

Have star recruit

Baylor cagers predicted tough

By DAVID WALKER
Battalion Sports Writer

Baylor basketball coach Carol Dawson faced the 20 or so writers in the room and told them that he thought the Texas Aggies would win the Southwest Conference championship this year because, "I like Shelby the least of all the other coaches."

Dawson kept a straight face for as long as he could but then smiled and

assured writers that he was only kidding.

It seems that Dawson has quite a bit to smile about these days, namely a good basketball team with some super recruits.

"This is my third year at Baylor as head coach and I'm optimistic. I've only got one senior, but we aren't as young as it sounds. The two freshmen and sophomores that started last year for us have one year's experience now and some of the strange things that happened to us last year won't happen this year because of the experience and our new depth," Dawson said.

One of the main reasons for excitement on the Baylor campus is the signing of Tennessee great Larry Spicer. He is a 6-8, 190 pound freshman from Memphis Northside high school and many feel that he is the best to come out of the state in many years.

"Potentially he could be the best player we've had at Baylor in the 12

years I've been here," Dawson said of his prize frosh.

While the ability is there, Dawson doesn't feel Spicer is quite ready for college ball. "At this point he couldn't cover anyone on defense, but he'll learn. The game is easier for him than any other freshman I've ever been around, he really makes coaching easy. He's the type that you want to get the ball to him and get everyone else on the other side of the court. He is definitely a one-on-one type," Dawson added.

While Spicer is expected to be a

big man in the Bear attack there is another man from Memphis who is also expected to give the opponents a little trouble.

He is Tony Rufus, and he is the leading scorer of all the returning Bears with a 13.2 per game average. Rufus is a 6-9 sophomore who Dawson feels, "Is even better than last year."

Along with Rufus the Bears return juniors Billy Carlisle, Tom Hutchinson, Gary McGuire, Jeff Miller and Sherman Patton.

Hutchinson and McGuire were starters for the Bears last year as sophomores and each averaged over eight points per game.

The lone senior is Danny McDaniel who averaged 8.8 points per game last year and who Dawson calls "much improved" over last year.

Dawson said that if the season was to start now the five starters would be junior college transfer Tom Callahan, Carlisle, McDaniel, Patton and Rufus.

"I guess the biggest surprize of all is Billy Carlisle. He has had great workouts and this will be his best year by far," Dawson said.

When asked about the conference race Dawson said that this probably would be the best in years with as many as seven teams in the running.

"A&M has to be the team to beat, and for a couple of reasons," Dawson said. "Mainly they've got their top three scorers back from last year. We played everyone in the conference good last year but A&M. They beat us bad at their place and when we played them in Waco we had them down 18 points, but they came back to win the game, and that's impressive. I've got to pick them because of those reasons, and they are just as good as any."

While Dawson picks the Aggies he feels that his Bears will be in the thick of the SWC race throughout the season, and with the material that will be wearing the Green and Gold this year no one is going to doubt him.

Ags head 3 defense categories

No collegiate football team has won the "Triple Crown" in team defense since 1957. However, the Aggies of Texas A&M are on the threshold of doing just that.

A&M currently leads the nation in overall, rushing and scoring defense. Not since the Auburn squad of 1957 has a team finished the year still leading in all three categories.

The Aggies are allowing an average of 6.1 points per outing while surrendering 71.7 yards aound and a total of 173.7 yards overall.

The third-ranked Aggies have led the nation almost the entire year in defensive statistics, but only recently achieved the scoring mark.

Other schools obtaining the triple crown are Santa Clara (1937), Duquesne (1941), Duke (1943), Penn State (1947) and Auburn.

A&M gymnasts lose close one to Texas

By ALAN SMITH
Battalion Sports Writer

An injury-plagued Texas A&M women's gymnastics squad was narrowly defeated by the University of Texas by a score of 71.45 to 77.05 at Bryan High School Wednesday night.

The Aggies, who only fielded a five-woman team, yielded to the University of Texas before a modest, yet very enthusiastic crowd, because of a weakness in the floor exercises. Had the Ags produced

one more average gymnast in this event, things may have proved very interesting.

Texas produced a winner in Beccie Wright, who convincingly won all four events: vault, balance beam, floor exercises and uneven parallel bars, together with the crowd's approval.

Wright took the All Around score with a total of 32.80. A&M's stand-out, Belinda Arwine was second with 28.20 and Aggie Tina Martin was third with 24.45 points.

Coach Jan Elledge was satisfied with the Ags' performance. "The girls did well to lose by such a narrow margin. U.T. had seven girls competing, and we only had five due to injuries. Those two extra girls could have made a significant difference," said Coach Elledge.

The next gymnastics meet will be a dual competition against Tarleton State University in Stevenson, Texas.

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