

Metcalf signs two all-staters

By PAUL ARNETT
Battalion Sports Editor

Marquette has been the national champion in college basketball for only two weeks, and already a new season has begun.

Yesterday college coaches throughout the country coaxed high school ball players to sign a letter of intent with their school.

The Aggies have signed two all-staters so far, with two more outstanding prospects leaning in Shelby Metcalf's direction. The two signees are Albert Cul-ton from Ennis and Rynn Wright from Dallas Roosevelt. Cul-ton is a 6-6 forward who averaged over 20 points a game. He has excellent quickness and is strong on the boards.

"Albert has excellent physical tools," assistant coach Bob Gobin said. "He is going to be a strong asset to our ball club." Wright is another outstanding ball player. The forward from Dallas is 6-6 and averaged 23 points a game his senior year. Wright has been an all-state member the past two years. He was also all-Metro in the Dallas-Ft. Worth area.

Texas Tech also had a good open-ing day in signing basketball talent. The two future Red Raiders are 6-2 Royce Blackshear of Albuquerque, and 6-9 Lesley Nichols from Buf-falo. "We are glad to have these players in our fold," coach Gerald Myers said. "Each of these players are of excellent quality. Royce is a good leeper and Nichols is a strong outside shooter."

Baylor was the only other school in the SWC who had any early signees. The Bears inked Rex Johnston of Houston Clear Lake and Pat Nunley of Fort Worth Richland. North Texas State signed a 6-7 forward right under the nose of coach Sutton. The forward from Searcy, Ark., Charles Gardner, averaged 22 points a game. He was considered one of the best prospects in the Arkansas area.

Ag defense is young

By NATHAN HINES
Head defensive coach for Texas A&M, Melvin Robertson, is facing a problem that he hasn't faced in five years... very little experience on defense.

Coach Robertson talked about the defense and how it is shaping up. "I know that I am dragging skeletons out of the closet when I talk about the loss of eight defensive starters last year," coach Robertson said, but it is a statement that has to be told if I am to explain how our defense is. We lost our first, second and third team middle linebackers, both outside linebackers, and two people out of our secondary. Only three men from last year's team are practicing this spring. "The returning lettermen are Kevin Monk, who has played one year, Mike Williams, who played most of last season, and Carl Grulich, who has played seven ball games," Robertson said. "This is the extent of our experienced ball players. Experience is one of the most important necessities in football. To

get this experience its going to take all of spring training, two-a-days in the fall and then it will probably take a couple of games.

"Don't let me sound like I'm knocking what we got because I'm not. We have a good group of boys with a lot of talent. They have the ability and the desire to be good and to be the best and that is what it takes. The only thing they have against them is their lack of expe-rience. They are green but again I say they have ability. I have all the con-fidence in the world in them be-cause I know they will fight and not give up." Robertson also realizes the pressure these kids will be under. "These players are having to live up to one of the biggest traditions of A&M football, a powerful defense. It's a tough job to fill the shoes of such greats as Robert Jackson, Edgar Fields, and Tank Marshall, but I think they can. "It will be a long hard pull for them but in the end I think they will do just fine. They will play reckless, and tough because that's the way they are practicing.


"When the season starts, we will have a defense that will comple-ment our offense. And who knows, this defense might be our best yet. You never can tell."

The defense aren't the only people working. The offense is hard at it too. "The offense is looking good," says freshman tackle Thomas Greg-ory. "With people coming back like David Walker, Mark Dennard, Frank Myers, Curtis Dickey, George Woodard, and David Brothers, to name just a few, we have to be good. "The offense is starting to gel. We are learning our plays, and most important we are beginning to look like a team." The kicking personnel, is looking as good as ever. David Appleby is averaging over 50 yds. a kick, and Tony Franklin kicked 3 out of 4 fieldgoals from 75 yards yesterday, plus kicking a number from 60, 65, and 70 yards. All of these practices are leading up to the Maroon and White game, which will be held on April 23, and the public is urged to attend.

Caddies needed for tournament

Approximately 100 caddies are needed for the annual Texas A&M News Media Golf Tournament. The tourney is scheduled for Friday, April 22, at the university golf course. All golfers understand they are to pay the caddies (\$5, \$10 or more) at the end of the day's round. Caddies now can sign up in the clubhouse at the University course. Caddies must be at the course by 10:30 a.m. on Friday. Play will begin in a 'shotgun start,' with play ending around 3 p.m. A&M, Bryan and A&M Consoli-dated students are urged to volun-tee as caddies for this tournament. Both boys and girls have served as caddies in past tournaments.

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