

Sports

# Handicap overcome

Al Reyes' body is bent from a life-long battle with cerebral palsy, yet he earned and proudly wears a Southwest Conference championship ring denoting Texas A&M's basketball supremacy last year.

The crippling birth defect took its toll on Reyes' body, but it left him with a big heart and powerful determination.

"I am glad that I had cerebral palsy instead of somebody else, because I can deal with it," Reyes said. "I can see a lot of people who cannot cope with their 'normal' problems, and they surely could not handle something like cerebral palsy."

Reyes' body will not let him play basketball or any other sport, but it does not keep him from participating. He is a student manager for the Aggies and has won the praise of coach Shelby Metcalf.

"We have all benefited from Al's outlook on life," Metcalf said. "He carries his load of the work and is given no special consideration."

"In addition to being a member of our program, I consider Al a good personal friend. He is a very intelligent young man, and he is especially enjoyable to be around because he has a great sense of humor."

Reyes and Metcalf have a mutual admiration society. "Coach Metcalf is an outstanding human being and has made me feel like a contributing element in his program," Reyes said.

Metcalf is not the first coach to be impressed by the determined young man. Beginning in the eighth grade, he worked football under Tommy Runnels at Fort Worth's O.D. Wyatt High School before Runnels joined the staff at TCU. Runnels' successor, Rudy Mauser, also put him to work, as did the school's baseball coach, Ted Harris. In fact, Harris sent him to a baseball camp in Oklahoma to develop his understanding of the sport and made him a student assistant.

Reyes was transferred to Arlington Heights High School at the start of his junior year and soon hooked up with Larry Wood, the baseball coach. In addition to making Reyes team manager, Wood assigned him as student coach of the ninth grade team.

A problem quickly developed: Reyes could not run infield practice because he was unable to throw the ball up in the air and then hit it. The problem was just as quickly solved when coach Wood made him a batting tee on which he could place the ball and then hit it.

"That's where I learned that no matter how you accomplish a task, the important thing is getting the job done," Reyes said. "That is the theory I will always use. If there is a difficult task that I can't manage, just give me a chance to figure out how to do it another way."

Reyes emphasizes that all four of his high school coaches had one thing in common: their attitude toward him.

"They taught me that even though I have a physical handicap, not to let that get in my way of doing what I wanted to do in life," Reyes said. "I really owe a lot to these men because, if it were not for them, I would have quit a long time ago, and certainly would not be going to Texas A&M today."

"Through them I came to realize that, in order to be something in life, a positive attitude is the key to

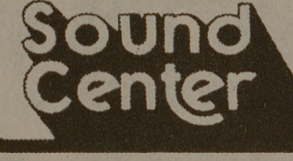
success... no matter what kind of handicap you have."

Reyes does not need much help these days, but he has lots of friends and understanding professors who are happy to provide what little assistance he does require. For example, since he has difficulty writing, classmates take notes for him, and his professors make special arrangements for him to take tests.

While Reyes is studying for a degree in recreation and parks, the same field in which Metcalf recently received a Ph.D., what he wants to be is a coach.

"I know wanting to be a coach is a high goal for me," he concedes, "but I once heard coach Billy Tohill say, 'If you don't have high goals, you have no goals at all.'"

"My dream is to be a coach," Reyes concludes. "You better not bet against me."



The receivers below appeared incorrectly in yesterday's Battalion ad. They should be as follows:

<p><b>SANSUI 331 RECEIVER</b> 12 watts per channel Reg. \$200.00 <b>SALE \$149.95</b></p>	<p><b>TECHNICS 5460 RECEIVER</b> 65 watts per channel Reg. \$399.95 <b>SALE \$299.95</b></p>
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## NOTICE


MSC Bowling Lanes now forming AJBC Leagues for A&M students or young people of faculty, staff or students ages 9 to 21.

Saturday, February 12, 1977 9 a.m.

Place: Bowling Lanes in the Basement of the MSC.

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<p style="text-align: center;"><b>THURSDAY EVENING SPECIAL</b> Italian Candle Light Spaghetti Dinner SERVED WITH SPICED MEAT BALLS AND SAUCE Parmesan Cheese - Tossed Green Salad Choice of Salad Dressing - Hot Garlic Bread Tea or Coffee</p>		
<p><b>FRIDAY EVENING SPECIAL</b> BREADED FISH FILET w/TARTAR SAUCE Cole Slaw Hush Puppies Choice of one vegetable Roll or Corn Bread &amp; Butter Tea or Coffee</p>	<p><b>SATURDAY NOON and EVENING SPECIAL</b> "Yankee Pot Roast" Texas Style Tossed Salad Choice of one vegetable Roll or Corn Bread &amp; Butter Tea or Coffee</p>	<p><b>SUNDAY SPECIAL NOON and EVENING</b> ROAST TURKEY DINNER Served with Cranberry Sauce Cornbread Dressing Roll or Corn Bread - Butter - Coffee or Tea Giblet Gravy And your choice of any One vegetable</p>

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