

the sports

2 Ags suspended for the first three games

United Press International
DALLAS — Basketball players Vernon Smith of Texas A&M and Pat Nunley of Baylor have been suspended for their teams' first three games this season because they played in unsanctioned games during the summer.

A&M called the situation "unfortunate."

Texas A&M Athletic Council chairman Dr. Charles H. Samson

said Thursday the loss of Smith "appears to be a case of an innocent mistake on Smith's part."

The players, both starters at their schools, played in games they thought had been approved by the NCAA. The Dallas Morning News reported.

Smith, a forward who led the Aggies by scoring 16 points-per-game last year, played in two games of a one-day tournament at a recrea-

tion center in Dallas while Nunley, a guard, played two games in a league at a gym in Bedford.

The NCAA must sanction summer participation by senior college players. The teams they played for had both been approved by the NCAA last year.

Samson said, "All of our basketball players had been cautioned not to participate in any unsanctioned events during the summer. Smith thought he was playing in a properly approved tournament but, unfortunately, he was misinformed by tournament officials."

"It was an innocent mistake and an unfortunate situation," said Samson. "It was everybody's fault," said Baylor Coach Jim Haller. "I shouldn't have told Pat it was all right without checking it out positively myself and the recreation center director was a fault because he shouldn't have told Pat he could play if he wasn't sure either."

Nunley, who averaged 9.4 points-per-game last season, will miss Friday night's game against Greece's national team, a Dec. 1 match with Brigham Young and a Dec. 3 game with Texas-El Paso. Smith will not play against the Australian national team Saturday nor the first two games of the Alaskan Invitational.

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Ags hope to spoil Hogs' dream

By MARK PATTERSON
Battalion Sports Staff

At this point, the outcome of Saturday's Texas A&M-Arkansas game is as clear as the muddy Brazos River since both the Aggies and Razorbacks are pretty evenly matched football teams.

With an 8-1 season record and a share of first place in the Southwest Conference, the Razorbacks are looking for a New Year's Day bowl game on the horizon. Whether it is in Dallas's Cotton or New Orleans's Sugar Bowl, as most insiders are

hinting, all the Hogs have to do is keep winning to go to a bowl.

And the Aggies would like nothing better than to kill those post-season dreams. The Aggies, at 4-4 and 2-3 in the SWC, appear to have put all phases of their game together in time for the Arkansas invasion. It couldn't have happened at a better time.

The Aggies have averaged 43 points a game their last two outings and have had a week off to prepare for the Hogs. The Razorbacks are coming off a wild 29-20 comeback victory over Baylor last weekend in

Waco.

The two teams are poised and ready for the kickoff, set for 1:30 p.m. in Kyle Field.

"I've never been to College Station but I've heard an awful lot about it," said Arkansas' quarterback Kevin Scanlon about the trip to Kyle Field. Scanlon goes into Saturday's game as the top quarterback in the conference, hitting on 63 percent of his passes. He also leads the conference in total offense with 142.9 yards-per-game.

"Players have told me how vocal their fans are and how loud it is. I guess it's a lot like our crowds in Arkansas except that this time we'll be the visitor."

With more of the third deck completed for this week's game, 62,000-plus fans are expected to crowd into Kyle Field.

"I think the crowd is enthusiastic, they're vocal," said Arkansas coach Lou Holtz about A&M's home crowd. "We're really going to have to play a great football game to combat it (the crowd). We're going to have to be very determined individuals because it's just a great environment."

"I don't believe it (the crowd) can intimidate us as a total team but it could intimidate us individually. But, to me, I would personally rather play in front of 68,000 wildly enthusiastic people than in front of 5,000 people who didn't really care but came there because somebody gave them a ticket."

"I know it's easier to win in front of 5,000 people away from home. If we are a good football team, we'll accept the challenge down there."

The challenge comes from the Aggies' defense, which has allowed 150.7 yards rushing a game and

122.7 yards passing a game and 28.7 yards per play. The Aggies' offense has averaged 346.7 yards a game this season.

"Right now, A&M might be the favorite as well as any team in the conference," Holtz said. "Two years ago we took a fine team to A&M and fought for our lives."

The Hogs will be fighting a day without the services of offensive starters. Hurt in the game were strong-side linebacker Mike Massey and both starting corners, Hugh Jernigan and Bryant.

Massey will be replaced by Riley, who will move over to weak-side linebacking spot. Morris will start as the other backer.

Holtz will start a pair of quarterbacks in high school backup free safety this season at the right corner. Matheny will move up and start at left cornerback.

Lee Jones, the only other corner on the team, will start at both positions.

"I'm sure, when people see the film and see Texas, Houston, Baylor all average five yards per carry on us, we may not be as impressive," Holtz said. "They look at that, I think the tendency to maybe underestimate our football team. But I think our football team does know something about winning."

And so does Holtz. Since his first game in the month of October last year, in Little Rock, Nov. 17, Arkansas beat the Aggies' defense, which has allowed 26-7 on their way to the Fiesta Bowl. The Aggies haven't forgotten

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