



viewpoint

By MARK PATTERSON
Battalion Staff

Aggs show their colors every Saturday in fall

In Dallas they're red or blue. In Houston they're usually red. And in Lubbock they wear red or black. Saturday night, at Bryan's Viking Stadium, they will wear maroon. And plenty of it. It's that leisure suit time of the year. It must be spring; football's in the air. The 1979 football season kicks off with the annual Maroon and White intrasquad game Saturday, signaling the end of spring drills and the beginning of hope for next season.

No matter what time of year, where ever you find college football, you'll find boisterous alumni cheering their schools on. They'll be there Saturday night, blazon in maroon.

Jersey colors are the identification factor used by teammates to distinguish themselves from their enemies. The same holds true for leisure suits. Around Kyle Field, a maroon double-knit, two-piece is as much a sign of a friend as a Winnebago's horn sounding the War Hymn.

School colors are sacred to the institutions that they are identified with. Everyone in the state knows Texas A&M fans by the maroon and white. But years ago, before leisure suits became the trademark of a returning Ag, red and white were the colors worn by the Aggie football team.

It wasn't until the fall of 1923 that the present day colors became a part of Texas A&M.

Taken from "The History of the Association of Former Students of Texas A&M University 1876-1976", a thesis by John A. Adams Jr., the story of the colors' adoption begins in 1921. A poem praising former Aggie football coach Charlie B. Moran appeared on the front page of the Nov. 1, 1921, Texas Aggie newspaper to congratulate him on being selected to the Coaches Hall of Fame:

*He's a grand old man,
Though we don't like to brag,
And his worth he will prove to you soon;
He's the idol of the team we love,
That fights for the dear old maroon.*

Rah! Rah!

*And we stand by him,
Though we lose or win,
And our faith in him will stand,
Though other coaches may be good,
Take your hat off to Coach Moran.*

The attempt to rhyme maroon with Moran was one of the first mentions of the color in any connection with Texas A&M. Although some A&M teams had worn a band of maroon and white around their grey jerseys during the early 1920's, the rallying colors of the Corps of Cadets at athletic events, banquets and commencement were red and white.

In September, 1923, James Sullivan, business manager of athletics, officially dressed the football team in maroon jerseys. Like the Corps, who changed from the West Point style gray uniform to the olive drab attire of World War I, Sullivan hoped to give the team a new look for the 1923 season. Of the change Sullivan commented, "The darker solid colors will add to the appearance of the team in that it will make it look heavier and more uniform."

Since 1923, maroon and white have been the official colors of Texas A&M. And thank goodness. Can you imagine hundreds of orange two-piece polyester suits from Sears roaming the campus every football weekend next fall? Or even this Saturday?

History could be made

Spurs closing in on title

United Press International
SAN ANTONIO — The San Antonio Spurs go after their first NBA playoff series win in history tonight, needing only one more triumph over the Philadelphia 76ers to move into the Eastern Conference championship round.

"We're not overconfident by any means," said San Antonio coach Doug Moe. "We know what we have to do to win. If anything, we're a little nervous and anxious to get it over with."

San Antonio took a 3-1 lead in the series last Sunday with a 115-112 decision in Philadelphia. If the 76ers win tonight, the series will go back to Philadelphia for game six Sunday afternoon and if the series goes a full seven games the finale will be played next Wednesday night in San Antonio.

This is the third year for the Spurs in the NBA and they have made the playoffs all three years. But in their inaugural NBA season they lost to Boston in two straight in the opening mini-series and last year the Spurs fell to eventual champion Washington in six games after winning their division.

In their 12 years of ABA-NBA existence the Spurs have made the playoffs 11 times, but have never won a seven-game playoff series.

The Spurs hope to once again contain Julius Erving, who scored 39 points in Philadelphia's only win in the series but who had managed only four points through the first three quarters last Sunday.

Larry Kenon, despite suffering a fever early in the week, will again be guarding Erving. Kenon missed Tuesday's workout, but was expected to be at full strength for tonight's game.

Moe, however, plans to put forward Allan Bristow back in the starting lineup despite the outstanding job done in Sunday's game by Mark Olberding.

Olberding scored 17 points, grabbed eight rebounds and helped in the double-teaming of mammoth Darryl Dawkins when the 6-11 Philadelphia hulk was in the game. Dawkins scored only 13 points.

Moe said he used Olberding in Philadelphia because Bristow — a former 76er — seems to have a hard time playing well against his former teammates on their home court.

"I think Allan may get a little paranoid when we play in Philadel-

phia," said Moe. "It may be because he used to be a 76er, but it seems he's never had a good game for us up there."

"It's true players do better in some places than in others," Bristow

said. "I know I do better at home than on the road. I also know that for us to win on the road we have to be physical and that Mark and Coby (Dietrick) are more physical than I am."



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