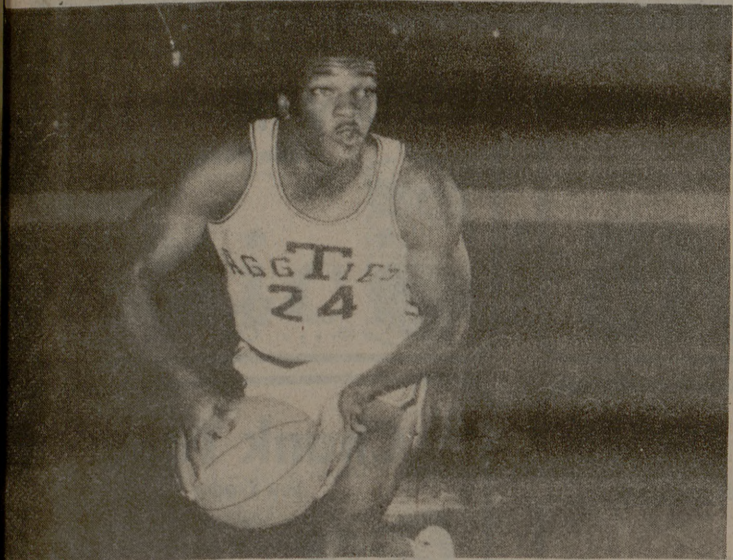


Godine's surgery a success



KARL GODINE

By MARK PATTERSON

After a year's layoff Karl Godine was going home to play in front of his hometown fans on Saturday. But now he'll be just another spectator when the Aggies face the University of Houston this weekend.

And his basketball career may be over. Against Baylor Monday night, Godine made a cut for the basket and went in for a layup. Not only did he miss the shot, he was lost for the year with a knee injury.

"Karl tore the patella ligament in his knee," said student trainer Gary Lamb yesterday. "That sounds pretty medical, but to put it in simpler terms, he tore the tendon that holds his knee cap to his knee bone."

"According to the doctors, the ligament has been getting thinner and thinner as Karl has kept playing," said Lamb. "He's never had enough rest in order for it to rehabilitate it."

But Godine will have his rest after the surgery. The doctor who performed the surgery declared it a success and will keep Godine in a cast from his ankle to his hip for three weeks. But the effects of the surgery won't be known until Godine returns to the basketball court to test the knee.

"The doctor says that Karl ought to be ready to play again by next October," said coach Shelby Metcalf. "But you never know what the effects of something like this will be, especially because an injury like this takes so long to heal. But we'll hope for the best for Karl."

The injury to Godine will hurt the A&M team's depth at the position where they need it the most.

"Karl was one of our backups for Dave Goff at the point guard position," said coach Metcalf. "And we have our least depth at that position. But now the pressure is put on Steve Sylestine and John Schlicher to back up Goff at the guard position."

And those two players had little to say on Godine's injury.

"I'm just going to have to keep playing hard if I'm going to play," said Schlicher. "But that's a high cost to pay for me to play. I would have rather worked for it."

Sylestine felt just as sorry for Godine. "Looking at it logically, the injury will help my chances of playing but I hate to look at it like that because of the magnitude of the injury."

"But the team will be hurt most by losing Karl's scoring threat. He was just getting back into form since the Rice game and now he got hurt. We'll miss his scoring the rest of the year."

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Aggie notes and quotes

With back-to-back Southwest Conference wins for the first time this season, the Texas A&M basketball is back in the red-hot battle for a fifth place finish. The No. 5 spot is so important because it means a homecourt advantage in the first round of the SWC Tournament.

With a 3-6 conference slate, the Aggies are tied with Baylor and one game behind SMU which A&M faces Wednesday in Dallas. The Aggies are 10-9 for the season.

Senior Willie Foreman, with 59 points in his last three games, has taken over the team scoring lead from freshman Vernon Smith. Foreman is averaging 14.1 points per game to 13.6 for Smith.

The Aggies will be without the services of junior Karl Godine for the rest of the season. Godine injured his left knee in the 58-56 win over Baylor and had surgery in Houston Tuesday to repair a ruptured patella (kneecap) tendon. A&M trainer Billy Pickard reported that Godine should be ready for next season.

A&M visits the Houston Cougars Saturday for an 8 p.m. game in the H. Rouse Caffery Gymnasium. The starting lineup will have Foreman, Smith, Lynn Wright, Joey Robinson and Dave Goff. Wright was the hero of the Baylor game with two free throws with one second left.

The Texas A&M women's basketball team, ranked No. 7 in the state, has only one game scheduled this week. The Aggie Ladies, 13-9 for the season, meet the Houston Cougars at 5:45 p.m. contest in Houston Saturday. Houston is 12-6 for the season and is ranked No. 8 in the state.

The Aggie Ladies were slated to play 10th-ranked Texas Southern in Houston Monday, but won by forfeit when the officials failed to show. Coach Wanda Bender's squad

earned a big victory over No. 2-ranked Texas last Monday, 59-52, lost to Lamar in Beaumont Wednesday, 66-59, and beat McLennan Community College, 91-78, at A&M Friday in a game which saw the Aggie Ladies shoot 53 percent from the floor and 83 percent from the free throw line.

Leading scorer for the Aggie Ladies is sophomore Pat Werner with a 12.0 average. Sophomore Von Bunn is averaging 10.3 per game, has 103 assists and 70 steals in 21 games. The leading rebounder is Susan Kimbro with a 7-1 average.

Following the Houston game, A&M hosts Lamar on Tuesday and Texas Tech on Thursday.

Fifty-four A&M football players will receive varsity letters at the Texas A&M Football Awards program Saturday night in the Rudder Tower auditorium.

The program, free to the public, starts at 7:30 p.m. A sound-on-color movie of 1977 season highlights will be shown. Highlight of the program will be the announcement of the winner of the Aggie Heart Award by coach Emory Bellard.

Coach Jan Fambro's women's gymnastics squad will compete twice this week, first at Texas Friday and then in the SW Texas Invitational on Saturday.

The five-woman A&M squad in the Class I compulsories include Laura Shelfer, Tina Martin, Kathy Pruett, Tanya Hrabal and Patti Sloat. Another member, Cindy Gremillion, is sidelined for three weeks by a mild compression fracture of a vertebrae.

Coach Ellen Buchanan's women's tennis team was scheduled for three matches this week.

S.F. Austin was due in for a 2 p.m. Tuesday match. The Aggies play Sam Houston in Huntsville at 2 p.m.

Wednesday and face Tyler JC here at noon Saturday.

A&M players include Betty Shillcutt, Mary Guerra, Debbie Odum, Elise Richardson, Susan Schilling, Kathleen Sissom, Judy Willard and Alexis Hefley.

Coach Richard Barker's men's tennis team was slated to play in the Lamar Invitational tournament in Beaumont Thursday through Saturday of this week.

Robin Baker and Mike Moss are the only lettermen on the squad this year. Other squad members include Murray Blackshear, Reid Freeman, Jim Grubert, Julian Hine, Max King, Roger Pier, Denny Renaldi, Hendrick Roller, Trey Schutz and Rick Thompson.

Coach Bob Ellis' men's golf team will compete in the two-day Al Pryor Intercollegiate tournament in Houston Saturday and Sunday.

Three lettermen are on hand from last year's squad that finished second in the SEC. They are Tim Carlton, Dave Ogrin and Doug Ward. Three outstanding freshmen on hand are Mark Taylor, Jay Kent and Richard Cromwell. Other squad members

include Biff Alexander, Dale Carlisle, Rickey Jamison, Jerry Martin, Russell Orth and Ian Stratton.

Texas A&M's Linda Cornelius, the women's national outdoor pentathlon champion, will attempt to add the indoor title to her collection at the national meet in Albuquerque, N. M. Friday.

The five events in the pentathlon are the 880, 100-meter hurdles, long jump, high jump and shot put.

A&M men's and women's swim squads will take on Houston there at 7 p.m. Friday and then the women will host LSU here at 2 p.m. Saturday.

Both Aggie Squads lost to Texas and Stanford in double-dual meets last weekend in Austin.

The women lost to Stanford, 90-23 and to Texas, 60-53 and now are 2-2 in dual meets. The men, now 3-2 in duals, lost to Stanford, 83-29 and Texas, 90-23.

Shirley Hill qualified for nationals with a 53.4 clocking in the 100-yard free-style.

Despite the losses, coach Dennis Fosdick said he was happy with the way the Aggies swam.

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