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Aggies watching Britton on court

By TONY CALLUCCI

share of the load.

"Then came conference and that was different. The first time around I didn't do so hot against the conference teams. But I improved the second time around."

Britton pointed out the difference was in the style of play.

"We didn't get to play as wide open as we had earlier in the season against the bigger, ranked teams. And then Rudy was coming on and the other teams started to clog up the middle. My thing is driving and penetrating, and once that middle was clogged up I was mostly dishing off to Vernon (Smith) and Rynn (Wright). My game suffered a little but it was a transition and once I got through it I did better. I think I was getting back into my game in the NIT."

As for this year's teams' fortunes? "Most of the teams are waiting for us. They're so intent on beating us. During the tournaments we didn't have the hunger we had last year. It was a combination of psychological and physical factors."

"Vegas was a good test for us. We made some mistakes, but we won and that's what's important. We're hungry for competition now. The seniors want to win the conference — we want those rings."

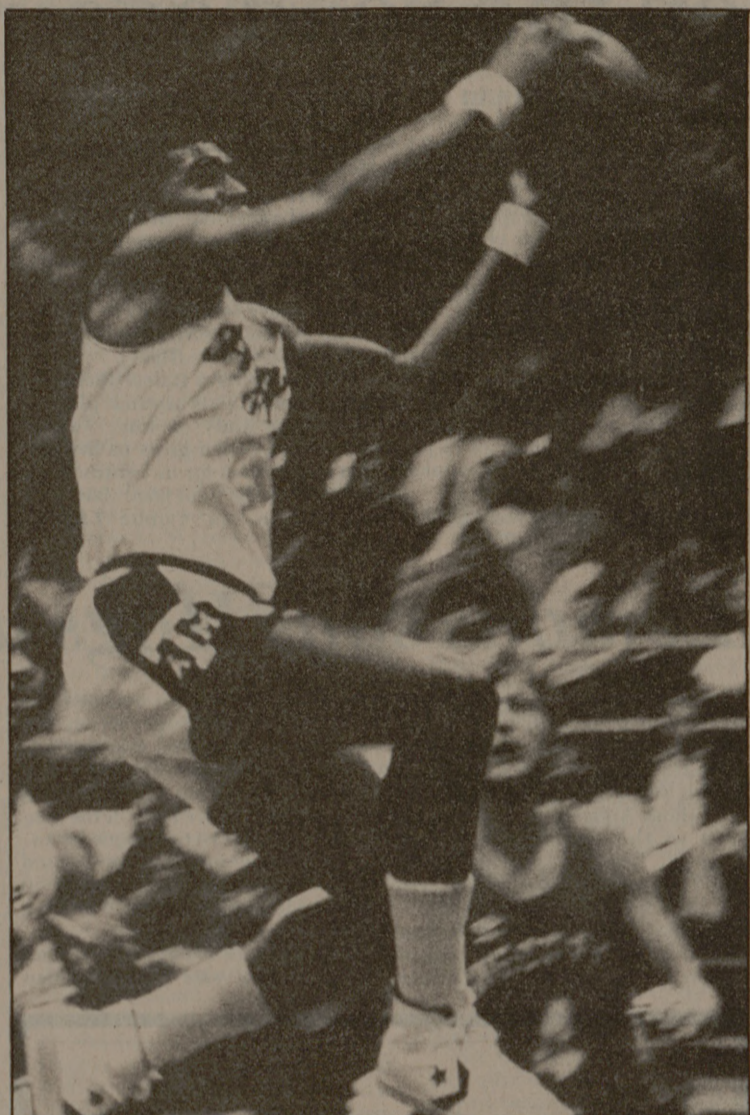
Britton feels the toughest part of the season is coming up.

"The toughest games might be in Arkansas and in the Drum (Austin). SMU is a tough place to play, too, and don't forget Tech."

Britton's play has fluctuated from no points against Lamar to 30 against Nevada-Las Vegas. "I'd been having back problems up until we played at Brigham Young. Usually I'm just thinking about basketball, but for while I was having problems at home — thinking about that — thinking about school work and still trying to play basketball. Then all of a sudden we got to Vegas, and things cleared up and my mind was free. I was able to play better and show leadership on the floor."

Metcalfe is pleased with what Britton has added to the team and, "I think A&M's been a good experience for him" said Britton. "A lot of people have been real good to me."

The future of David Britton? He says he'd like to play pro ball. Metcalfe appraises him thus. "I think he probably is a pro prospect. He knows how to play and he knows how to get along with other players."



Britton goes for a lay-up against the Texas Tech Red Raiders.
Photo by Lynn Blanco

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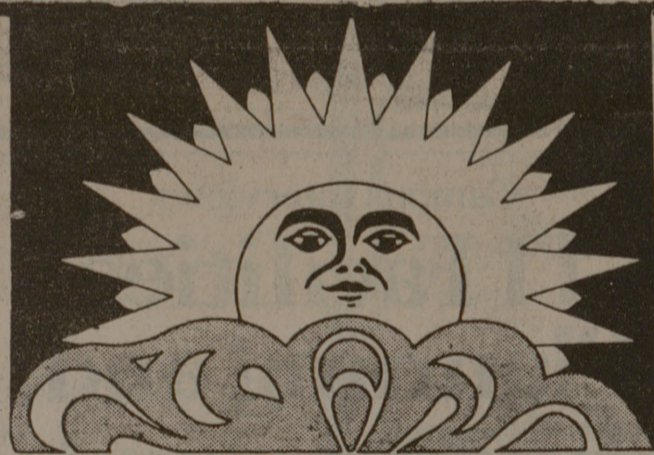
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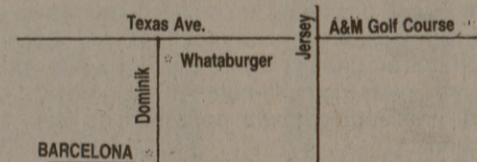
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When David Britton burst onto Aggie basketball program a year ago no one really knew what to do. How do you handle a player from New York who comes in, knows he can play and isn't afraid to tell anyone? Well, if he's good enough, I let you get to see him play. And in his senior year, not only are Aggies watching David Britton play, they are enjoying the result. For David's sake, let's hope the prospects who have ventured onto Aggie are enjoying his play also.

Number 30 in white to those who follow Aggie basketball via G. Rollie Coliseum, Britton comes to Texas A&M from Potomac State University in Keyser, West Virginia. Prior to that he was all-city at Kennedy High School in the Bronx where he had 56 points and 29 rebounds in one game. As a junior last year he started 23 games playing under head coach Shelby Metcalfe as a second guard. He averaged 10.2 points for the Ags, dispatched 124 assists and led the team in steals with 16 in 16 games thus far this season. He is averaging 9.9 points (11.6 in MVC play).

Did Britton do so well in the East because he would be coming to A&M?

"I picked it, for one, for Academic reasons and when I came down here I was with a lot of the players and they suited my style," says Britton. "I wanted to do was play basketball — the Southwest Conference was up and coming — and the schedule was fantastic. I wanted to play here to show them what I could do."

"David's really come around, he's playing really good ball," said Metcalfe. "He has the respect of his teammates and is willing to sacrifice for the team."

Britton had to settle in lightly, though.

"I always thought I could come right in and play. I didn't think coach Metcalfe would even think about putting me on the bench unless I didn't play up to what I was supposed to. But I didn't realize Tyrone (Ladson) was working with the team as a unit and Dave Goff had been here for three years."

Tyrone got hurt right before Alas and I got to start and things went from there — I had a couple of good games. I was scoring about 20 points a game, getting some rebounds — you know, carrying my

Rice's Unbehagen to be new football line coach for Aggies

United Press International
Rice assistant football coach Tom Unbehagen will become offensive line coach at Texas A&M, Athletic Director Marvin Tate announced Monday.

Unbehagen, 37, who coached with Wilson four years at Texas Tech, served as offensive coordinator and defensive line coach at Rice. He will

replace Dan LaGrasta, who will be assuming the position of recruiting coordinator.

Unbehagen, a native of Brownwood, Texas, played football at Texas A&I and coached at Westchester High School in Houston and Texas A&I before joining Texas Tech in 1971, leaving in 1975 for a job at Rice.



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