



Battalion photo by Dean Clemens

# Basketball is Bunn's way of life

By DAVID BOGGAN  
Battalion Sports Staff

Somewhere in residential Victoria, a young girl sat in front of a television desperately trying to palm a basketball with her sixth grade hand. Her inspiration was a bet with her brother, who said she could not succeed. She did.

And from those humble beginnings came one of Texas A&M's leading female basketball players, Von Bunn. She is a sophomore in college now and feels right at home with a basketball in her hand.

"I guess I've been playing basketball since I was in the fourth grade," Bunn said. "My sister started playing basketball in high school when I

was in the third or fourth grade and I got real interested in it. She taught me everything and by the time I was in seventh grade I was playing basketball eight hours a day. "I even used to take a basketball on vacation — had to have my basketball to play with in the car."

After playing four years in high school, Bunn was highly recruited by universities throughout the nation. She said she chose Texas A&M for one reason.

"Academics," she said. "I hadn't decided to play basketball in college until midway through my senior year. I was going to see what it was like to be just a student."  
But she changed her mind.

"I don't think I could go to school and not play basketball," she said. "What would I do with my time?"  
Indeed, it seems that much of Bunn's time is spent in basketball related activities. During the school year, of course, she is involved in practicing and playing for the Aggie Ladies. And in the summer she is a counselor at a children's basketball camp in Brenham.

"The camp is run by Rudy Tomjanovich and Dave Cowens," Bunn said. "I help Rudy and Dave work with the kids, but I think it does me more good than the kids. I can sit there and listen to Rudy and Dave lecture and learn a whole lot."

"I've also worked at a camp in Boston, where I met Red Auerbach and most of the Celtics. When I think about it, it's really unbelievable. But they're just normal people. It was an experience."

In her two years' experience as an Aggie, Bunn has seen several changes. A major change has been the difference in Bunn's game time.

"I've played a lot more this season," she said. "Last year I broke my arm and was out for most of the season. This season I've been terrific physically until the last couple of weeks."

Bunn has been playing with an injured foot since the Houston game on Feb. 4. Her injury has slowed her down, but it has not stopped her. Bunn averages nine points per game.

Another change is in the crowd that attend the Aggie Ladies' games. "Last year I felt like we were playing for ourselves," Bunn said. "This year I feel like we are playing for the school. The crowds are better. I go nuts in front of a big crowd. I love it. Then we know we're just playing for ourselves. Other people do care."

"It doesn't bother me that people come to our games late just to see the men's game. When they come to watch us and come earlier the next time. What bothers me is when people say, 'We have to go to the girls' game.' If they feel like they have to come, we don't want them here. We want them here when they want to be here."

Bunn said that the women's basketball program at Texas A&M is changing as a whole.

"We're building so fast right now that we have everything we need to do to establish a winning tradition. Wayland Baptist, Stephen F. Austin have a tradition. If two teams are equal the winning tradition will win."

think we can be up to Stephen Austin's caliber by my senior year. In 11 years of being associated with basketball, Von Bunn has come a long way. By the time she is a senior, she will have had a lot to do with establishing that winning tradition for the Aggie Ladies basketball team.

## Cold weather for skiers

By BETH DZIKOWSKI

Polar bears are able to happily withstand sub-zero water temperatures, but the 51 contestants who participated in the third annual Polar Bear Open sponsored by the Texas A&M Water Ski Club bravely plunged themselves into 46 degree water in Lake Somerville.

Participants were greeted Saturday morning with rain, cold temperatures and just plain bad weather. This put many in a reluctant mood to ski but, with the promise of lots of hot chocolate and a warm fire, the men began the slalom competition in the cove at Welch Park.

Men's competition was divided into two divisions. Boys and girls between the ages of 10-16 were given the opportunity to compete also. Women had only one division.

In men's Slalom I, Lyndon Elume placed first. Dee Johnson, Water Ski Club captain, placed first in Division I Trick competition.

M.J. Fink, of Houston, took first place in men's Division II Slalom and trick competition. Boy's first place slalom was awarded to Mark Weber. Allen Parrot won the boys' trick competition.

In women's competition, first place went to former A&M student Linda Platou for slalom and tricks. Girl's slalom and tricks went to Robbie Meyers.

Overall awards for competition went to M.J. Fink and Linda Platou.

### Oh no you don't!

A&M forward Rynn Wright (No. 34) grabs a rebound away from the TCU Horned Frogs. The freshman from Dallas is the most im-

proved player on the team this year. The Ags had the weekend off and they travel to Houston Tuesday night to play the Rice Owls.

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