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Seeks NCAA playoffs

Roberts shoots for higher goal

By PAUL McGRATH
 Battalion Sports Editor

Champion is the title given to those who achieve the ultimate in sport.

Last week against Rice, the Texas A&M basketball team became the undisputed champion of the South-west Conference (SWC) for the second year.

For Ray Roberts, that is not the

ultimate goal. He said he wants the team to go as far in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) playoffs as possible. Last year, the Aggies lost to Cincinnati in the pre-regional, 87-79.

Roberts is one of four seniors on coach Shelby Metcalf's fourth championship team. He, along with Sonny Parker, Barry Davis and Gates Erwin, provided the leadership and maturity for the team of five

freshmen and five upperclassmen.

"We all want to do well in the playoffs," Roberts said. "That's our big goal. Of course, you have to get there first."

Roberts had one of the best games of his career against the Owls, hitting 11 of 13 shots for 22 points, his second highest point production this season.

After the game, Roberts was one of the first to pop the cork on a bottle of champagne. Being in the winners' circle once again was quite satisfying, he said.

Stripping off his sweat-soaked Maroon uniform, Roberts said there are differences between the present team and last year's version.

"We've had to go through a lot more adversity," the weary senior said. "There was always something happening at the wrong time."

It has been a controversy-filled season for the A&M cagers. Several members of the team were linked with a local marijuana arrest involving Texas A&M athletes. Davis and Parker have been censured for scuffling with a University of Houston fan. Two members of the team, Karl Godine and Jarvis Williams, have been suspended by the SWC for recruiting violations.

In spite of this, the Aggies posted

their best record ever, 23-3. SWC's first post-season tournament where the Aggies do not play the final, is all that lies between the team and the NCAA playoffs.

"We're what, 16th, in the (United Press International) Roberts inquired. "I think we have to prove we deserve to be ranked." The Aggies were removed from the UPI ranking possibly due to the Godine case. Texas A&M is 19th in the Associated Press poll this week.

"Last year, a lot of the guys just happy in winning the game. This year, we want to go far we can go."

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Hoosiers still number one, Texas A&M moves to 19th

By The Associated Press

Indiana, Marquette, Rutgers, North Carolina and Nevada-Las Vegas remained entrenched in the Top Five spots in The Associated Press major college basketball poll this week. After that it was a whole new ball game.

The unbeaten Hoosiers, who whipped Northwestern 76-63 last Monday night for their 26th victory, received 57 of 60 first-place votes and 1,194 points out of a possible 1,200 in the balloting by a nationwide panel of sports writers and broadcasters.

Marquette's Warriors, 23-1 following last Saturday's 81-75 triumph at Notre Dame, got two first-place votes and 1,060 points while the Scarlet Knights from Rutgers, completing the first unbeaten regular season in their history by nipping St. Bonaventure 85-80 for their 26th victory, received the remaining first-place vote and 876 points.

North Carolina's Tar Heels, 24-2, received 864 points by virtue of victories over rival North Carolina State and Duke last week. The Rebels from Nevada-Las Vegas had the week off, remained 26-1 and stayed fifth with 725 points.

Alabama, seventh a week ago, edged up one position with 561 points following its exciting double-overtime victory over Tennessee last Saturday. UCLA routed California and Stanford and moved up two spots to seventh with 517. Notre Dame, meanwhile, fell two places to eighth with 459 points, Maryland climbed up one position to ninth with 416 Washington, eighth a week ago, dropped to 10th with 292 points after its 73-64 loss to Oregon State.

In the Second Ten, Michigan moved up one spot to 11th with 282 points, Tennessee was 12th with 232 and Cincinnati made the biggest move of the week, shooting down West Virginia and San Francisco and shooting up from No. 18 to 13th with 180 points.

Western Michigan remained 14th and Missouri fell three rungs to 15th, followed by St. John's, N.Y., North

Carolina State, newcomer Florida State replaced Oregon State top Twenty. The Ducks were last week but lost 87-75 to Washington.

1. Indiana (57)
2. Marquette (2)
3. Rutgers (1)
4. N. Carolina
5. Nevada-LV
6. Alabama
7. UCLA
8. Notre Dame
9. Maryland
10. Washington
11. Michigan
12. Tennessee
13. Cincinnati
14. W. Michigan
15. Missouri
16. St. John's
17. N. C. St.
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Consolidated baseballers start season

Competition will be tough as the Consolidated High School team starts its 1976 season.

"If we get some breaks, we'll be the thick of things," Coach Pullen said. Last year's state champions, Brenham High School, finished with New Caney who finished second in the 11 AAA North Zone and the Tigers' toughest competitor.

Last year the Tigers finished second in district with a season record of 13-12.

The Tigers played their first game Monday defeating Rockdale 6-5 in District competition begins on road April 2 against Navasota.

Junior Walter Boone, sophomore Colin Ward and freshman Merchant form the pitching staff. Boone struck out 12 batters in the day's contest. Senior Jay Moore provide relief for the starters.

Pullen feels his best hitters are Boone, Ward and Merchant, a grand slam homer by Boone in Rockdale.

Sharing the catching duties are Tim Lyda and Gary Moody. Moore will also play right field.

At first base will be Ashford or Boone. Second base will be occupied by Kenny Dean. Ward will play short stop and Merchant at third base. Right field and left field will be covered by Ronnie Moore and Eddie Velasco.

Others vying for starting positions are Jerry Dayton, Kyle O'Graham, Bruce Woods, Tom Kevin Jacobs, Mark Pantel and Mann.

— Marie Hester

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