

Snow skiing in Aggieland

By PAT EDMONDSON

Snow skiing in Texas? At Texas A&M? That is what Dr. George Jessup is attempting to promote in ski classes that meet twice a week on the A&M campus.

Jessup, an Associate Professor of Physical Education, began the program four years ago and admits its success has skyrocketed.

"We've got a tremendous interest now in active sports," he said. "People are interested in fitness and doing things that are very vigorous. I think that's helping."

The increase in popularity at A&M probably stems from the construction of a miniature, artificial ski slope located behind G. Rollie White Coliseum on Houston St.

The slope, ideally nicknamed "Mt. Aggie," is a structure supported by metal bleachers and topped with Astro-turf. Plastic pellets are sprinkled on the surface to cut down on the coefficient of friction.

"We spray it with silicone which further cuts down," he said, "and we also spray it lightly with water to easily control speed."

It is currently undergoing reconstruction and is the third slope utilized by the class. The first, built in 1974, was 20 feet wide and 20 feet long. The ramp used last year was extended 10 feet, but was pushed aside and damaged by construction of a sidewalk adjacent to Houston St. in July.

"Really, we had no intention of building a new slope this year," Jessup said. "We were perfectly happy with the one we had last year."

The P.E. Department plans completion of the new structure next week.

Besides teaching the various fundamentals and skills, Jessup examines safety, conditioning, skiing etiquette and skiing terminology in the course.

He also offers pointers on planning ski trips and type of clothing to wear on the slopes. His philosophy is to make the student feel comfortable while learning the basics of snow skiing.

"My number one priority is to make the class enjoyable, not drudgery," he said. "The kids do a lot of work out there," he added, "and I want my instructors to be very enthusiastic."

Thirty-six students attend each class held four days every week. The students are divided into two groups.

"We start identifying kids with specific problems," he said, "and we divide the class into the higher skilled and the lower skilled people. That allows the kids that are progressing real well to progress and we can give a little bit more instruction to the beginning students."

As in the scuba class taught at A&M, students are required to supply their own equipment. Beginners, or those without attire, can rent equipment from the Texas A&M Ski Club for a fee of \$25 per semester.

"It's a project for the Ski Club," Jessup said. "That money is then funnelled back into the ski program and they use it to maintain the slope and equipment."

At the conclusion of the course, the class is asked to demonstrate their ability on actual snow. Though not required, the students may accompany the Ski Club on holiday trips during Christmas and Easter.

"We try to encourage them to get out on the snow," Jessup said. "The idea that they're gonna get to go skiing and try out their skills is both motivating and challenging."

Pro scouts like A&M

Texas A&M's record of 10-2 last football season was not only a good year for Aggie fans, but also for the National Football League.

Last year's A&M defense, ranked fourth in the nation, produced five NFL players and the offense added

another. All six Aggies were drafted in the first five rounds.

Robert Jackson, A&M's All-American linebacker and the Cleveland Browns' first round choice, is the only player not currently seeing action. Jackson damaged a knee in training camp and underwent surgery. He will not play this year, but is expected to bolster an aging Brown defense next season.

Dennis Swilley, the lone contribution from the offense, was chosen in the second round by the Minnesota Vikings, and is currently playing guard behind Wes Hamilton. Swilley wears number 67.

Edgar Fields and Tank Marshall were both chosen in the third round of the draft.

Fields is wearing number 77 for the Atlanta Falcons. He is playing behind former Pro-Bowler defensive end Claude Humphrey, who is recovering from knee surgery.

Marshall is being counted on by the New York Jets to plug some of the holes in the porous Jet defense.

Jimmy Dean was drafted by Buffalo in the fourth round, but was later traded to the Houston Oilers, where he is playing defensive tackle and wearing number 66.

Lester Hayes, drafted in the fifth round by the Oakland Raiders, is playing in the secondary behind controversial George Atkinson. In addition, Hayes has returned four kick-offs for 126 yards, a 31.5 yard average.

This group of Aggies, plus such names as Ed Simonini, Bubba Bean, Richard Osborne, and Dave Elmdorf from previous drafts, are indicative of the quantity of pro caliber players produced here at A&M.

Pro scouts are finding that for talent, Kyle Field is the place to be on Saturday afternoons.

Kashmere duo is reinstated

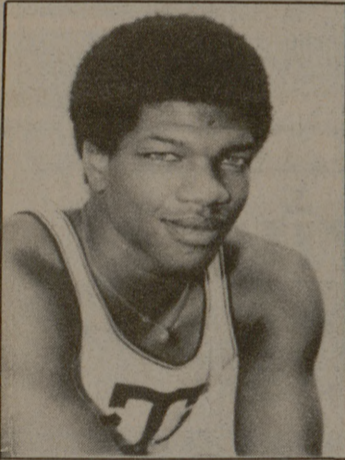
Following a hearing by the eligibility committee of the NCAA, Texas A&M has received notification that Karl Godine and Jarvis Williams have had their basketball eligibility restored for post-season championship play.

Dr. Charles H. Samson, chairman of A&M's Athletic Council, said "This means that Godine and Williams have two full years of eligibility remaining." The NCAA had previously reinstated the two Houston Kashmere All-Americans for regular season play following a one-year suspension. Both players

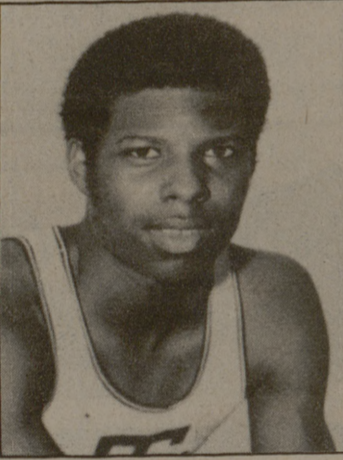
were starters as freshmen on A&M's 1976 Southwest Conference championship team.

"I feel like the NCAA has been most fair with us," Aggie basketball coach Shelby Metcalf said. "I appreciate the professional way we've been treated. They were sincerely interested in getting to the truth. I'm happy to have it all behind us, and I'm looking forward to two outstanding years from Karl and Jarvis."

Godine was also pleased with the news. "That is really good news. Now all I've got to worry about is helping us get to the playoffs," Godine said.



Godine



Williams

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