

the sports

Aggies host inconsistent Raiders

By MARK PATTERSON
Battalion Staff

Coming off of their biggest win this year in conference play the Texas Aggies play host to the Texas Tech Red Raiders Saturday night in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

The Aggies enter tomorrow night's game one half a game behind the University of Texas in Southwest Conference play. The Aggies are 3-1 in conference after Wednesday night's victory over Arkansas. The Longhorns are 4-1 in conference play.

And the Red Raiders, well they play like they don't know where they ought to be. After jumping off to an early season record of 11-2 Tech has dropped two straight games, both conference losses, to Rice and SMU. The Red Raiders are 3-2 in SWC play.

"We've just been playing inconsistent basketball our last two

games," Tech Coach Gerald Meyers said about his team's two recent losses. "We're not shooting well and our percentage is way down. But we've been playing inconsistently all season."

"We have a very young, inexperienced team that is going through the stage of learning how to play basketball at the major college level. Our freshman (four on this year's team) are learning that they can't get away with the things they could last season playing high school basketball."

One of the freshman going through the learning cycle under Meyers is Jeff Taylor, one of the most highly sought high school seniors last year out of Hobbs, N.M., High School. With the loss of All-America Mike Russell last season and the acquisition of Taylor this year the Red Raiders have changed their offensive philosophy this season.

"We have different personnel on this club, and because of that we've added a running game to our offense," Meyers said. "We're shooting more and quicker on offense."

"This season we really don't have a true center, no one that we work our offense around like we did with Russell. So we've gone to a faster game, not the power game we've had in the past."

Taylor has been playing a lot for us thus far this season. He's played well on occasion, but has been inconsistent on others. But he's making the transition into college ball and will come around for us."

Taylor is no stranger to Texas A&M Coach Shelby Metcalf. Metcalf spoke at Taylor's high school awards banquet last year and invited the guard to visit the Texas A&M campus. Taylor declined.

"When he (Taylor) was introduced he was described as 'the next

NCAA all-American and next NBA player from Hobbs High School," Metcalf said. "Hobbs has a running type of offense and Meyers promised Taylor that if he came to Tech they would play a running game. So they do, every once in a while."

The front line of Rynn Wright, Vernon Smith and Rudy Woods is Gerald Meyer's main concern. He feels rebounding will be the key if Tech hopes to defeat the Aggies.

"Realistically, there's no way we can match-up with their front line," Meyer said. "Our whole game plan will be trying to beat them on the boards and out rebound them."

Metcalf argued the point of matching up with Tech.

"Don't let Gerald fool you," Metcalf said. "With or without their running game they can match-up with us on the court. They have the people to do it."

Metcalf holds no fear of the possi-

bility that the Aggies may be conditionally down for the Tech after the victory over Arkansas Wednesday night.

"Whenever you win a game plus for the team," Metcalf said. "After our win over Kansas weren't ready to play (in Illinois the next night). But we learned a valuable lesson from experience."

"Plus we've had a few between games to get our minds what we have to do against these guys know that there's stake with this game."

An Aggie victory would tie them into a tie with Texas Monday night in Austin against Longhorns. A Tech victory marked the rebound of the off-again Red Raiders. For Texas, it's a key game in the conference race. Tipoff is scheduled for 7:30 p.m.

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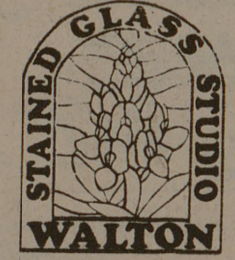
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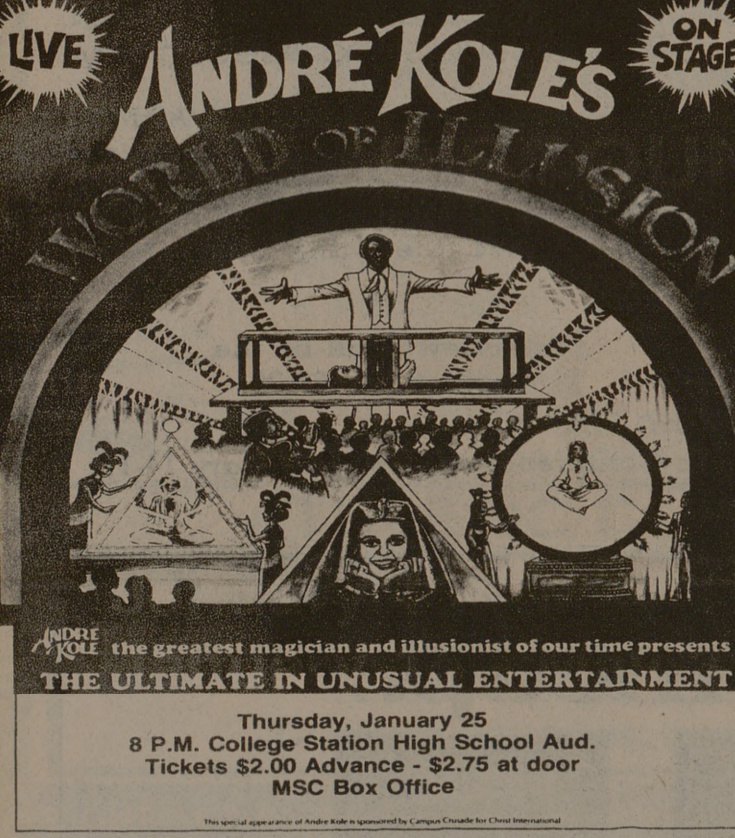


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Aggie notes

Track teams in action

Texas A&M will join Houston, Alabama and LSU in the LSU Indoor Track & Field Meet Saturday night in Baton Rouge, La. Action commences at 7 p.m.

Alabama won the meet last year and went on to finish second to Tennessee in the SEC Outdoors championships. The Aggies went on to win the SWC Outdoors title.

Coaches Charles Thomas and Ted Nelson have announced the following Texas A&M entries:

Shot put — Tim Scott, Kevin McGinnis. Pole vault — Randy Hall, Pat Ruehle, Rick Hailey, Mike Mullins. High jump — Jim Howard, James Aggers, Ron Keys. Long jump — Reggie Jamerson, Jim Howard. Triple jump — Reggie Jamerson. 60-yard hurdles — Billy Busch, Rick Thomas. 60-yard dash — Ray Brooks. 440-yard dash — Leslie Kerr, Steve Willis, Arthur Williams, Vernon Pittman, Ron Wilson. 600-yard run — John Sal-

sibury. 880-yard run — Joel Vogt, Tom Glass, Darrell Shoemaker. 1,000-yard run — Joel Vogt, Leslie Kerr, Arthur Williams, Vernon Pittman, Steve Willis. Two-mile relay — Joel Vogt, Darrell Shoemaker, Tom Glass and Ron Wilson.

Coach David Williams' Aggie Ladies track and field team also makes its 1979 indoor debut Saturday night in Baton Rouge, La. at the LSU Indoor Track and Field Meet.

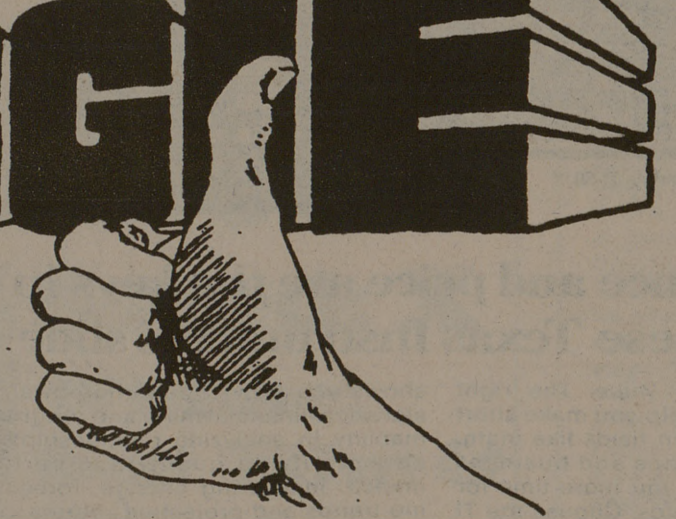
The women's division includes Texas A&M, Alabama and LSU. The Aggies' squad is young and inexperienced as nine of the 16 members are freshmen. "This meet will give us good experience against strong competition," Williams said. Williams' entrants will be:

Shot put — Iris Tipton, Early Douglas. High jump — Jan Ches-

tro, Linda Cornelius. 60-yard hurdles — Melinda Dornak, Sandra Lambert, Linda Cornelius. 60-yard relay — Melinda Dornak, Porter, Sandra Lambert and Williams; Julie White, Bartlett, Linda Cornelius and Evelyn Smith.

Reid Freeman, a Texas sophomore from Dallas, is selected to compete in the indoor tournament for the National Collegiate Singles Championship. The tournament will be held at the Houston Racquet Club.

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