

sports

The last season — Dave Goff

Senior guard invaluable

By TONY GALLUCCI
Sports Editor

Dave Goff fits the mold. He's 5-10, a regular starter, he's aggressive and he knows the basketball floor-plan. That mold is one of an Aggie point guard, the Goff follows in the footsteps of Mike Floyd and Gates Frin of past teams in making his presence known.

Arriving in Aggieland for the start of the 1976-77 season he almost immediately assumed the role of floor general. His freshman year he started 27 of 28 games, averaged seven points a game and doled out a school record 129 assists. His junior year he topped that figure with 147, during this year he held the career assist record with 402 and has already added an additional 55.

Goff certainly knows of athletic success. He was an all-stater in basketball at Homewood Flossmoor High, was captain of that team, and was undefeated as a tennis doubles player, winning the state title. He received the Calvin Mell Award for Most Outstanding Athlete and was voted Most Like to Succeed by his schoolmates.

What brought Dave to Texas A&M? "I came mostly because I really liked the school when I came down to visit," he says. "I was very impressed with the players. I more or less decided based on the basketball program — they were very competitive. In terms of education I knew I wanted a good degree — one that would mean something. I just knew that whatever degree I got it would be a good one."

And what does the future hold for Dave Goff? "I just want to get through this season and then I'll worry about the rest later on." Coaching? "Oh I don't know, I like basketball, I like playing it and I like to teach but I really don't know about coaching," says Goff.

Dave's father Don Goff throws in a



Dave's father Don Goff throws in a

Aggies finish in computer Top 20

By GARY M. KING
Special to the Battalion

Congratulations are in order for the Texas A&M football team. Their performance over the 1979 season has been evaluated by computer regression analysis and rated as 12th best in the country. This ranking is based on statistical fact and not on opinion as are those that produced the final AP and UPI polls which excluded the Aggies.

Aggies should take pride in this accomplishment. Although the Ags finished with six wins and five losses this tally was accomplished against the toughest schedule of any Top 20 team.

Originating in statistics theory and implemented on a computer, regression analysis finds the ordered ranking of all teams that best explains the outcome of all games played to date during a season.

The computer would initially rate all teams as being equal and then continually adjusts the rankings according to games played. The result is a rating for every team in country that best explains all the games

played. The highest rated team is the team that has performed its schedule best relative to all other teams' performance of theirs.

The college rankings that result from application of this technique are generally not too shocking. The top teams from the Southwest Conference are consistently rated near the top.

Examples of the ability of regression analysis to accurately rate teams and find relative strengths that are not obvious to the rest of the country occur every week; the most recent being the rankings of Nov. 26; before they played Texas, Texas A&M was ignored by the polls, the bowls and the prognosticators, but they were a highly rated 14th in the regression rankings — the rest is history.

The Top 20? 1. Alabama, 2. USC, 3. (tie) Nebraska and Oklahoma, 5. Ohio State, 6. BYU, 7. Texas, 8. Arkansas, 9. Houston, 10. Florida State, 11. Pittsburgh, 12. Texas A&M, 13. North Carolina, 14. Washington, 15. Temple, 16. Michigan, 17. LSU, 18. Clemson, 19. (tie) Penn State and Baylor.

graduate in May — a significant achievement for any athlete.

Goff's parents are pleased with

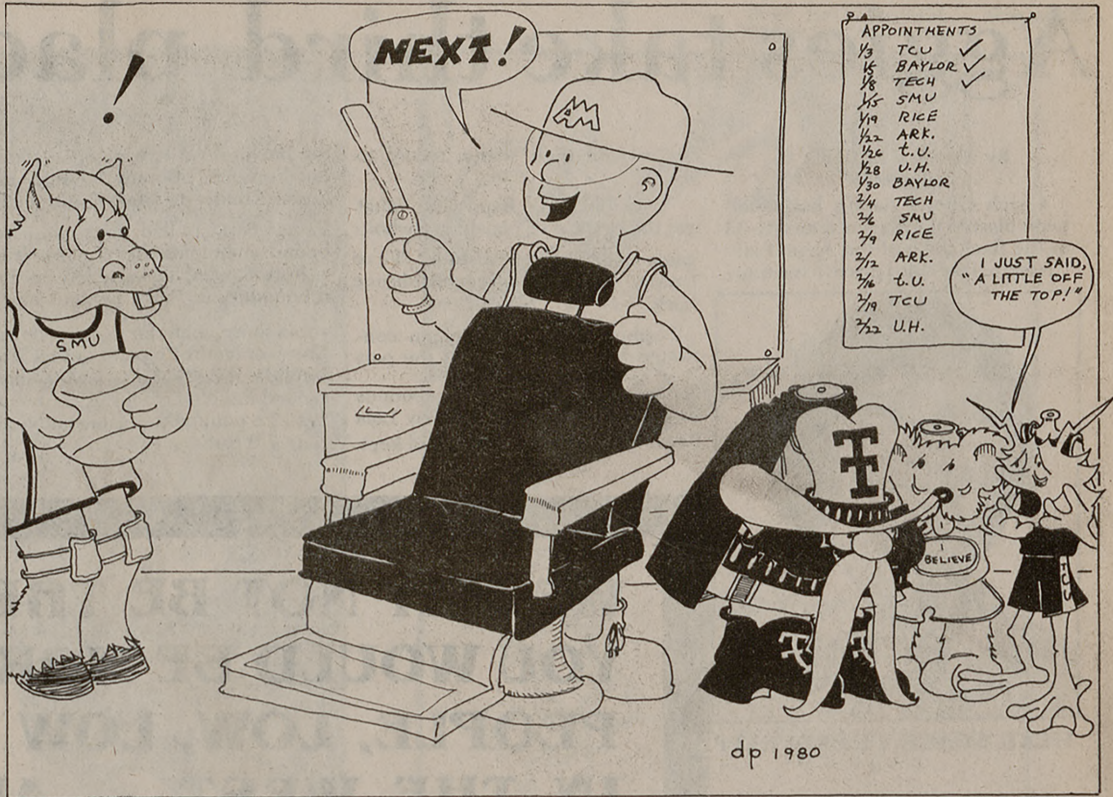
Dave's choice of schools. "We like it very much," says Don Goff. "We like the campus, the attitude of the students. You just can't beat it."

Joy Goff, Dave's mother, adds, "The students are very friendly. Dave liked the school when he went down and he liked the other players. He likes Shelby (Head coach Shelby Metcalf) so much and all the coaches. Everybody was just so good to him."

Metcalf thinks Goff has given back more. "I hope we can make a Texan out of him. I hope he decides to make his home here. He's made a lot of friends here, and he has represented high school so well."

In high school, Goff was a scorer as well as a floor leader but at A&M the role changed a bit. In addition to his feeding the ball to his teammates, Dave must share the duty of keeping confidence up and panic down with his co-captain David Britton. "I was pretty pleased with my play early in the year," Goff says. "I don't think I've played any real bad games but I don't think I've played any great ones either." As for improvement in his game, Goff says, "I'd like to become more involved offensively. I know I'm capable of scoring more but I have to wait until the situation arises."

As for the teams' fortunes, Dave says the best is yet to come. "Our best win so far is probably Vegas (this interview was conducted in early January) but I don't think we've reached our best game. It hasn't been disappointing (the season to date) but we haven't done anywhere as well as we expected to. I think everyone's got a good attitude — we just haven't put together a forty minute game yet." The future? "It's good," says Goff. "If you're losing and you're not playing your best you can get better. But if you're playing your best and then losing then there's nothing you can do."



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