

Rudy Woods is an Aggie

Rudy Woods, a 6-11 all-American from Bryan, signed a national letter-of-intent Wednesday to attend Texas A&M on a basketball scholarship.

"It feels great to be an Aggie," Woods said. "It's been a dream of mine to play for Texas A&M since I was a little boy. A&M has some great young players, and I'm looking forward to playing with them. My only goal is to play for A&M in the NCAA Tournament."

Woods signed with A&M prior to boarding a plane to Philadelphia where he will play in an all-star game Saturday. He was voted the MVP in an all-star game in Houston and also played in an all-star game in Washington, D.C.

Woods was a unanimous choice for the Dallas Times-Herald blue chip list picked by the Southwest Conference coaches. He earned all-state honors and was three-time MVP in his high school district. He averaged 22.8 points and 15.4 rebounds in leading Bryan High to a 22-10 record this past season. His three-year average was 20.7 points while the team had a 79-19 record.

Woods had visited the campuses of Kentucky, Washington, New Mexico, USC, Michigan and A&M before narrowing his choices down to Kentucky and A&M. He decided Sunday night after visiting the A&M campus that he would sign with the Aggies.

"Signing Rudy was so much fun. I'd like to go out tomorrow and sign another player like him," A&M coach Shelby Metcalf said. "This is something I've looked forward to for six years. My wife Janis, my No. 1 recruiter, introduced me to Rudy when he was in seventh grade and she was one of his teachers. Rudy is a big man with exceptional speed and quickness. He's never been clumsy a day in his life. His coach Bobby Perry did a good job of teaching discipline, and that's the reason Rudy is so team-oriented."

Another individual who was especially pleased to see Woods sign with A&M was his mother, Ruthie Woods.

"I'm glad it's over," she said. "I was a little scared that he might go somewhere besides A&M. His grandfather was looking forward to seeing Rudy play in college and now since he'll be playing close by at A&M, he'll get the chance. Rudy was very impressed with Kentucky and USC when he visited there. We talked it over a lot and I know it would have been hard for him to go somewhere else. I think the deciding factor was that he's always heard of A&M and always wanted to be an Aggie."



All-American basketball star Rudy Woods from Bryan signed a letter of intent with Texas A&M yesterday. Woods is seen here with his coach, Bobby Perry, flying to participate in the all-star game.

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