



By Paul Arnett

Nothing changes but the changes

Karl Godine and Jarvis Williams. In their career they've been called the Kashmere duo, Frank and Jessie James, the Maytag twins and other names that one finds scribbled on rest room walls. This basketball season crowds across the conference have screamed themselves hoarse at Godine and Williams. But the cat calls don't bother the Houston products.

Or so they say. "That stuff doesn't bother me," Godine said after the Arkansas game. "Ever since Jarvis and me have been playing basketball together the crowds have yelled things at us. I don't pay any attention. I'm just out there to play basketball."

Godine and Williams began their basketball careers at Houston Kashmere. Their accomplishments in high school would be a story in itself. Let it suffice to say that they were all-district, all-state and all-American. Their team won two state championships and 78 consecutive victories; a state record.

Godine averaged 28 points and 14 rebounds a game. Williams averaged 20 points and 18 rebounds a game. It was no wonder the two were highly recruited by colleges across the country. After many hours of deliberation, the duo chose Texas A&M.

"We just liked the campus and the people," Godine and Williams said. "We knew that A&M would have a good team, plus we were still at home."

Godine and Williams fell right into coach Shelby Metcalf's system. In his conference time the two freshmen had earned starting positions on what was to be the Southwest Conference champions. Godine played at point-guard and averaged 12.6 points a game. Williams was a forward and averaged 7.9 points a game.

They were excellent players as freshmen. Metcalf said. "Karl was great on offense and Jarvis was great on defense. Since our other three starters were seniors, Karl's and Jarvis' inexperience wasn't noticeable. When they were suspended, it killed our team."

The suspension. It became a turning point in the lives of the two 18-year-olds. Rumors of its existence originated when it appeared the Ags had a good chance to win the conference. A&M rolled into Dallas with a 9-1 conference record. They lost to the Mustangs 69-65.

In that game Godine and Williams appeared distraught. They missed easy shots, played poor defensively and finally had to be removed from the lineup. At that time everyone figured they'd had a bad game. But there was more to it than that.

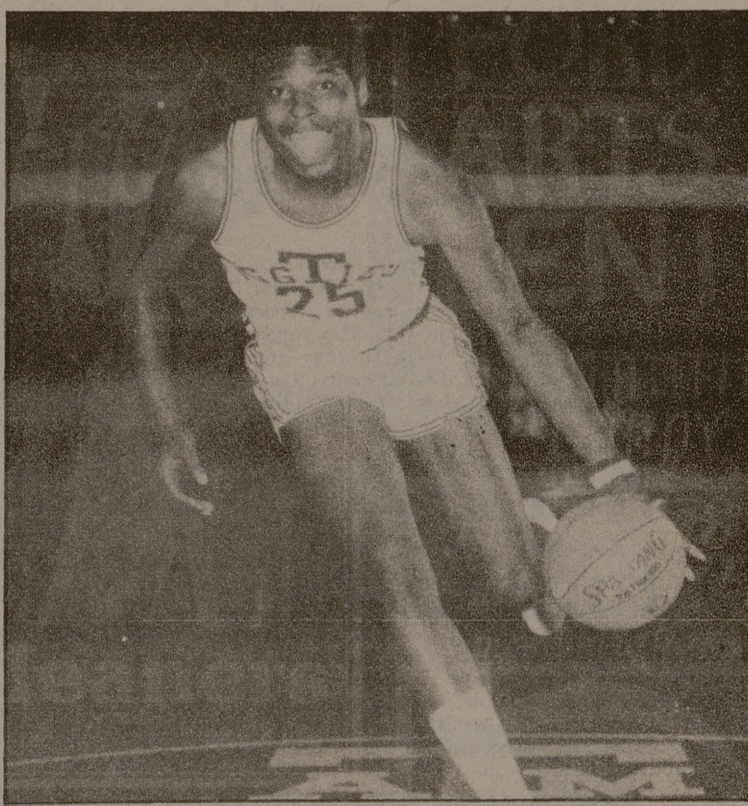
Much more. A letter, written by Texas head basketball coach Leon Black, had been distributed among the conference fathers (faculty representatives). It stated that Godine and Williams had accepted illegal inducements from Texas A&M.

That morning in Dallas, before the SMU game, Godine and Williams appeared before the "conference court." They were asked about the charges Black had made, and they denied them.

It was to be the first of many such meetings for Godine and Williams. From that morning in Dallas to this



KARL GODINE



JARVIS WILLIAMS

very minute, the Kashmere duo have existed in a living hell.

They were suspended from basketball by the SWC one week after the Dallas meeting. The conference fathers didn't say why they were suspended. So Godine and Williams received a court injunction allowing them to play in the last games of the regular season.

Before the SWC tournament the faculty representatives of the conference stated why Godine and Williams were suspended. The court injunction had been satisfied. Godine and Williams would not participate in the tournament game that A&M lost 74-72.

When the season was completed a full-scale investigation was made by the conference. After examining all the "evidence" it was decided that Godine and Williams would not be allowed to play basketball for one year. The Texas A&M basketball program would also lose two of its scholarships.

It would be another year before the NCAA would rule. In that time Godine and Williams and their families were accused of accepting everything but the kitchen sink.

Not much was written about them last basketball season. They watched from the stands, waiting for the day of their return. In April of last year Godine and Williams told the same story to the NCAA that they had presented to the conference fathers a dozen times.

The NCAA decided that the one-year suspension was punishment enough. Godine's and Williams' eligibility was reinstated.

The following October basketball began once again. Godine and Williams looked sluggish, but showed promise. The only question was how they would mold into the program.

Not very well as it turned out. In their freshman year Godine and Williams played on a team that won the conference crown. They could play with more individualism because the team was so good. But this year's team is not that good, and team play was essential if the Ags planned on winning.

Godine and Williams had other ideas from the start. It was obvious that the juniors from Houston wanted to show everyone how good they were. They played as individuals and not as a team.

Godine and Williams found out soon enough that there was no Sonny P. on this team. Individual play was impossible; frustration for Godine, Williams and the rest of the team soon followed.

Metcalf benched the duo after the Texas Tech game. He said that a "cool" attitude by the men was hurting the team. Godine didn't play in two games, Williams played a total of two minutes over the same period.

After losing to TCU, the Aggies had a team meeting. The players

talked among themselves in an attempt to "clear the air." The next game found Godine and Williams back in the lineup. Williams had his best game of the season, Godine proved he was ready to play as well.

Against Baylor, Godine looked like the star of old. But while driving to the hoop, he injured his knee and was lost for the season. The operation was a success, but Godine's chance to prove his greatness must wait another year.

It's been a long road for the two men from the Bayou City. Many articles have been written about them, and I fancy they'll be a few more. Williams will have to finish out the season without his buddy. He now carries the burden of proof for both men.

Nothing has changed but the changes these past two years for the Kashmere duo. Maybe next year will be their year.

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