

The last season — Steve 'Sly' Sylestine

Mr. Hustle: a crowd pleaser

By TONY GALLUCCI
Sports Editor

"You know, whatever happens, if coach feels I can come in and do a good job — well, I have confidence in myself — I just know I can come in and help when I'm called on to do it. I just try to get out there and play as hard as I can, play good defense, get a loose ball if there's a loose ball to be got." They're his own words and they're the best description of just what Steve Sylestine is. 'Sly' to his teammates and friends, is a dilemma of sorts. He is an Aggie crowd pleaser. He is, perhaps, what many people would like to think the 'ideal' college athlete is really like.

Sylestine is best known for his giving 110 percent on the court, his mad dives for loose balls, his gentlemanly behavior. In the words of assistant coach Barry Davis, "He's just a great competitor." And head coach Shelby Metcalf says, "He's not an exceptionally talented athlete but he make up for it with hustle. He's paid the price. He's gotten where he has by giving his all, both at practice and in the game, and he lives a good, clean life. He'll do anything we ask him to. He can go in and score or he can go to the boards if we need it. Every team needs a Sylestine."

But now, in his senior year, Sylestine sits on the bench more often than not. It is perhaps the greatest of tragedies that the good guys lose some. The Aggies with their most talented squad ever must look to those people who can perform the tasks at hand but can still only put five men on the court at once. Metcalf says, "He's a good second guard and we feel like he is most effective against the zone." Problem is David Britton is also a second guard and is also effective against the zone and has been playing well lately.

Sylestine is undaunted. Being the competitor he is, he knows that the only good effort is a team effort and also knows, if only subconsciously, why he is most valuable as a sixth man. He plans to go into coaching and says, "I want my kids to always play hard. They may not be the best athletically but I'm gonna put the ones out there that try the hardest and can still get the job done."

Sylestine, 21, played high school ball at Clear Lake High under respected coach Bill Krueger, from whom he might have picked up his enthusiasm for the game. "He stresses the fundamentals from the early part of the program. He wants the kids to come up with a good funda-

mental basketball background — not relying as much on their athletic ability as the basketball skills he develops," says Sylestine.

Or perhaps it was in his blood all along as his dad is the junior varsity coach at the same school. "I played under him (his father) for one year. Of course, he was there at every practice and every game we played. He would always give me hints or helpful criticisms," said Steve.

At Clear Lake, he was captain of his team that went to the 4A regional tournament and ended with a 37-4 record. He was all-district, all-greater Houston and all-state and played in the Texas All-Star game.

Why did Sylestine choose A&M? "I liked the background they had here for the basketball program, they had just won two consecutive conference championships, and I was impressed with the coaches and Cain Hall. I'd been hearing alot about Aggie Spirit and all that played a part in it," Steve said. His dad, Boyd Sylestine said, "It's a good school. I hope he came here for a good education." And Steve agrees, "I think I definitely benefited from the Wildlife school (he is majoring in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences) and that's one of the major things I wanted from A&M."

With Sylestine's contribution

A&M has now worked its way into contention for the Southwest Conference title. "If we keep playing like we have been — play good team defense, run our offense well, work for good shots and pass the ball well — if we just keep those things going we'll get to where we want. The main thing is for us to win the conference championship. We all want leave with those rings on our fingers," he says.

Despite playing only a third the time he gathered all of last season, Sylestine has improved his free throw percentage, hit more free throws, has more rebounds, is averaging fewer personal fouls, and has more assists and blocked shots than last year. And he has come up with more steals than in any of his previous three seasons. "I've kind of played on-again, off-again. I'm not always real happy with my play and I think I can stand a lot of improvement. I've gone through this type of thing before here at A&M — a slump, or whatever you want to call it — but I think I'll come out alright before I leave."

As a freshman he started in 15 games on a team depleted by graduation and suspension. In that first season he had his career high game of 17 points against Texas and his career high rebounding game of 11

against TCU. He is close to that form this season, hitting 14 in his best game against North Texas State and pulling down nine rebounds against Pacific. Seven seems to be a lucky number for him as he was seven-for-seven from the field against NTSU and Saturday against Rice he was seven-for-seven at the line in piling up nine points and hopefully ending his 'slump.'

Plans for the future? "I've been playing basketball all my life and I've been around a basketball family. I just couldn't see myself leaving it? So I'm going into coaching," he said.

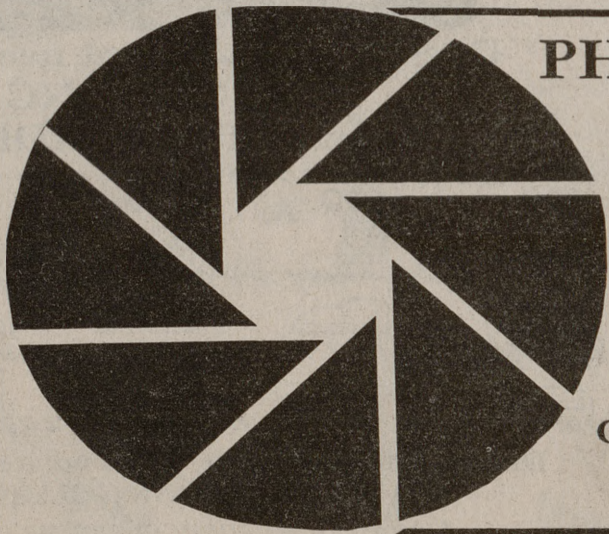
Metcalf says, "He's given alot to A&M." I asked Steve what had he given to his school?

"Hopefully I tried to be more than an athlete. I tried to be just like any other student at A&M — to get into the tradition that A&M has to offer. I wanted to be a student and a sociable person."

"But mostly, I hope I've given the people here a little bit of excitement during the games and maybe they've gotten a little bit of enjoyment out of it. Maybe I'll have some more to offer before it's all over with."

You have, we have and we hope so. You'll be missed.

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PHOTOGRAPHERS WANTED!

The Battalion is hiring a limited number of staff photographers for the spring 1980 semester!

Experience with B/W processing, printing essential. Portfolio requested.

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Steelers outpass Rams

United Press International
PASADENA, Calif. — The Pittsburgh Steelers' locker room was joyous but not chaotic following their fourth Super Bowl victory in as many appearances, and that more than anything else tells the story of their remarkable success.

The Steelers, you see, expect to win. They know they have the very best of personnel in the NFL. When they win, they're a happy bunch but they keep it all in perspective. They won the Super Bowl last year and they assume they'll win it again next year.

On Sunday, against a stubborn but outmanned Los Angeles team, the Steelers came up with the big play when it counted and the Rams didn't. Pittsburgh's 31-19 triumph over the dogged

Rams in Super Bowl XIV gave the Steelers a legitimate claim to the title of the greatest team in pro football history.

The Steelers, sparked by a spectacular 73-yard touchdown pass from Terry Bradshaw to John Stallworth and a key interception by Jack Lambert, won their fourth NFL title in the last six years when they rallied in the final period to defeat the 11-point underdog Rams.

The unprecedented fourth Super Bowl victory did not come easily. The lead changed hands six times before Bradshaw finally put the heavily favored Steelers ahead to stay with 5:04 left in the game on the spectacular TD bomb to Stallworth.

"Everybody's been shooting for us for the last eight years and

the 'victory' came against the Rams — who we had never beaten," said Bradshaw, named the game's Most Valuable Player. "It's quite a remarkable collection of athletes."

Bradshaw, 31 and a 10-year veteran, said, "I felt more pressure than at any other time." He said the pass to Stallworth was a "60 prevent slot hook and go." "I ran the pass eight times in practice and I didn't like it, but it worked today," Bradshaw said. "This is my most satisfying Super Bowl."

Victorious coach Chuck Noll said, "This victory is probably the best we've ever had," as he accepted the Super Bowl trophy from NFL Commissioner Peter Rozelle.



SPRING RUSH

Sigma Alpha Epsilon is entering its third year at Texas A&M. We are looking forward to this year's Spring Rush with great expectations. For those not familiar with Sigma Alpha Epsilon, commonly called SAE's or Sig Alphas, we have the nation's largest number of initiates in over 45 states. Founded in 1856, ours is the first fraternity to have a national headquarters.

SAE maintains a strong policy against physical hazing based on realizing each individual's potential for growth in the SAE experience.

For more information call:
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McDONALD'S INTRAMURAL HIGHLIGHTS

At University Drive

At Manor East Mall



The SOA Tournament

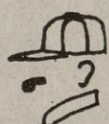
The backboards were busy at the first annual Sports Officials Association Basketball Tournament. This friendly Aggie competition was created by students' suggestions and the help of the IM Advisory Council. The men's contest was a double elimination tourney of 16 teams. The women's competition was Round Robin. Two teams have come out victorious this year.

In the men's finals the Agg Ties faced up to Magnum Force and defeated them 61-43. The Agg Ties were lead by Jeff Barrett and Jeff Toole and had a very capable group of good roundballers.

In the women's finals, the NBA with a 1-1 record squared away against the undefeated SS Express. The SS Express, motivated by leading players Debbie Layton, Tami Darce, and ball handler Bev Tedford held on to a 25-20 final tally.

SOA wishes to thank all players and officials for making this tournament a success.

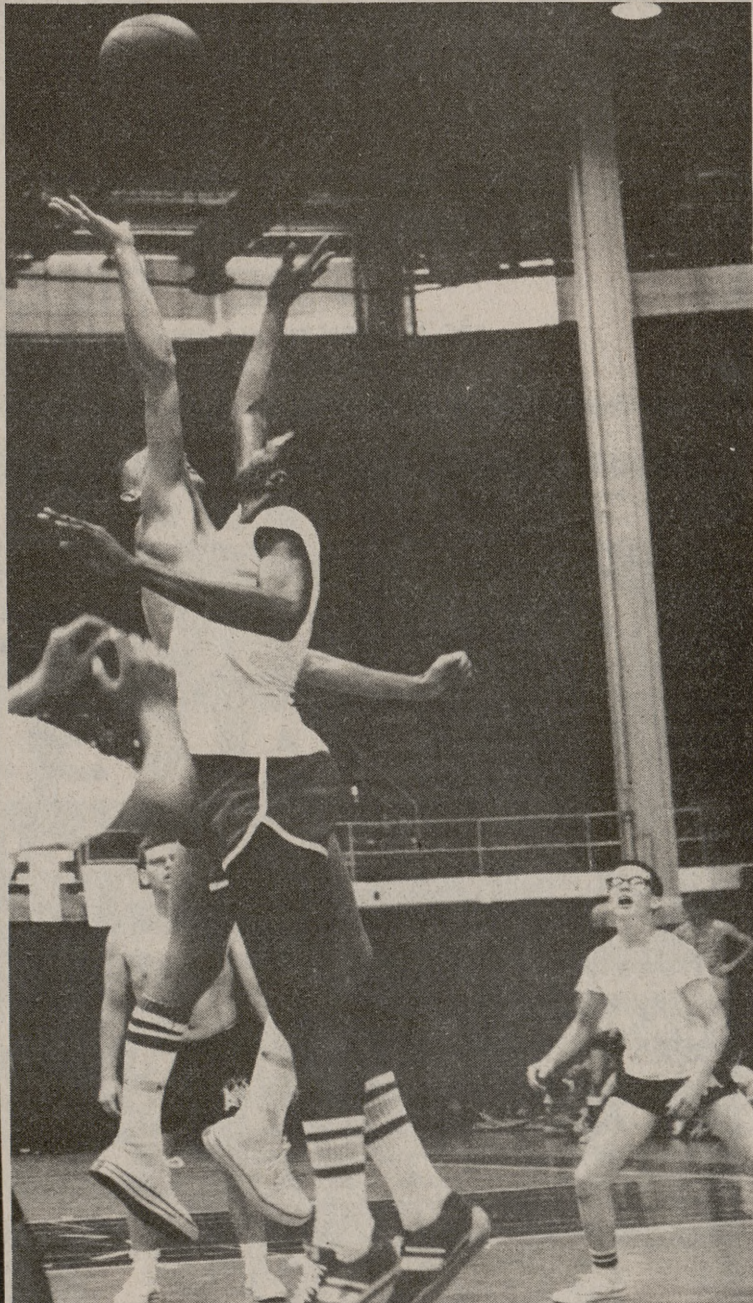
Ref's Corner



Need a Job? Then come by the Intramural Office and learn to officiate. We have openings for officiating the following sports this spring: Slow Pitch and Fast Pitch Softball, Soccer, and Inner Tube Water Polo.

Flexible hours are available with games played weekday evenings and all day Sunday. Pay rate is \$3.10 per game.

Anyone interested should contact Dave Kerr in the Intramural Office or call 845-7826.



Intramural basketball play began Jan. 16. Teams interested in practice time should see the Intramural Checkout for reservations, 845-2624. Times are set aside for Fridays and Saturdays only.

For The Record

This season's basketball entries exceeded the previous record for entries of 600 teams even before all the late entries were totaled.

Last semester 13 IM records were broken — four in archery, two in long driving, five in swimming, and two in cross country.

Free Throw Notice

The freethrow special event will be held Sunday, January 27 from 7-10 p.m., GRW Main floor. Mark the date on your calendar and tie a string around your finger.

Pool Hours

To answer inquiries, yes, the winter pool hours have been set and will be in effect from now until March 1.

Indoor Pool	MWF 6-7 p.m.
Outdoor Pool	T-Th 6-10 p.m.
	M-F 12-1:30 p.m.
	S&S 1-3 p.m.



Sports Shorts

Fencing

In the style of chivalry and the Three Musketeers, IM presents the annual fencing tournament. Entries open today, January 21 for both men and women and close Tuesday, January 29. Competition will be in foil and the A&M Fencing Club will officiate.

Table Tennis

Table tennis singles open today and close Tuesday, January 29. Equipment is provided. Divisions are men's and women's. Games are to 21 points and a match is the best two out of three. So come on out and swing your paddles.

Acknowledgements

This ad is sponsored by your local McDonald Restaurant University Drive and Manor East

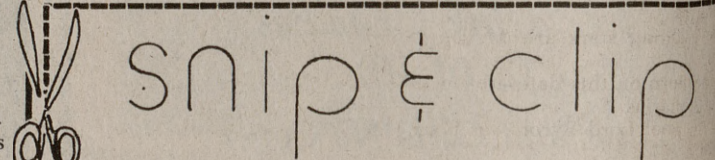
Mall. Stories by Michelle Wolstein, Pictures by Gary Reyes.



Touche! Fencing entries are available for Mens' and Womens' Foil.

You Know It's A Good Day When —

Your new shoelaces for your tennis shoes are the right size. You find one more person to round out your team roster. You find out there's more than one star on your basketball team. You find just the right partner to play doubles with you. It doesn't rain out your important game.



Entries closing:
Freethrow Tuesday, January 22
Handball Doubles Tuesday, January 22

Entries Opening:
Fencing Monday, January 21
Table Tennis Singles Monday, January 21

Special Events:
Freethrow Sunday, January 27, 7:00 p.m.