

sports

Aggies try to herd Steers

By TONY CALLUCCI
Sports Editor

The constantly improving Aggie basketball team travels to Austin for a Saturday afternoon date with the Texas Longhorns.

Coach Shelby Metcalf's young squad, now the only unbeaten team left in the Southwest Conference in league play, faces another must win on the march to the SWC throne, and each game is tougher than the one before.

"They're all waiting for us now," said Rudy Woods following A&M's brutal defensive game with Arkan-

sas. And so goes the story of athletics at Texas A&M.

A&M will start 'The Wall' — Rudy Woods, Rynn Wright, and Vernon Smith — along with guards David Britton and Dave Goff. Chief relief duty will be given to Claude Riley and Steve Sylestine.

Smith is still the leading A&M scorer over the season at a 16 points-per-game (ppg) clip, although Rynn Wright is close behind with 15.6 ppg.

Two other Aggies are averaging in double figures, Woods has 12.1 ppg and Britton is scoring 10.8.

A&M leads Texas in every team statistical category, except in foul difference, where Texas leads the SWC.

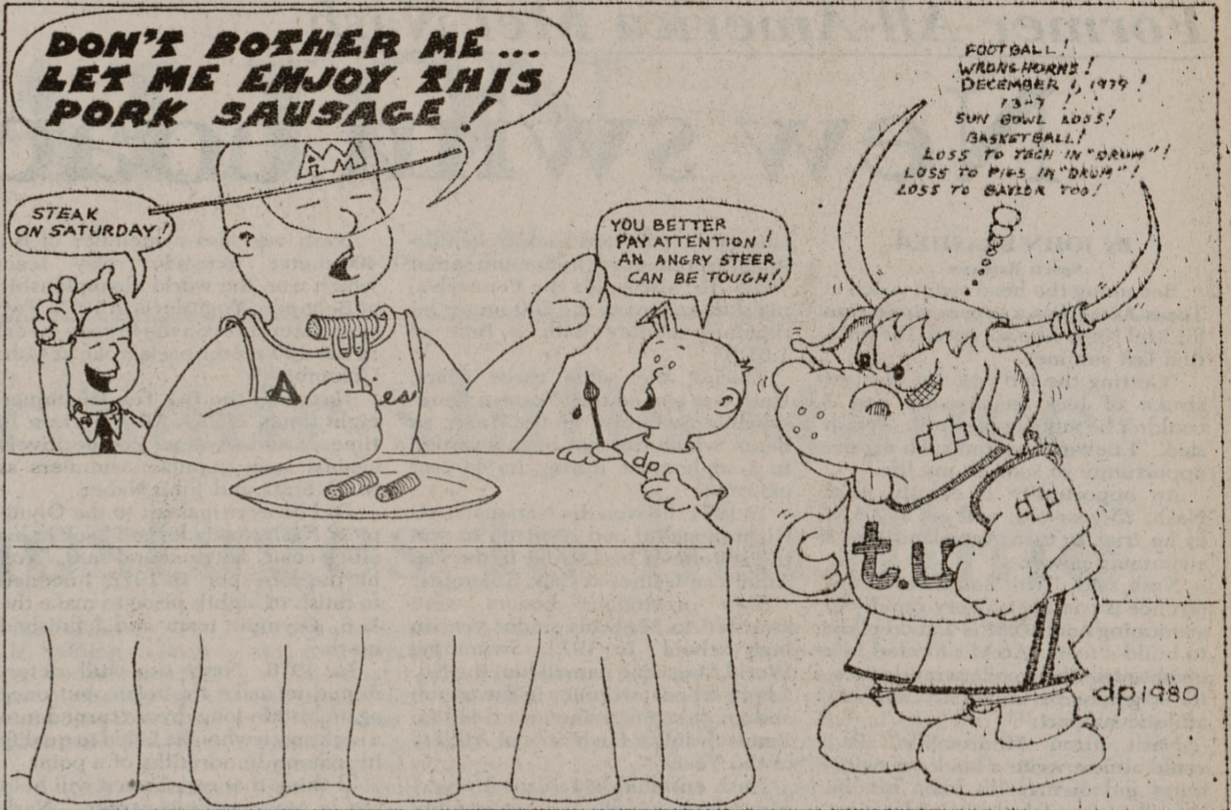
Ron Baxter, chubby Texas starter, is third in the SWC averaging 17.3 ppg, just ahead of Smith. Wright is now seventh in scoring the the SWC, just ahead of another Texas starter John Danks, who is averaging 15.3 ppg.

A&M also boats the third, fourth and sixth leading rebounders in the conference in Woods, Smith (tied at 8.3 rebounds per game) and Wright, respectively to help A&M continue

to dominate the SWC in rebound difference.

Freshman sensation LaSalle Thompson of Texas is the No. 2 rebounder in the SWC with 9.6, and Baxter is the seventh man at 7.5 rebounds per game. Texas and A&M are the only teams to have more than one rebounder in the top ten and it promises to be an exciting game under the boards.

Texas will probably start Ken Montgomery and George Turner in addition to Thompson, Baxter and Danks. Game time is 2:40 and the game will be televised on NBC in a featured regional matchup.



Lady Ags challenge third-ranked, unbeaten Longhorns on Saturday

By KATHLEEN McELROY
Sports Staff

The University of Texas women's basketball team is one of the following: (a) unbeaten, (b) ranked third in the nation in the women's college basketball poll, (c) playing the A&M women's team Saturday in Austin at 5:30 p.m., or (d) all of the above.

Unfortunately for Aggie head coach Cherri Rapp and her team the answer is (d) all of the above. But A&M isn't dreading the Texas Longhorn game because the Aggies have some momentum of their own.

A&M destroyed the Sam Houston State Bearkats 94-41 Tuesday night and have a five-game winning streak, boosting their season record to 11-7.

Everything worked for the Aggies in that game — they shot 66 percent and pulled down 55 rebounds.

But 16-0 Texas isn't Sam Houston, and A&M doesn't expect to control them offensively and defensively the way they did the Bearkats. In fact, the Longhorns tend to control the pace of their games, thanks to the play of some good, quick guards.

"They've got three of the best guards in the nation," Rapp said Wednesday. "Their outside game is one of the best." The guards help Texas use what has so far been an effective full-court press, a defensive device used extensively by A&M against Sam Houston.

Rapp said she still isn't sure if she

too will press, of which one side effect is the players tire early in the game because of more running. But whether or not A&M presses, Rapp said she'll try to use all of her players in the game, something she did against Sam Houston.

If A&M has an advantage in this game, it's the play of the post position. "They've (Texas) had some injury problems with the post," Rapp said. Also their postmen now playing are inexperienced. Rapp has gotten good all-around effort from her posts — sophomore Lori Foreman, who scored 15 points against the 'Kats, and senior Peggy Pope who scored

14 points and grabbed 10 rebounds.

So beating Texas isn't out of the Aggies' reach. Texas is but one tough school in the same region with A&M. The Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women ranks Louisiana Tech — a school best known as Terry Bradshaw's alma mater — as its number one school.

"We're, unfortunately, in the strongest region," Rapp said. "We have to beat them all in the region," Rapp said. "We have to beat them all in the region to go to nationals."

But for right now, the Aggies will concentrate on Texas — and worry about finals later.

Electronic pain-killer numbs sore athletes

By ANDY WILLIAMS
Staff Writer

It sounds like something out of 'The Six Million Dollar Man,' but an electronic pain-killing device has helped keep athletes in action at Texas A&M.

Called a transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulator, the gadget "short-circuits" feeling in injured areas, trainer David Heath said.

Texas A&M has used the method of pain relief for several years, Heath said. The training room is now supplied with five of the units, which cost about \$500 each.

The device is battery powered and about the size of a paperback book. It transmits impulses through wires ending in pads which can be placed on the skin.

Heath said the units are popular because they let doctors use smaller amounts of drugs in some cases. He said they generally shut out some, though not all, of the pain of an injury.

Another advantage, Heath said, is that the units provide relief to a specific area.

The idea of using electricity to ease pain is fairly old, Heath said.

"In some arcades, they've got a thing called 'Bull by the Horns' or something like that," Heath said. "The idea was to grab ahold of the thing and see how much juice you could take without letting go." Someone who noticed that numbness followed the slight shock from this game came up with the idea of using electricity medically.

David Goff says the method helped him out. It was used to ease pain in his lower back earlier this season.

"I thought it helped me loosen up a lot," Goff said. "It tends to give you a lot better circulation."

Heath said David Walker, the former Aggie quarterback, was the first A&M athlete the device was used on.

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