

1913; Aggies begin to dribble into history

By DON MIDDLETON and JOHN ADAMS

The year is 1913. It's winter and the weather in College Station is typically foul. The cadets fill their free time with bull sessions around the wood-burning stoves, longing for warmer days.

Frank D. Steger, General Secretary of the College YMCA and a close friend of the cadets, is worried that the winter inactivity may be harmful to the boys' constitutions. With the help of Lt. Chauncey Fenton, Commandant of the Corps, he organizes a new athletic team. It's his hope that an indoor sport will help fill the students' idle hours and keep them out of trouble.

The game had been invented in 1891 by James Naismith at the YMCA College at Springfield, Massachusetts. No doubt the game had come to the attention of Steger through a "Y" publication or by word of mouth from other acquaintances of Steger's affiliated with the organization.

The object of the game was to bounce a ball around a wooden court and eventually try to throw it through a wooden basket, suspended ten feet above the floor, with the bottom cut out of the basket, suspended ten feet above the floor. It was played by two opposing teams of five members each. Oddly enough it was called "basketball."

With Steger as head coach and Fenton as a sort of public relations man, the game quickly grew in popularity. The newly-formed team dribbled their way to a creditable record of four wins and two losses. The defeats came at the hands of the Galveston YMCA and Houston High School, both by the margin of two points.

The next season Steger's roundballers improved their record to 5-2, and in 1915 they posted a remarkable 15-2 mark.

The Aggies thought so much of Steger that they dedicated the 1915 Longhorn to him. In it they said: "He was the man to start the game of basketball at the College. If ever a coach had the true sportsmanship and honor, Coach Steger had it."

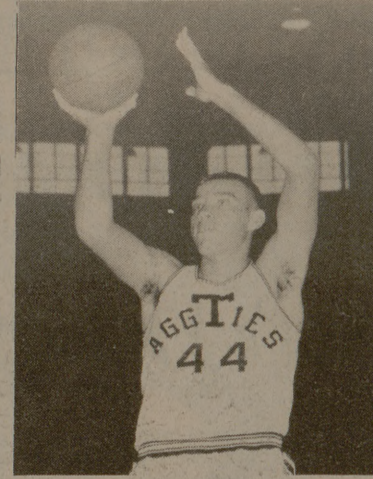
Like so many others at Aggieland, Steger left College Station when World War I came along to serve in France. After the armistice the International Committee of the YMCA sent him to Egypt, Syria and Palestine to aid in the demobilization of British units.



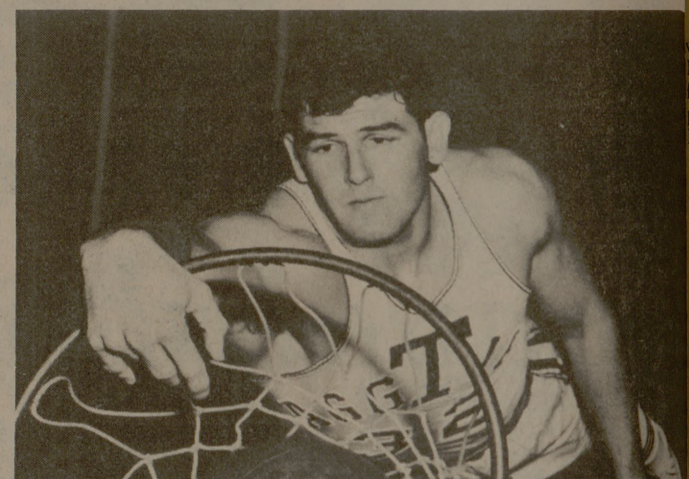
Frank Decatur Steger, the "Father of Basketball at A&M" and coach from 1913 to 1915. Courtesy University Archives.



1922 Southwest Conference champions. Standing at the far left is coach Dana X. Bible. Seated at the far right is E. King Gill, the original "Twelfth Man." Courtesy University Archives.



John Beasley, holder of ten school and three SWC basketball scoring records.



Randy Matson, holder of all basketball records in the shot-putter division, began stuffing baskets as a freshman in 1964.

The first 100 years

He also saw duty in Constantinople with 40 other Americans, in cooperation with the Red Cross, taking care of 130,000 Russians fleeing from the Bolsheviks.

It seems odd that a man who did so much for his school and his fellow man has gone virtually unrecognized this many years.

After Steger left, the Aggie basketball team kept improving. In 1920, under the direction of Coach Bill Driver, the team won its first Southwest Conference Championship. Driver has the distinction of being the only basketball coach in the history of A&M to post an undefeated season, going 19-0 in that championship year.

The next year saw the triumphant return to Aggieland of the incomparable Dana X. Bible, a name you are hopefully familiar with. When Driver gave up the position of basketball coach the student body insisted that Bible take command of the team.

Dana X. coached the cagers from 1921 until 1927, compiling a career record of 91 wins against 46 losses. He won three conference championships and suffered only one losing season.

Of course, every school has coaches who can be characterized as mediocre at best, lousy at worst. A&M's longest coach is one John Floyd, who coached from 1951 to 1955. Floyd has the dubious distinction of being the only coach to ever lose 20 games in a single season, a feat which he accomplished two years in a row. In five seasons he lost 105 games, winning only 51.

However, it would only be fair to mention that during his first season the Aggies went 17-12 and tied with Texas and Texas Christian for the conference championship. That was Floyd's only winning season.

That more or less brings us to a gentleman who holds several coaching records himself. Among his laurels are most victories (197), most losses (132), most seasons coached (13), most seasons over 20 victories (2), most victories in a single season (21), most conference championships (4) and most academic degrees (3). Of course, the man is Dr. Shelby Metcalf, Ph.D.

In the past thirteen years, Shelby Metcalf has been the last word in Aggie basketball. He has left a mark on the school and the conference

which is not likely to be forgotten for quite awhile. Hundreds of thousands of fans have delighted in Shelby's court antics and his meticulous basketball tactics.

Out of all the boys who have

pounded the court for the Maroon and White, five stand out as super performers.

All-time-great-player honors undoubtedly belong to John Beasley (64-66) who holds 10 out of 18 indi-

vidual scoring records, including most career points (1,594), and three SWC records.

Bennie Lenox (62-64) holds three school marks, Carroll Broussard (60-62) and Cedric Joseph (73-75) each own two, and Randy Knowles (72-74) holds one. Broussard,

Lenox and Knowles rank 2-3-4 in all-time scoring list behind Beasley.

Even though there are very names in the record books, no Aggie who ever dribbled a ball, a layup, fouled out or just stuffed a special part of the store of basketball at Texas A&M.

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House seeks leak source, Schorr doubtful witness

WASHINGTON — The House Ethics Committee is attempting to focus its investigation not on CBS correspondent Daniel Schorr but on hunting down the person who leaked a secret intelligence report to him.

In the next few days, the House is expected to give the Ethics Committee broad subpoena power to force individuals outside Congress to testify in the investigation. It already has the authority to question members of Congress and House employees.

Schorr has acknowledged he arranged publication of the House intelligence committee's classified report in the Village Voice, a New York newspaper.

On Tuesday, the House Rules Committee cleared for floor action the resolution which would give the ethics probers the power to subpoena any person or document "it deems necessary."

But Ethics Committee Chairman John J. Flynt Jr., D-Ga., said, "I want to emphasize . . . that our committee, despite widespread misconceptions of our instructions from the House, is not investigating any particular person. The committee was directed to find out how the select committee report was leaked and who leaked it."

Later, Flynt told reporters that he had "no idea whether we will call Mr. Schorr or not. I am not ruling it out or ruling it in."

At the Rules Committee hearing, Rep. John B. Anderson, R-Ill., told Flynt, "I hope you are not planning to use the subpoena power to compel an individual to reveal his sources."

Anderson, noting his bill to protect newsmen against prosecution for refusing to reveal sources, said he believes the investigators should look into how the intelligence com-

mittee operated. He said the probe should go into whether the panel carried out a mandate to protect confidentiality of the material it handled.

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The Battalion

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