

To play 18th ranked Cincy

Ags to face playoff test

By DAVID WALKER
Staff Sports Writer

Who's afraid of the big, bad Bearcats?

Big, yes. Bad, maybe, but one thing is for sure, the Texas Aggies aren't going into the game with the same attitude that many so called "basketball experts" have. According to experts the Aggies have about as much chance against the Bearcats as the proverbial snowball in you know where.

One of the experts drawing card is that Cincinnati beat the Houston

Cougars by 20 and the Coogs beat the Aggies by 20, thus making Cincy a 40 point pick. Cough.

Comparing scores really don't mean anything but since everyone would like to compare that one score let's compare all of them.

The Bearcats enter the game with a 21-5 slate for the season. The Ags carry a 20-6 mark into the Lubbock contest.

Cincinnati has played nine teams with a winning record while the Aggies have played 10.

The record of the teams Cincinnati has played this year is 285-273. The record of the Aggie opponents is 312-274.

The only big difference in the comparing of schedules is in the Aggies' favor. The combined record of the teams to beat Cincy is 76-47. The combined record of the schools to beat the Aggies is 118-38. That speaks well for the Aggies considering that they didn't lose to a team with a losing record, Cincinnati has.

The Bearcats, coached by Gayle Catlett, will start a young but talented and extremely tall team. Three freshmen, one sophomore and one senior will make up the Cincy lineup. Their second leading scorer will be out of the Aggie game. Pat Cummings has been out since the Bearcat's 18th game with a broken leg.

Cincinnati is shooting 48.5 from the floor and 71.4 from the free throw line. They are averaging 44 rebounds per game to their opponents 38.5. They are averaging 81.7 per game while giving up only 71.6.

The Aggies will go with the same starting lineup that they have been with most of the year: seniors John Thornton, Mike Floyd, and Jerry Mercer with juniors Barry Davis and Sonny Parker.

Aggie coach Shelby Metcalf is highly impressed with the Cincinnati team he saw on film Wednesday. "I believe they have better ath-

letes than Indiana," Metcalf said. "They don't play together as well as Indiana, but they have better individual talent."

Metcalf also reminded that his team wasn't going to Lubbock just because they won the conference,

"We're going out there to win, nothing else."

The Aggie-Bearcat game begins at 7:10 with radio and TV coverage beginning at 7:00. KCEN-TV and KTAM radio will carry the game locally.

Barry Davis, the fierce competitor

By MIKE BRUTON
Sports Editor

Barry Davis is a winner. He's a fierce competitor that won't settle for anything short of maximum effort. His track record shows his desire to win. He's played in national championship tournaments on the NAIA and junior college levels and is now preparing to meet Cincinnati in the first round of the NCAA playoffs. There aren't many people who can say that they've accomplished this feat.

Davis began his college basketball career at Sam Houston where the Bearcat team went as far as the second round of the NAIA tourney before being stopped by Xavier of New Orleans. He went on to Hill County Junior College and played under Coach Carter Williams, an A&M alumnus, and eventually ended up 5th in the National Juco Tournament.

Davis only played a half of the season at Hill County but made All-Region and All-Tournament at the nationals.

Davis finished his first regular season at Texas A&M the leading rebounder grabbing 7.3 a game and the second leading scorer with 13.2 points a game. It seems that wherever he goes winning ways follow, and it's no accident. Davis is a fighter, he plays to win. "I just hate to lose," Davis said in an interview. "To compete is a challenge."

Coach Shelby Metcalf best described Davis' approach to the game of basketball in two words, "Barry believes." "He believes in his own ability, in the ability of our ball club and he believes that if you pay the price you'll be successful."

Davis will be matched against Cincy's Mike Franklin in the Aggies' must game tomorrow. Franklin is 6-8 and 240 compared to Davis' 6-6 and 215. But both Davis and Metcalf have few worries about Franklin's size advantage. "I'm not worried about his (Franklin's) size, I'm just going out there to play basketball," commented Davis. Referring to Davis, Metcalf said, "I'll take all bets on who wins that matchup."

Davis is that kind of ballplayer, you can be sure that he'll be step for step with Franklin. After watching him play this season I believe in him. According to Metcalf, Davis' credentials demand respect. "He's got the respect of his teammates, coaches, opponents and the student body," Metcalf added.

Davis is not only a good basketball player, but a good student also. Metcalf said that Davis carried 20 hours a semester when he was at Hill County Juco. He has good class attendance here and always gets his assignments in on time. "Barry is just as dedicated to getting an education as playing basketball," Metcalf added.

There are no stars on the 1974-75 Aggie basketball team, because they all play together unselfishly to

achieve the maximum team effort. But a guy like Davis makes a noticeable impression. Everyone in the coliseum notices Davis' leaps for rebounds and net-swishing shots, but not everyone notices the superb defense he plays.

The Aggie coaches noticed it and they loved it. "He (Davis) is a very intelligent ballplayer," Metcalf remarked, "especially defensively." Metcalf also said that Davis plays a big part in the total defensive scheme for the Aggies. "He and Jerry Mercer anchors our defense," said Metcalf. The A&M mentor also said that when one of our players get out of position that Davis "does a great job of stepping in and helping."

Davis has made his mark in A&M sports history and he's not through yet with another year left to play. The best thing that I can say about Barry Davis right now is that I'm glad he's on our side.



BARRY DAVIS

Terps hope to win big at tourney

COLLEGE PARK, Md. (AP) — Maryland opened the basketball season by winning the Intercontinental Cup Games in Mexico City, and now the Terps can win the national collegiate championship with a similar five-game victory streak.

"It's exciting to think that just by winning five straight we can be the NCAA champions," Coach Lefty Driesell said Thursday. "That's been a dream of mine and all of our players."

"When I recruit, don't ask the players to come to Maryland and win the Atlantic Coast Conference championship, but to come here and help us win the national championship. If we do, I'll be the happiest man in the world."

Maryland, fourth-ranked with a 22-4 record, topped the tough ACC during the regular season for the first time in the league's 23-year history. But the Terps lost to North Carolina State's defending NCAA titlists in the ACC playoffs.

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Carol Mann defends golf title today

HOUSTON (AP) — JoAnne Carner has a new attitude, Betty Ferguson has a big goal and Carol Mann has a title to defend Friday in the first round of the \$100,000 Women's Professional Golfer's Association LPGA tournament at Westwood Country Club.

Mrs. Carner and Miss Mann will be among the favorites to win the \$15,000 first prize in the 54-hole event and Miss Ferguson, a former Houston amateur champion, is still looking for a big break.

Mrs. Carner, the leading money winner on last year's LPGA tour, hasn't won yet this year, but she's trying to develop the same attitude this year that earned her \$91,000 in winning last year.

"I wanted to become the first to win \$100,000 and I wore myself out," Mrs. Carner said.

"When the season was over, I didn't touch a golf club for five weeks. I had no enthusiasm for golf."

Miss Ferguson is typical of the new breed of young golfers coming on the tour. A total of 102 women golfers, including two amateurs will tee off Friday, one of the largest fields in the history of the ladies tour.

Miss Ferguson finished ahead of Amy Alcott in her class at the LPGA qualifying school, but it was Miss Alcott who recently won the Orange Blossom tournament.

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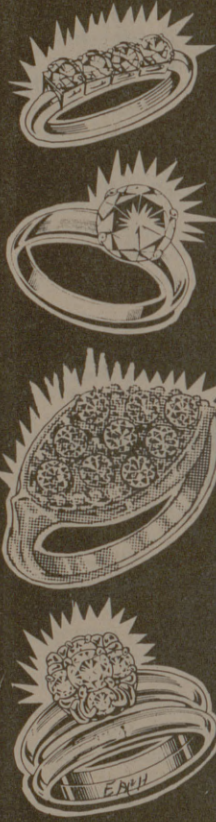
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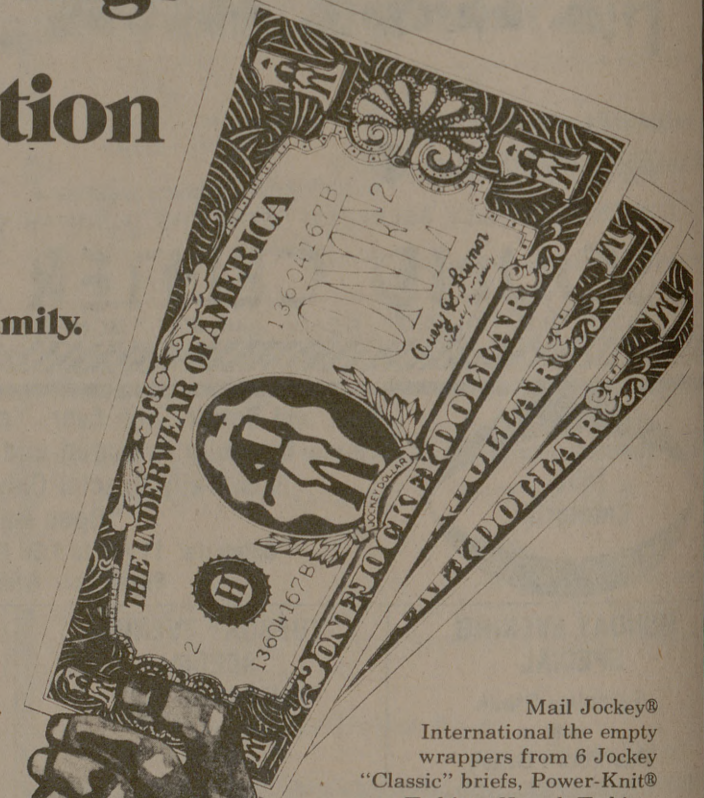
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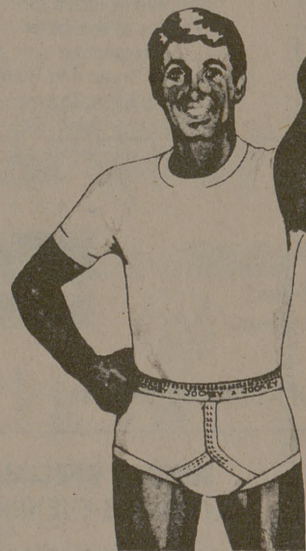
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