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Highly regarded transfer

Parker leads Ag scorers; concentrates on defense

By PAUL McGRATH
Staff Sports Writer

With 44 seconds left in last night's game with SMU, Sonny Parker sank a layup to put the Aggies on the century mark for the second time this year.

Parker is in his inaugural season with A&M after his transfer from Mineral Area Junior College in Missouri. The Chicago native was twice a Junior college All-America, twice Player of the Year and twice the leading scorer of Region 16. He was named the Most Valuable Player in the junior college tournament.

Sonny P. was recruited by assistant basketball coach Norm Reuther. Reuther traveled to Illinois many a weekend to see Parker. The preliminary recruiting was done by former coach Jim Culpepper who traveled to see Parker's high school team in action. The high school coach later introduced Parker to Culpepper and Reuther took it from there.

Parker is the leading scorer for the Aggies, averaging 15 points a game. He was noted for his scoring ability in junior college, pouring in close to 27 points a game. However he is still not satisfied with his game. "I have confidence in my offensive game, but I can have a bad game and still score 14 or 15 points," Parker said. "I try not to shoot too much and try to look for the open man more." Parker was seven of 11 against SMU, scoring 16 total points.

Although Parker tries to "get as

close as (he) can" he has range from all over the court. He seldom takes long shots but will put up "one or two to keep my man honest." In SWC play, he is hitting at 55 percent from the field.

Parker's natural tendency to drive on his opponent has succeeded in drawing a good many charging calls from the officials. Thus, Parker has been in foul trouble much more than he desires to be. Against the Mustangs, Parker was disqualified for the fifth time this year, more than any other A&M player. About the situation, Parker says he will "have to adjust to the way the officials call the game."

The 6-6 guard has not always been on the offending end however,

and because of the rash of foul calls in the conference, has been brushing up on his free throw shooting. In practice, the Ags have a free throw shooting contest going. Thus far, Parker is in first place. For the year, Parker is hitting 74 percent from the line.

Parker is now concentrating on his defensive play. He feels confident that his height and quickness is sufficient to stay with opposing guards. Parker's concentration is apparently paying off because neither of the SMU guards (Joe Arnold, Mike Jaccar and John Sagehorn) were able to score a single point while he was in the contest.

He also expresses confidence in the ability of the Aggies to play team defense and he feels each man can depend on the other for help if he needs it. "The defense comes through when we need it," says Parker.

Playing in the SWC for the first time, Parker was surprised at the treatment A&M receives from the crowds at away games. "It seems everywhere we go, they (the crowd) hate us," he said. "They really don't want us to win." During the game at Lubbock with Tech, some of the fans began throwing ice onto the court. "It was something I had never experienced before," Parker said.

He says he is not surprised with the Aggies' perfect conference record. "The reason why we win is because everybody's together just like a family."



SONNY PARKER

Golf coach keeps enthusiasm despite inexperience of team

By ROBERT CESSNA
Staff Sports Writer

With A&M basketball doing so well and with baseball on the horizon the Ag gold team has to get its recognition on the course.

Bob Ellis, a graduate of Oklahoma State, is in his first season as head coach of the Aggies.

Ellis is very enthused about the upcoming season even though he has a relatively young team.

On the 23rd of January the walk on candidates began to qualify to see which 10 would compete later for the spots on the team.

Then last week the ten walk-ons along with 14 players who played last semester began qualifying to see what 12 would make the squad.

As of Monday they had 90 holes played with a possible of 54 more may be played. But the rain has caused the golfers to miss some days and today is the last day for qualifying, Ellis said. Tech will also be tough on their own course, Ellis added.

To prepare for the upcoming season, conditioning and practice are the key things the golfers will be doing after qualifying. "Hitting balls, lifting weights and playing on other courses," said Ellis, "are some ways to prepare."

A&M has eight golfers on scholarship and Ellis expects to do some recruiting. This weekend he has

four recruits coming to look at A&M and three for the following weekend.

Ellis lists the plus points for A&M as outstanding facilities, great weather and a university that offers tremendous educational opportunities. Also in the offering is a new driving range for the Ag team to use. They may have only 90 holes, 108, 126 or 144 depending on the weather.

After 90 holes Clay Dozier, a senior from College Station, had the best score, three over. In second place was Monte Schauer with a score of six over. The complete list of scores follows at the end of the article.

Scores After 90 Holes

*Clay Dozier	+ 3
*Monte Schauer	+ 3
*Tom Sutter	+14
*Al Fryer	+15
*Steve Whiteside	+17
Larry Gorzycki	+21
*Craig Schurmbusch	+21
*Bobby Baker	+22
*Ed Pennington	+23
*Curtis Mayfield	+24
*Steve Hughes	+25
Mike High	+26
*Jerry Orelbaugh	+28
*Bill Hodges	+29
Bill McEntire	+30
Steve Patton	+32
*John Laing	+34
Mike Steindorf	+37
David Franks	+42

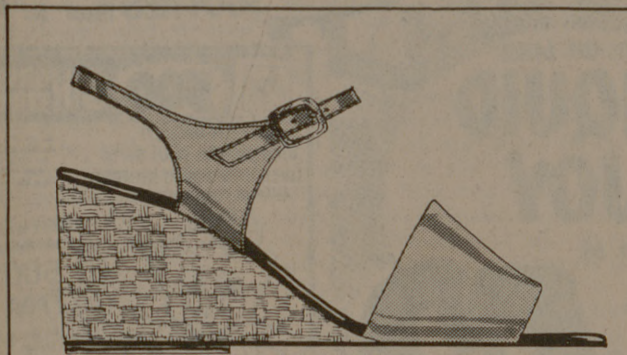
*Denotes players who played last semester.

TAMU Skeet & Trap Club will hold their first spring meeting, Wed., Feb 5th, at 7:30 p.m., in room 502 Rudder Tower.

A skeet & trap film will be shown featuring Mr. D. Braun, World Skeet Champion.

Memberships will be available at this time.

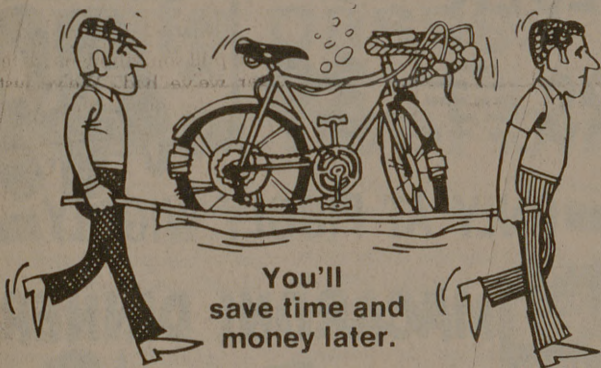
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Photographs are taken on a drop-in basis, 8 — 5 weekdays and 8 — 12 Sat. For further information contact the Studio.

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