

May try for NBA next season

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Former A&M basketball star returns to Aggieland

By DAVID WALKER
Staff Sports Writer

It's a long trip from Geneva, Ohio to College Station, Texas to Barcelona, Spain and back to College Station but one that Aggie ex-basketballer Randy Knowles completed a few weeks ago.

Knowles is in town for two reasons, to go to school and to get on a weight program so he will be ready for next basketball season, wherever it may be.

He was drafted out of A&M by the Chicago Bulls of the NBA. He elected to play in the Spanish league instead of going the NBA route but may try the Bulls this year.

"Right now I plan on going to the Bulls training-camp but it all depends on how my leg does," Knowles said yesterday. He suffered a pulled hamstring in the middle of April while playing for the Barcelona entry in the Spanish

League. He aggravated the injury a month later and now is working daily to strengthen it.

If his leg is okay by the first of September Knowles has a decision to make as to where he is going to play next year.

"If I go back to Spain I will play for the same team, I know that much because they have already invited me back," he said. But there is a catch. "If I try out for the Bulls I may not make the team and it would be too late to get back on the Barcelona team."

Knowles added, "The teams over there can only have one American, unless they are a large first division team, and it would be almost impossible for me to get on the Barcelona team if the Bulls didn't cut me after the first week."

"The only way I'll try out for the Bulls is if I think my leg is in top shape," Knowles said.

Another factor is the money situation. In Spain Knowles made "around \$20,000" (tax free) with a car, apartment and food all paid for by the team. If he played for the Bulls he would make around \$35,000. But after taxes, other living expenses and car the sum would be lower than the Spain deal.

Knowles admitted that the main calling card of the NBA is the glamour. "Sure, the main reason is ego. Just to be able to say that I played in the NBA and that I played on TV is what it's all about."

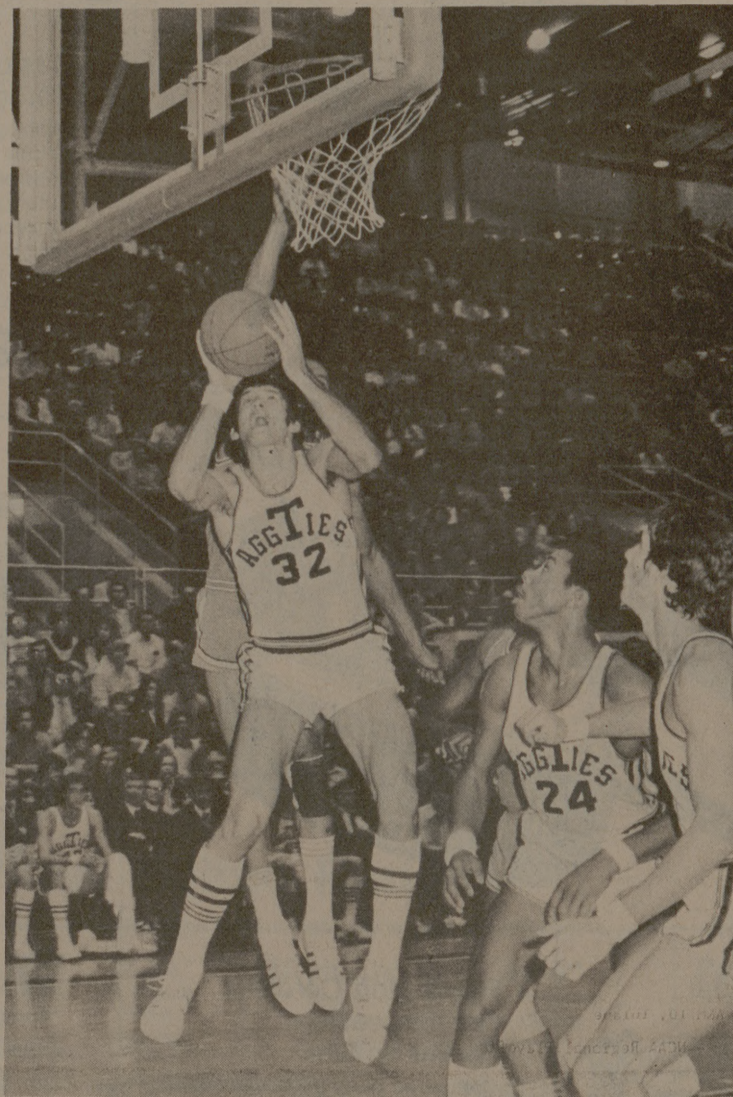
Knowles is not sure if the NBA has all of the glamour though. "It was tremendous being able to play over there. It was some beautiful sights. I was in Rome seven times in eight months," he said. Money is not the only difference between American and Spanish basketball. "Oh sure there are several differences," Knowles said. "On the whole I don't think the coaches over there are as smart as the ones over here. Also the refs are real bad over there, they pull some pretty good homer jobs."

"I guess the biggest difference," Knowles went on, "is the difference in training facilities. They don't have any. We do our own taping and if someone got an injury and didn't take care of it themselves it might take a couple of years off of their career."

"The basketball is real political. I mean when we went to Russia we didn't have a chance, even though we had just as good a team," Knowles said.

While there are plenty of differences Randy Knowles is one person that is glad to have the Spanish League around, just in case the NBA Bulls don't want him.

Batt sports

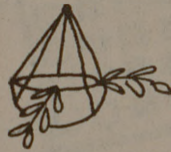


Randy Knowles in his days at Texas A&M

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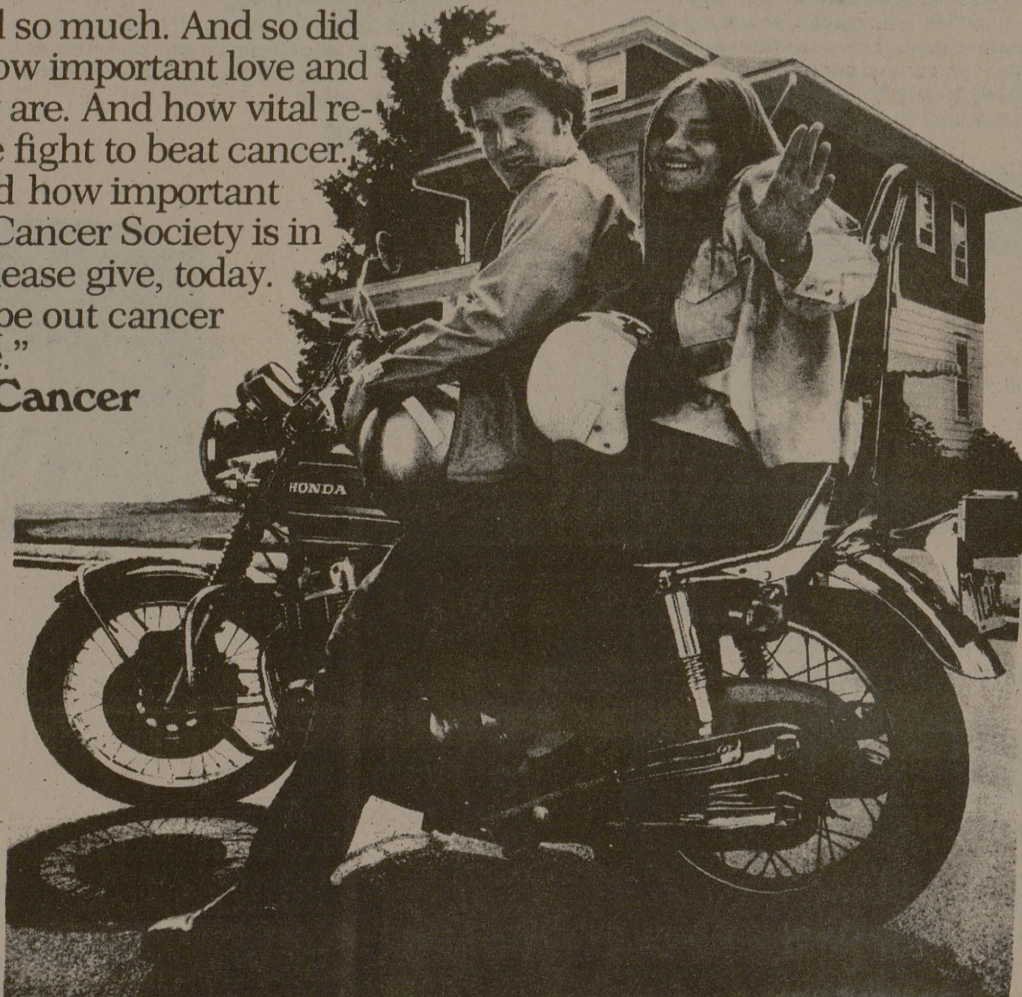
"Dancing, dating, partying, swimming, tennis, skiing, plus holding down a full-time job in the Defense Department and doing volunteer work in the hospital. That's Patty and it's enough to make a mother worry.

"But I'm glad. Because when Patty was seventeen she got leukemia. And we didn't even know if she'd live a year.

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American Cancer Society



Photography by Calior/Resnick

This space contributed by the publisher as a public service.

Moreland leads UT by Pirates

OMAHA, Neb. (AP)—Keith Moreland knocked in four runs and Terry Ray quelled a late Seton Hall rally Monday night as Texas held on for a 12-10 win in an elimination round game in the College World Series.

Oklahoma eliminated Eastern Michigan, 7-0, in the second game, trimming the field to four teams.

The tournament's only unbeaten, Arizona State and South Carolina, are idle until Tuesday night.

Seton Hall, 32-10, scored an unearned run in the top of the first, but second-rated Texas sent 15 men to the plate in the bottom of the inning and scored 10 runs.

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