

Wait and see, says Metcalf

By SEAN PETTY
Battalion Staff

If head basketball coach Shelby Metcalf had a slogan for his 1978-79 Texas A&M University team it would probably be, "Wait and See."

Metcalf and his young team will be playing the waiting game to see how long it will take before they are "outstanding basketball" as Metcalf says.

"The main thing I want to stress is that our team is young, real young," Metcalf said. "I don't know when we will be good, but when we do, it will be a very exciting brand of basketball."

"I don't know if we are a year away or if we'll be ready by the time the season begins. So far, I've been very pleased with the work."

The players have demonstrated in practice that they are going to work hard this year and play as a team," he said.

The Aggies cannot ease into the season by any means. They open up with North Carolina State, one of the nation's perennial powers in

basketball, at the Alaska Tournament in Anchorage. The game will be televised to add to the pressure on the young Aggies.

"Our biggest problem is that the players have to learn how each other plays," Metcalf said. "Three of our top nine players are new and we will just have to see how they react when they start the clock in Alaska."

"The tournament is definitely going to help us. My only regret is that we will not have a game before that. If we could get a couple of games under our belts it would give me a chance to see how these younger players are going to perform on the court with the rest of the team in a game situation."

"All in all, I feel very good about where we stand at this point."

The Aggies have been putting the roundball to the hardwood since Oct. 15 and will have an open house Nov. 16 at G. Rollie White Coliseum. The Aggies will have a scrimmage then so that the public can get an idea of how the Ags will look this year.

Metcalf would not say who the starting five are at this point because it would "take away some of the competitiveness" but he did say that freshman Rudy Woods would start this year.

"Rudy will start because he has worked so very hard this fall," Metcalf said. "Although he is a super talent, he realizes that he has a lot to learn and he is working hard all the time trying to get better."

Metcalf said that eight or nine of the players are coming along real well and that there is more competition at the guard position than at the front line.

"We have a lot of guys who started for us at one time or another back this year," he said. "We've got Vernon Smith and Rynn Wright who both started a lot as freshmen last year. Dave Goff, Steve Sylestine and Joey Robinson have started for us as has Doug Pederson. So we just have to get all these guys playing together."

Metcalf talked about this year's Southwest Conference race and

spoke realistically about the Aggies' chances.

"I guess Texas and Arkansas would have to be the favorites," he said. "Texas has four of its five starters back from last year's team and Arkansas has six of its top nine players from last year back. Although Arkansas lost two of the triplets (Ron Brewer, Sidney Moncrief and Marvin Delph) Moncrief will be back and Arkansas coach Eddie Sutton says he (Moncrief) is the best player in college basketball."

"If nobody gets hurt or flunks out or anything, we (the Aggies) will be an outstanding basketball team."

"All I know is that we are going to go out there every game and represent A&M the way it should be represented. If we play hard and give it a great effort, the wins will come. So as long as we go up to Alaska and give 100 percent, I will be pleased with this team."

What the upcoming basketball season holds for the Texas Aggies, only time will tell.

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UC-Houston Houston by 27 Houston by 16 Houston by 24
Arkansas Arkansas by 20 Arkansas by 24 Arkansas by 21
Maryland-Penn State	..... Penn State by 5	..... Penn State by 7	..... Penn State by 6
Notre Dame-Navy	..... Navy by 10	..... Navy by 6	..... Navy by 3
Oklahoma-Colorado	..... Oklahoma by 14	..... Oklahoma by 20	..... Oklahoma by 17
Dallas-Miami	..... Miami by 4	..... Dallas by 7	..... Dallas by 6
Cleveland-Houston	..... Houston by 6	..... Houston by 13	..... Houston by 14
Washington-Baltimore	..... Washington by 9	..... Washington by 9	..... Washington by 7
last week's record	..... 6-4	..... 6-4	..... 6-4
season's percentage	..... .700	..... .687	..... .650



David Boggan Mark Patterson Sean Petty

Holtz unsure of his future


United Press International

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. — Arkansas Coach Lou Holtz has indicated he is unlikely to be hired by any of three schools where his name has been mentioned for coaching jobs, but he apparently does not rule out the possibility of leaving Arkansas.

"When the season is over, I will sit down and evaluate where I'm going and what I want to do with my life," Holtz said Wednesday in an interview with KTHV-TV.

Holtz has been mentioned for jobs at Florida, Ohio State and Louisiana State. His future with the Razorbacks has not officially come into question, but he has experienced his only two consecutive losses at Arkansas in the past two weeks, dropping Southwest Conference games to Texas and Houston.

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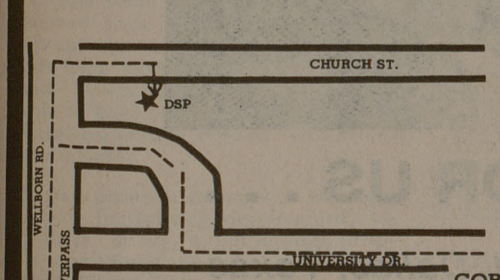
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