogative to set up a couple of women's sports this spring to build up the women's program."

"Well, the headlines got out and there were some anxious moments. The AIAW apparently had observers at the meeting, too, and they transmitted the message to Houston. By the next morning every school had gotten a phone call from their women's representative."

"It seems that most people thought that the NCAA was moving without consideration to the women's group. The resolution was withdrawn and the NCAA was in-

structed to conduct a study and return with the results at next year's meeting."

Tate added, "The resolution that was adopted said that the NCAA would work with the AIAW on a workable plan, which is the way I think it should be, that is, interaction between the two groups."

TAMU currently competes in 10 sports associated with the Texas AIAW. Women's Athletic Director Kay Don, who attended the AIAW meeting, was not available for comment before press time.

In other NCAA action, a resolution allowing 12 football games to be played in a regular season was with-

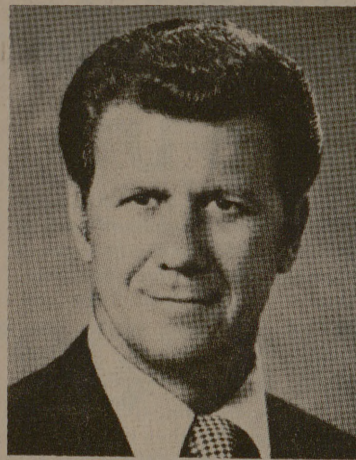
drawn from the floor and did not come to a vote.

"One thing I thought might affect A&M athletics," said Tate, "was a resolution concerning recruiting contacts." In the Southwest Conference recruiters cannot contact prospects until they have completed their junior year of high school.

This rule is not currently accepted by the NCAA, and therefore a team from another conference can contact prospects in this area long before they are seniors and available to SWC members. Tate said, "We (SWC) can be more restrictive than the NCAA but not less. That might hurt us."

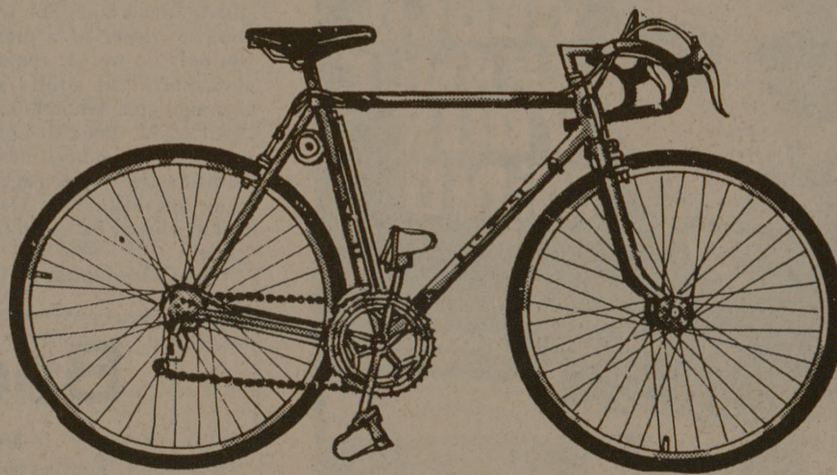
Also, athletes are currently allowed four tickets to distribute to his family friends. A resolution introduced by the University of Arkansas would prevent the athletes from gaining possession of such tickets. Persons designated by the athlete would receive the tickets at the event by showing a receipt. "This would create problems from a logistic standpoint because of the handling of the tickets," said Tate.

A further resolution would, according to Tate, "make drastic changes in the game of football as we now know it." The measure would reduce the numbers of players on the squad and limit substitutes, effectively eliminating the two platoon system of football. "The resolution was dropped."



MARVIN TATE

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