

Six senior cagers play in last game tomorrow

By DAVID WALKER
Staff Sports Writer

Saturday's A&M-Texas match will be the final regular season game for six seniors: Jerry Mercer, Mike Floyd, Webb Williams, Cedric Joseph, John Thornton, and Chuck Tone.

John Thornton and Chuck Tone are junior college transfers but the other four have been at A&M for four years and have played in 51 victories, the second largest total in A&M history. The 1922 seniors played in 53 victories, a total this year's seniors could surpass in post-season play.

Jerry Mercer came to A&M from Houston Cypress-Fairbanks High School. He was all-state in both football and basketball at Cy-Fair and also lettered in track. He has started every game since the beginning of his junior year. His career high of 18 points was against Stephen F. Austin and Baylor last year. His high of 18 rebounds was against Sam Houston State University this year.

Cedric Joseph also was a high school All-American. He played for Ft. Worth Arlington Heights. Joseph was district most valuable

player for two years and was named Texas Player of the Year his senior year. He was Freshman of the Year in the Southwest Conference. He holds the A&M varsity rebounding record with 23 against San Angelo in his sophomore year. Career high scoring was 25 against Rice.

Mike Floyd came to A&M as an all-state player from Rockford, Illinois. He, like Joseph, was also MVP of his district twice.

Floyd was hampered by injuries last year but is still the fourth leading Aggie scorer. During his playing days at A&M he has earned the nickname, "Mr. Clutch." It was never more evident than in the Arkansas game when he hit a desperation jump shot with two seconds left in the game to give the Aggies victory. One of Floyd's highlights was a three-game stint when he hit 46 straight free throws as a sophomore. Aggie coach Shelby Metcalf has often said that Floyd is the best guard that he has coached in his 15 years at A&M.

Webb Williams was an all-district and all-state basketballer at Comstock High. He played 20 games last year and played all 25 games this year. Shelby Metcalf said at his weekly press conference he has

kicked himself 1500 times for not red-shirting Williams his freshman year. "Webb is just now coming into his own and is really helping us, I just hate to see him go now that he is coming along so well."

Chuck Tone is one of the two Aggie seniors who has played at A&M only two years. Tone transferred from Iowa Central Junior College, fall of 1972. He was an all-district and all-state in high school at Grinnell High. He was a part-time starter as a junior at A&M before sitting out last year. Coach Shelby Metcalf tells that Tone should write a book called "Come Out of That Zone." Tone is known for his outside bombing that tends to make teams change from zone to a man-to-man defense.

John Thornton, like Tone, is a junior college transfer. Thornton came from San Antonio Jr. College in 1973.

Thornton was twice all-city and all-district at San Antonio Holmes High School. He became a starter during the last half of the season last year and went on to become the Aggies' Most Valuable Player. Thornton is team captain for this year. His career high was against Baylor last year with 31 points.



Coach Shelby Metcalf and head trainer, Billy Pickard, get a shower after Ags win 1969 SWC crown. Will Metcalf get another Saturday?

Ags can clinch title with win over Texas

By DAVID WALKER
Staff Sports Writer

When it comes to sports the Aggie dream is to win a championship against the Texas Longhorns on the last day of the season.

The Aggies have a chance to realize that dream Saturday as they host the Longhorns in the 1975 Southwest Conference championship game. The Aggies have a one-game lead over Texas Tech and Arkansas with only the Texas game left on the schedule. A victory over the Horns would give the Aggies the undisputed SWC championship, their first since 1969, and a trip to Lubbock next weekend to play in the Midwest Pre-Regional.

The Aggies and Horns got together earlier this season in Austin with the Aggies winning 80-74. That win came at the end of a two-game road trip that saw the Aggies take wins over Texas and Texas Tech. That was the first big two-game road trip. The second on-the-road biggie was completed Tuesday night in Dallas when the Aggies, taking part in the SWC title race, crunched the SMU Mustangs 100-77. A&M, now 19-6 on the year, has a chance to win 20 games for the first time ever if they defeat Texas.

With the road trips behind them for awhile, the Aggies are concentrating on the Longhorns. The Horns are 6-7 in the SWC and 10-14 on the year.

The Texas game in Austin earlier this season was close all the way and Aggie coach Shelby Metcalf doesn't see it any different this time. "Texas is going to be tough, they always are," Metcalf said. "They are going to be a lot tougher than they were

against Tech on TV last week. Krueger and Johnson had bad games against Tech, but they won't against us, they always play good against us."

John Thornton was the leading Aggie scorer against Texas in Austin with 17 points. Jerry Mercer was the leading rebounder for the Ags with 11. The game was played before a turn-away crowd of 8,000. Saturday's game is expected to have another turn-away crowd as there will be no closed circuit TV. The game will be televised by TVS. Game time 2:10 with the gates opening at 12:30. All reserved tickets are sold out but general admission tickets will go on sale at 12:30 when the gates open.

For those who don't get in or don't have cable TV you can hear the game on KTAM with Mike Mistovich announcing.

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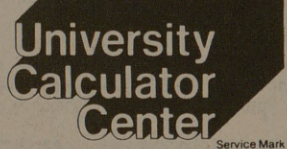


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