

PAUL ARNETT

SPORTS EDITOR



By PAUL ARNETT
BATTALION SPORTS EDITOR

If Shelby Metcalf is not the best basketball coach in the Southwest Conference (SWC), then they're no cows in Texas. The Aggie mentor has taken a group of freshman and junior college transfers, and has them playing like a senior ball club.

Most individuals of the news media picked the Aggies to finish no higher than sixth in the SWC chase. Yet behind the splendid coaching of Metcalf the Ags are currently tied for third with the Baylor Bears.

Baylor was the starting point for the Ags' current climb to stardom. After a two game split with the Texas Longhorns, A&M travelled to Waco and became the first team in basketball history to defeat the Bears at home three years in a row.

This feat was accomplished by senior Steve Jones' "Hail Mary" shot with two seconds remaining in the game. The thirty-foot jump shot hit nothing but cord, and the Ags won the contest by a score of 60-59.

The Mustangs came to town last Saturday night, but the Aggie bubble remained unburst. Coach Sonny Allen brought his undefeated Mustangs to G. Rollie White expecting

an easy game before his "tough ones" began.

An easy victory for SMU was soon converted into a tough loss by Texas A&M. Neither team played well, but the Aggies combined a good team effort with a poor Ponie performance, and won the contest 57-53.

"Defense and rebounding won it

for us," said Metcalf after the game. "Wally Swanson is one helluva rebounder."

"This wasn't as good a performance as at Baylor. We were mistake free at Waco, but you can't expect to play that way every night."

The Mustang coach also had a few comments about the game.

"A&M outplayed us and outshutled us," Allen said. "They had a good pressure defense all night and just had one fine effort which made that defense even more effective."

The Mustangs committed 13 turnovers as a result of Aggie pressure. Combine that with Swanson's outstanding rebounding and SMU found itself on the short end of the score board. It was the 19th straight game an opponent has lost to the Aggies in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

Swanson had 18 rebounds and 15 points in leading the Aggies to their 19th straight home game victory. The Aggies' leading scorer was Dave Goff, who had 16 points for the evening. The "prince", as he is called by his teammates, was instrumental in leading the Aggies to a 33-29 half time lead.

Red Raiders ready for Ags



Wally Swanson

Baylor is prepared for SMU Mustangs

United Press International

The Baylor Bears have had some time off since their last second, one-point loss to Texas A&M last Wednesday, and Baylor coach Carroll Dawson was delighted to have the rest.

"It's done us good," said Dawson, who will take his Bears to SMU Tuesday night for the key game in an evening round of Southwest Conference activity.

"We have had some good practice since then. That was a tough loss coming when the Aggies' Steve Jones hit a 30-foot jump shot at the buzzer, but the guys have come back with a good attitude."

Baylor, SMU, Texas A&M and Houston each have one loss in the conference race and all of them will be fighting to stay close to the league leading Arkansas Razorbacks — undefeated in the SWC and only once beaten overall.

Arkansas is expected to have an easy time at home Tuesday night against TCU — winless in five conference outings. The other league games include Texas 2-3 traveling to Houston and Texas A&M visiting Texas Tech 2-3.

The Rice Owls, 0-5 in conference play and a victim of Arkansas last Saturday, has the night off.

The Bears have played alternately hot and frigid during the first half of the season, but seemed to have

things rolling until they ran afoul of Texas A&M last week in Waco.

SMU was also undefeated in conference play until it ran into the Aggies last Saturday night in College Station.

"The thing you worry about with SMU is its shooting capabilities," said Dawson.

"When you play against a team like that you never look forward to it."

"Last year up there they were really hot and they ran really well and they bombed us pretty good. But I think our team has improved from the early part of the season and we know we have a chance to contend for the title if we play well."

This is a critical week for the Bears in their bid to stay close to the Razorbacks. Not only does Baylor face SMU Tuesday night but the Bears must host the aroused Texas Tech Red Raiders.

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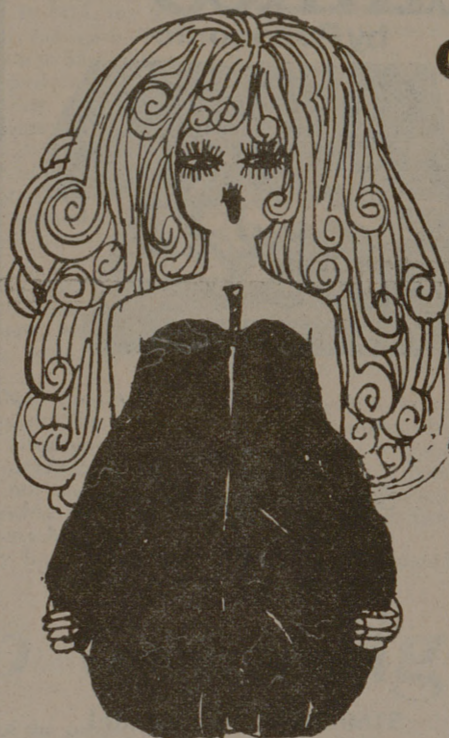
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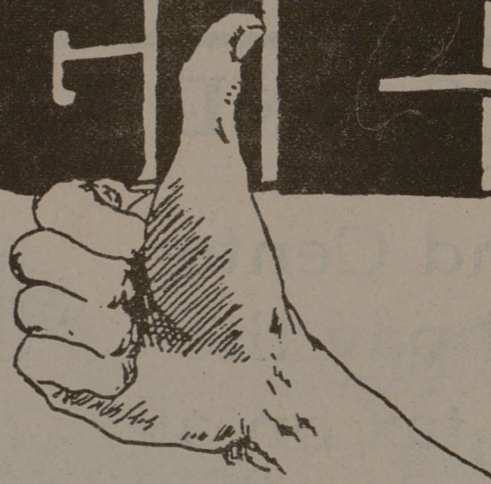
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Five fail in school on football squad

By PAUL McGRATH
Battalion Staff Writer

Five Texas A&M football lettermen flunked out at midterm announced A&M Athletic Director Emory Bellard last week.

The five are junior split end Randall Teate and four sophomores—quarterback Keith Baker, fullback Gary Young, defensive end Eugene Sanders and linebacker Roderick Reed.

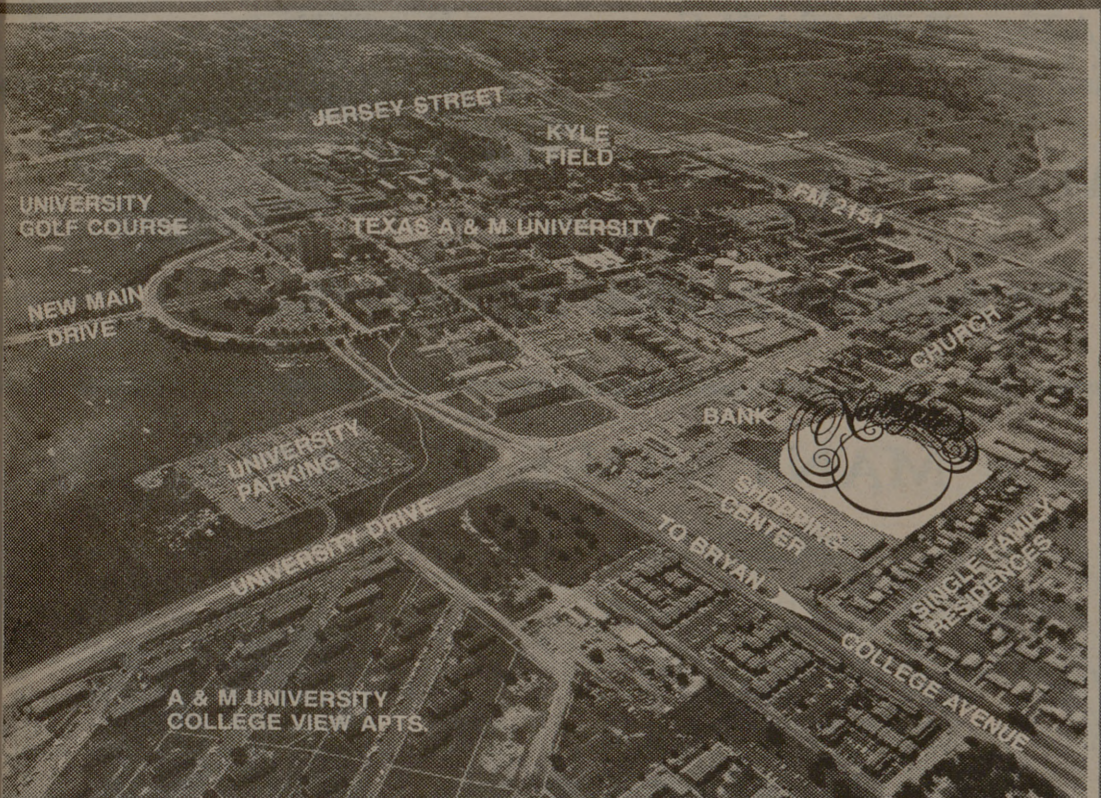
Although all five will miss spring training, they will have the opportunity to bring up their grade point averages and hour requirements at their schools in order to return to A&M next fall. All except Young are expected to be back for the 1977 season.

Baker was the backup to starting quarterback David Walker throughout most of last season after recovering from appendicitis. As a reserve he gained 135 yards rushing in 23 carries, scoring once; and was 4-6 passing for 66 yards.

Teate alternated with senior Mike Floyd at split end last year. The Henderson Junior College transfer caught 12 passes for 274 yards and two touchdowns.

Young saw limited action, gaining 38 yards in 13 carries.

Sanders started at defensive end after transferring from the University of Washington. Reed was a reserve middle linebacker and replaced the injured Robert Jackson in the TCU and Texas games.



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