

# Outfielder is versatile athlete

By ROBERT CESSNA  
Staff Sports Writer

Jim Thorpe-type athletes come along once in a lifetime and when they do they're something to watch. Michael Frazier, catcher for the A&M baseball team, may be one of those rare gems.

While the right-handed Frazier is known for his talents on the baseball diamond, he has also performed on the football field and basketball court at A&M.

"When I played football I had a slight differing of opinion as far as moving up goes," Frazier said. Things were looking promising for Frazier, then it appeared he would not move any further up the ladder. "I was kind of depreciating, so why stay out here when I might get hurt."

When he played basketball he was doing well. "I really like Coach Metcalf and wanted to play for him,

but I didn't have myself disciplined," Frazier said. It was Thanksgiving break and Frazier wanted to go home because he hadn't been home for a long time and college adjustment was rough. "I went home and gave up basketball," he said.

Frazier regrets that he didn't continue playing basketball. "It's hard to keep me off a basketball court."

Frazier, a senior physical education major, said that A&M will have a pretty good year. He points out that there is a lot of togetherness on the team.

Individually, Frazier said, he has progressed a lot in the time he's been here. "I was slowed down my freshman year because of the new environment," he added. Frazier came from an all black school, B. C. Elmore of Houston, and, "I became the first black player in the Southwest Conference. It was a challenge for me," Frazier said. "But I just wanted to play ball and go to school."

Over the years Frazier has improved because the other players he came up with have improved also. "We were brought up together and they try to understand my viewpoint," he said. "They push me to do better and are really understanding," Frazier added.

To utilize his speed Coach Chandler will try Frazier in the outfield. Frazier once again will show his versatility.

Any athlete has to have the main tools of the trade; running, hitting and throwing. "Mike has a big plus in all these areas," Coach Tom Chandler, head baseball coach, said.

"It's a matter of him putting it all together, and he has," Chandler said. "In 1973 he won the Wally Moon award. The award is voted by the players to the player they felt has improved the most."

"He was drafted by the Los Angeles Dodgers out of high school,

the Cleveland Indians last year and the Pittsburgh Pirates in January. He has made a wise choice and chose to remain in school to work for his degree. He is an excellent prospect," Chandler said Frazier would make it in the pros. Assistant Baseball Coach Jim Sampson said, "He has a tremendous amount of ability."

The 5'11" Frazier would like to be more devastating when batting and likes to throw the ball. "I just haven't put it together last year, but

I'll do it this year no doubt. No one can steal on me this year," he added.

The pro scouts have found out how hard it is to steal on Frazier. The three teams mentioned before tried to steal him from A&M. "I'm pointing toward that degree and it would take a good offer for me to give it up," Frazier said. If by June 5 he has not signed with Pittsburgh, his name goes back in the free agent list. But until then he has a baseball season to accomplish some goals.

## Club Sports

### SOCCER

The soccer club will hold a required meeting on Feb. 19. Plans for the Baylor tournament will be finalized. Election of officers for the coming year will be held. Plans are currently in the making for matches with Baylor and New Mexico State.

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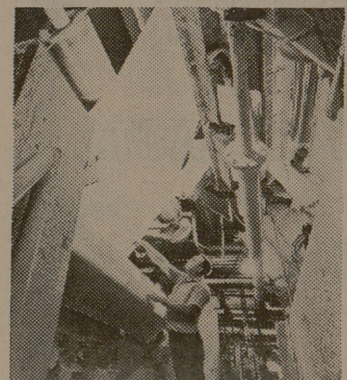
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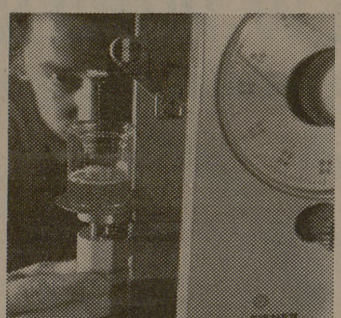
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## No justice

# Could perfect record fail?

By LYNN GARTMAN  
Special to the Batt

The Texas Aggie basketball team may go undefeated in Southwest Conference (SWC) play next year and not advance to the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) playoffs.

The best won-lost record will still merit the SWC championship title. However, a season's end tournament starting in the 1975-1976 season will determine the SWC representative in the NCAA playoffs.

"It's really going to help a team like A&M has been in the last three years," senior basketball player Cedric Joseph related.

"In the first half of conference play we usually start off real slow. Then we keep working and finish real strong."

"So when we got off to the tournament we would really be peaked and playing our best ball."

Mike Floyd, also a senior player, said, "If we were a mediocre team with several losses we would really be looking forward to it."

Joseph agreed, adding, "Normally with several conference losses a team's season is over. From then on the coach starts playing for next year; he starts playing the younger guys."

"With the tournament they would still have a chance and would play every game for every game."

"Also a team can be playing at a time when they don't have the best players out there," Joseph added. "By the time it's worked out they might have already lost the conference."

Floyd also feels that the tournament will help recruiting. "A tournament like this will probably give more publicity to SWC basketball. It will pull in a lot more, better players for us," he said.

"I'd like to play in the tournament," Floyd said. "It will be more fun. It will give us more games to play."

Scouts for professional teams would benefit from the tourney, Floyd said. "They could stop in at the tourney for a couple of days and see a lot of players."

As a disadvantage, Floyd feels that the tournament will make play in the SWC weaker for a couple of years.

"A team will keep on losing and losing, remembering that at the end of the year they will have the tourney. They will keep thinking in the back of their heads that when it comes to the end of the year they will get ready and beat the top teams," Floyd explained.

For the top team the tourney could be a bother, Joseph added.

"A team that has already won the conference will have to fight to win a few more so that they can go to the playoffs," he said.

"Another thing that could happen," Floyd said, "is that a poor team with a lot of conference losses could come out in the tourney shooting real well and beat the top team."

## Past 10 years sees tennis fans double

By NICK G. VOINIS  
Special to the Batt

More than 13 million men, women and children now play tennis in the United States — double the number of ten years ago. They spend over half a billion dollars a year on rackets, balls, lessons, clothing, membership dues, court construction and fees.

TAMU Tennis Coach Robert Barker says tennis is one of the more popular P.E. activities on campus. There are twelve sections of tennis classes with a capacity 45 students in each.

"The kids enjoy it," Barker replied. "We try to teach them enough about the game so they will enjoy it enough to keep playing when they get out of the class."

Barker believes a big reason tennis popularity is increasing is that the investment is not that expensive. All one needs is a racket and balls.

"Tennis is a good exercise," said Barker. "It also does not take as much time to play tennis as it does some other sports such as golf."

One problem most tennis enthusiasts find is a lack of open courts. Most community and private courts stay open all-night during the summer with players volleying till all hours of the night.

"Then they could turn around and get beat by a mediocre team. So, our conference might not be represented by the right team," Floyd pointed out.

Joseph suggested, "You also have to take into consideration that in a tourney like this many teams with few chances of their own will work real hard to be the spoiler."

## Club to hold road rally

The Winter Weekend Two will be sponsored by the Sports Car Club this weekend.

The weekend will include an "All's Well that Ends Well" road rally and a parking lot autocross.

Registration and rally school for the road rally is set for noon Saturday in the basement of the MSC. Fees will be \$5 for non-members of the TAMU club and \$4 for members. The course is 80 miles for the road rally and first car out is 1 p.m. from parking lot 60.

The auto cross will be held on parking lot 61 across from the Wolford Cain pool.

Two driving instructors from the Texas Transportation Institute center for high performance driving will give instruction on car safety. They are Mark Edwards and Quinn Brackett.

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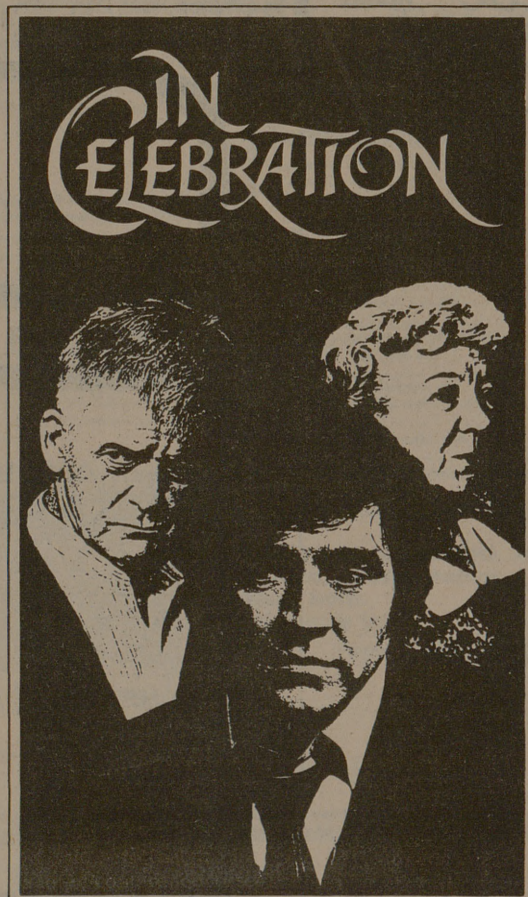
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