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Chapter 3

Godine leaves A&M

By DAVID BOGGAN  
Battalion Sports Editor

The story of Karl Godine's collegiate basketball career at Texas A&M is an involved one, to be sure. In Chapter 1 of his story, Godine arrived at Texas A&M along with his Houston Kashmere teammate, Jarvis Williams, in 1975.

Earning a starting position on a SWC championship-bound team, Godine averaged 12.6 points per game as a point guard. He had a high game of 24 points and 10 rebounds against Texas that season.

Midway through their freshman season, the Kashmere duo was surrounded by controversy. They were accused in a letter by then head basketball coach at Texas, Leon Black, of accepting illegal recruiting inducements from Texas A&M.

The outcome of this was a one-year suspension by the SWC and a first

hand education in politics for the two.

Last season, the NCAA allowed the reinstatement of Godine and Williams, beginning Chapter 2 of Godine's story.

After sitting in the stands for a season, Godine had returned. And his basketball game was, in a word, sluggish. He and Williams were playing with an entirely new team and they were having trouble adjusting.

This resulted in less game time than Godine was accustomed to in his freshman year. He was benched for two games.

On Jan. 30, Baylor came to G. Rolie White Coliseum. Godine was having a good game. In fact, he was beginning to look like the Godine that played on the championship team.

Then, with six minutes remaining in the first half, Godine went to the basket for a layup. As his feet returned to the floor, he grabbed his knee and limped off the court. He was not to return to the Aggie lineup for the rest of the season, sidelined with a torn tendon in his knee.

"I feel like I need two years of college basketball, and at A&M, I only have one year left," Godine said. "I never had the chance to reach my peak. I need a chance to show the people that I can play college basketball; I know what I'm capable of."

"But it seems like I've been held back. So, I talked to Coach (Shelby) Metcalf, and he felt like I needed two years of basketball. He told me to make my best choice."

Metcalf said that he feels Godine made a wise decision.

"I think this will enhance Karl's chances of getting his basketball game together," Metcalf said.

"I think that two years more than doubles his chances of playing pro ball and that is something Karl should strive for."

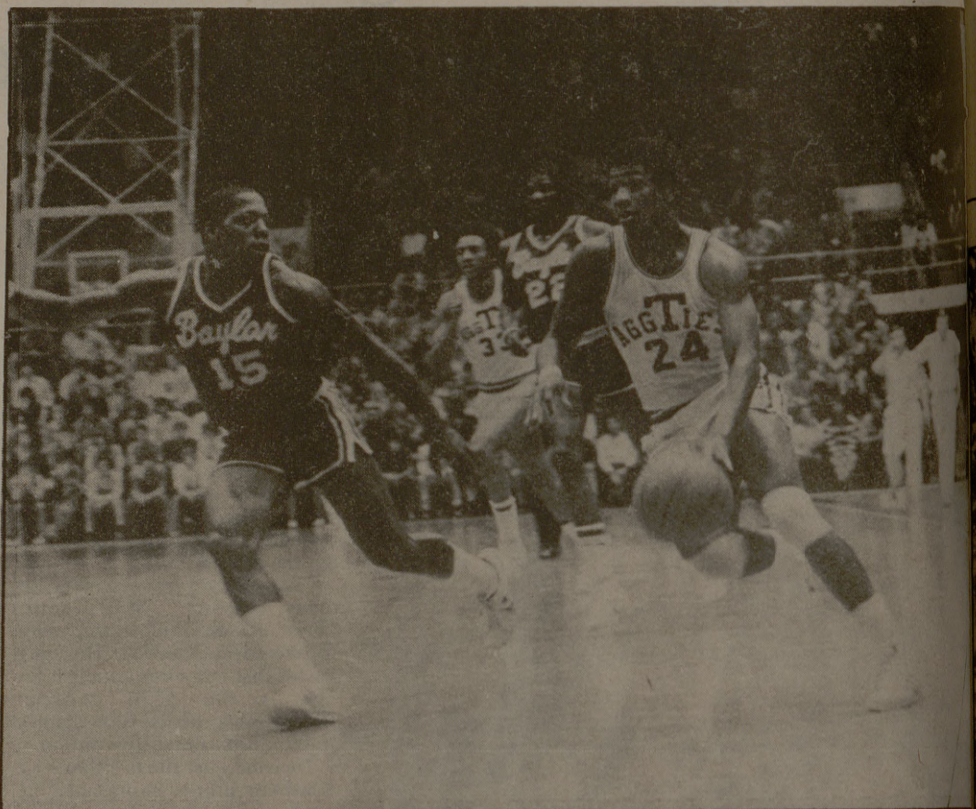
"Realistically, I think Karl is doing the right thing. I have contacted NAIA schools for him, with his permission."

Godine said that Stephen F. Austin State University and a school in New Mexico were the main two schools he was considering.

"I'll have to sit out for the first 18 weeks of school. That's an NAIA rule," Godine said.

Godine describes his years at Texas A&M as being filled with "plenty of frustration." But he says that he "learned a lot" while he was here.

One gets the feeling that he was not speaking merely of academics.



Karl Godine drives the basket for Texas A&M last season while Baylor's Vinnie Johnson defends. It was to be Godine's last game as an Aggie. An injury sidelined him for the rest of the season and now he plans to transfer to a NAIA school.

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Houston Rockets' objective is NBA championship team

United Press International

**HOUSTON** — The acquisition of Rick Barry is a continuation of the headlong crash being made by Houston Rockets President Ray Patterson in his pursuit of a second NBA championship.

As their fans can quickly tell you, the 11-year-old Rockets have never won the NBA title. But the 1971 Milwaukee Bucks, with Patterson as chief operating officer and Lew Alcindor as center, did. And since 1972 Patterson has been wheeling and dealing in Houston.

"I hope," Patterson said after he announced the free agent signing of Barry, "this will serve notice to Houston that the Rockets are going to do whatever we have to do to produce a champion. We aren't just saying it, we're going out and doing something."

There was doubt about that before the Rockets traded for the right to the No. 1 selection in the 1976 draft to take a playmaking guard, John Lucas, instead of many more acclaimed players, and before the Rockets traded several draft choices to obtain center-forward Moses Malone from Buffalo early in the 1976 season.

That 1976-77 season, Houston advanced to the semifinals of the NBA playoffs.

There was still something missing, Patterson said at that time. He wanted a high-scoring, tough rebounding forward to set opposite Rudy Tomjanovich and keep defenses from ganging up on Tomjanovich.

Last season injuries decimated the Rockets, but Patterson was busy, nevertheless, working on a way to afford Barry, 34, one of the highest priced athletes in pro sports.

Patterson led center Kevin Kunnert, who did not figure in the Rockets' plans, play out his option after last season and go to Boston. If Barry can perform at or near his career scoring average of 25.1 points, Malone is freed to rebound.

Patterson reportedly is ready to let a couple of other players on the roster go in order to save money.

At a news conference Barry said he signed with Houston because Patterson paid more money to him than did any other team. Two seasons helped make mind, too.

Barry said he was impressed with the potential of this team. The offensive capabilities of the Rockets are awesome, he said. "Opponents will have a time covering Rudy and Kevin. Patterson now faces the problem of compensating the Wayne Barry. He and Golden State management will try to resolve that, but, if failing, will submit arguments to Commissioner O'Brien.

**Aggie notes**

Texas A&M has signed athletes to the Aggie track team. Evelyn Smith, Ellen Smith, twins, will join with the Aggies next year. Two were members of Fort Worth Tech's mile relay team. The team set a national school record of 3:50.2 in and broke that record in the state meet this year. Evelyn runs the 220 and the 440, runs hurdles and participates in the long jump.

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