

the sports

# Busy Lady

## Werner combines basketball, family life

By BETH YOUNG  
Battalion Reporter

Being a wife, a college student and a member of a college basketball team are all time-consuming chores in themselves. But to successfully combine all three requires something special in a person. Pat Werner, No. 23 on the Texas A&M women's basketball team, has what it takes.

Werner, a 21-year-old junior from Angleton, began playing basketball in the seventh grade.

"A bunch of friends and I got together to try out," she said. "I didn't even know what basketball was about back then."

Her father kept her interested, however, and when she's on the court, it's easy to see that she knows what basketball is all about now. Werner, who considers defense her specialty, and the Aggie Ladies host Houston tonight at 5:15 in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

Werner said that her high school coach, Jane Fitzgerald, taught her how to play basketball and was a big help to her career.

"I never considered any other sport than basketball," she said. "It was the only organized sport in our junior high school and it was either that or nothing."

Of the three brothers and one sister in her family, Werner said that only her little sister, a seventh-grader, plays basketball.

"I'm really the only one in my family who is sports-oriented," she said.

The thin, 6-foot-0 Werner has played basketball for nine years. She said that even though she was sick of basketball by the time she got out of high school, she decided to try out at Texas A&M, despite the fact that she was not recruited. Werner said she chose Texas A&M because of the friendliness of the people.

"I came to some of the games here," she said, "and everyone at home highly recommended A&M."

Werner said that she feels Texas A&M has a good women's basketball program.

"We are getting more money for scholarships every year," she said, "and Coach Bender has been getting some good recruits. We could still use more money, though."

The only real problem with women's basketball here, said Werner, is that the Aggie Ladies have to wait until the men's team finishes workouts before they can start their practice and it gets late.

Another thing that Werner said could be a problem is the lack of press coverage given to women's sports.

"The Batt does its best," she said, "and really does give us the best coverage of any newspaper. But we most definitely have trouble getting any publicity."

"The men, on the other hand, get it all. Why, some people don't even know when we have games."

Werner said that the thing she dislikes most about basketball is the long hours of practice.

"We practice about two hours plus every day that we don't have a game," she said. "I realize you have to practice to get better, but we play a lot of games and I get tired, especially at the end of the season. But, I love basketball or I wouldn't play."

Another reason Werner doesn't care for practicing so much is the fact that it takes her away from her husband, Ronny.

"It seems like when Ronny has a day off, I have a game," she said, "and when I just have practice, he has to work."

Werner, the only married woman on the team, met her husband, a P.E. major like herself, when he was selling tickets to a majors club picnic.

"Six months later, we got married," she said, "and things have worked out good for us."

Werner admits that it was hard for them when they first got married.

"It was an unstable time for us," she said. "Basketball took up so much time and we had to keep up with our school work. We didn't see each other much but it's better now

that we've been married over a year.

The fact that her husband is five inches shorter than she is doesn't bother Werner at all.

"We get along really well," she said. "We're best friends. Ronny loves me playing basketball. He's my biggest fan and comes to all the games that he can and even some practices."

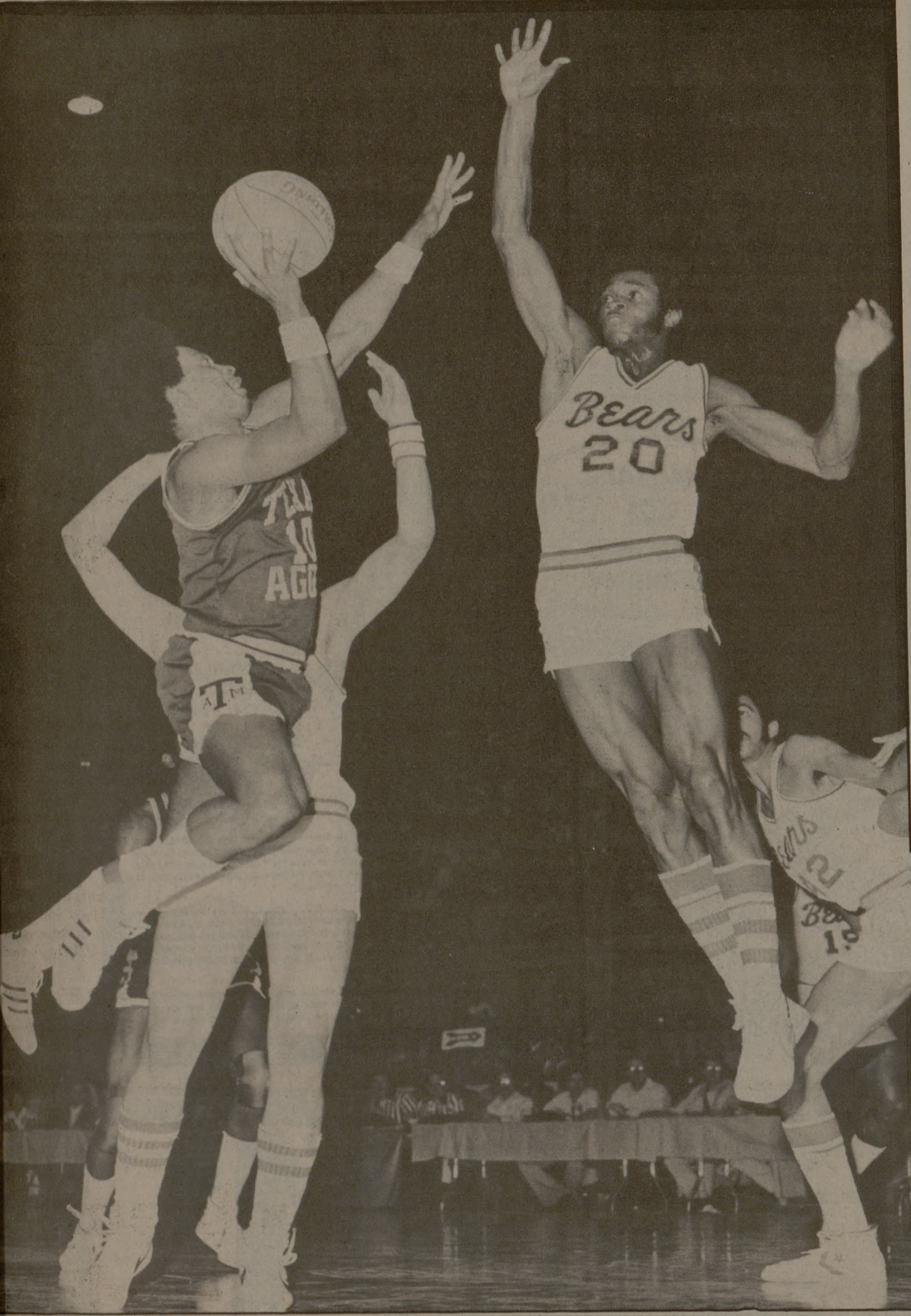
Werner also said that it gets frustrating spending so much time apart but that they don't fight about basketball because Ronny enjoys the game just as much as she does.

After college Werner said that she plans to coach basketball at the high school level. With a shy grin, she added, "I'd really like to start a family."

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### Revenge on their minds

Byron Ladson, seen here going up against Baylor's Terry Teagle, and the Texas Aggies host SMU tonight in G. Rollie White Coliseum. The Mustangs handed the Aggies their first conference loss earlier this month and Metcalf's men will be trying to even the score. The 14th-ranked Aggies are 7-2 in conference play, one game behind the first place Texas Longhorns, who host Arkansas Thursday

night. The Ponies are currently in sixth place with a 3-5 SWC record. Two of the conference's excellent freshmen will start in tonight's contest, Rudy Woods for Texas A&M and Billy Allen for SMU. Tip-off is at 7:30 p.m. The Aggie Ladies host Houston in another revenge match at 5:15 p.m. The Cougars defeated the Aggies earlier in the season.

Battalion photo by Pat O'Malley

### Few tickets remain for '79 Oilers games

United Press International  
HOUSTON — Scattered single tickets, about 2,500 temporary seats in the last two-thirds of the season and 5,000 SRO tickets all that are unsold for 1979 Houston Oilers home games in the Astrodome.

The Astrodome capacity is 47,653 seats. The major league baseball season, Oilers ticket manager Rick Nichols said most of those seats have been sold in season-ticket packages. "We've got plenty of singles left. I can give you a handle on how many," he said. "We're waiting for a computer printout."

"A lot of clubs accept mail orders for them. Some don't," Nichols said. "Right now we're leaning toward selling them for individual games. But we may offer them by mail order to consider our fans in other cities."

The Oilers played to 104 percent of capacity for 11 home games last season.

Local televising of regular season games next season will depend on selling the singles (during baseball season) and selling the singles and the 2,500 bleacher seats later in the season.

For fans wishing to see one or two games, however, the prospects improve after the end of the baseball season in early October. About 2,500 bleacher seats will be sold for games after that date and Nichols said those seats will be sold on an individual game basis.

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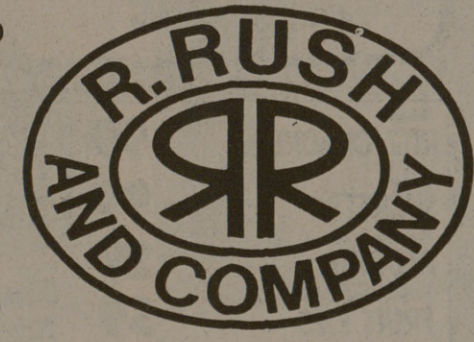
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