

sports

# Chilean basketball coach here to learn the system

By STEVE SISNEY  
Sports Staff

While most people use their summer vacations to rest and relax, Chilean basketball coach Carlos Alvarez is using his summer studying. Studying the Texas A&M basketball team, that is.

Alvarez, one of the most highly touted young coaches in Chile, is spending his summer — which in South America runs from December through February — with Texas A&M graduate assistant coach Randy Knowles learning the intricacies involved with the organization and operation of a major college basketball team.

As the head basketball coach of the National Institute in Santiago, Alvarez's main responsibility is to mold the raw talent that is funneled into the school into possible Olympic-caliber players.

The institute, or "talent school," sponsored by the National Olympic Committee of Chile, attracts the top high school players in the country.

Alvarez has had success at the talent school, gaining national recognition when his team won the national championship for two straight years.

Knowles, himself a former head coach at the national talent school, worked with Alvarez while there, and recognized his potential talent as a coach.

So when Knowles returned to the United States to assume coaching duties with the Aggies, he invited Alvarez to come and study.

"Because there is no team in Chile as good as Texas A&M, I'm glad I have the opportunity to see how a team at this level of skill works," acknowledges Alvarez.

With his eyes set on a possible coaching position on the 1980 Chilean national team, watching major college teams play each other could become an invaluable asset when it comes to preparing for the major South American powers of Brazil and Argentina.

While Alvarez spends each morning studying English, the rest of his day is spent reviewing old game films, reading coaching journals, watching practices and games, and traveling with Knowles on scouting and recruiting trips.

His friendship with Knowles has given him a far deeper look into the workings of a basketball powerhouse than is normally accessible to a visiting coach.

"When I first came, I was afraid the coaches would be cold and I would spend my time here as a spectator," he remembers.

He adds, "I was surprised by the openness I received from a team of this caliber, and I am grateful to the coaches and players for the kindness

they have shown."

Normally, the only international training Chilean coaches receive is a five-month stay in the United States at Springfield College in Massachusetts, where they participate in an international program.

Though it is a great honor in Chile to be selected to attend the program in Springfield, Alvarez feels his two-

month stay at Texas A&M ends March 7, has been more so, than a five-month stay in Springfield, due to the difference in the quality of both the programs.

Alvarez hopes to adapt what he learned to the Chilean players, their talents, and help raise the quality of the basketball in Chile.

## Aggies can wrap up SWC with win in Houston tonight

Texas A&M can wrap up the Southwest Conference championship with a win over the Houston Cougars tonight at Hofheinz Pavilion in Houston.

The Aggies have already clinched a tie for the title with the Arkansas Razorbacks, and a victory tonight would give them the championship outright.

Ever since the Feb. 12 loss to Arkansas, the A&M club has played like the class of the SWC, thrashing UT at home 84-61 in a televised game, and breezing by the hapless

TCU Horned Frogs 57-49

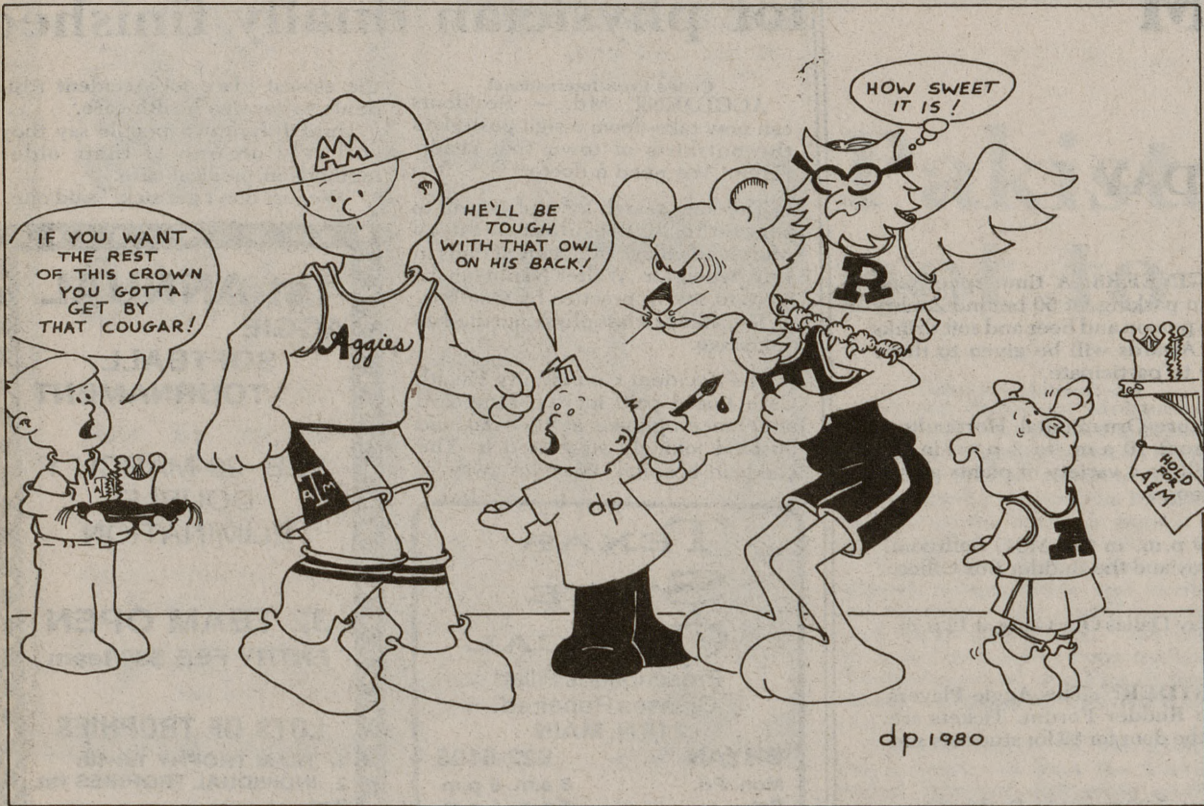
night in C. Rollie White.

The hottest Aggie tonight is senior guard D. W. Brown, who scored 20 points in Texas and 18 against TCU.

Also likes to put on a show in court alongside another star, David Goff.

The starting front line will be junior forwards Vern and Rynn Wright. Sophomore Woods will be at center.

The game will be telecast on KAMU-TV and will start



dp 1980

## Aggies open in track

By KATHLEEN McELROY  
Sports Reporter

The Texas A&M track team — as of last Friday, the Southwest Conference Indoor Track champions — will compete against Rice University Saturday in a dual meet in Houston without some key men, including

### Hockey team going for gold

United Press International  
LAKE PLACID, N.Y. — The first round is over. The young United States Olympic hockey team is undefeated. Next, it's the heavily favored Soviets and ... well, who knows?

So now, the U.S. meets the heavily favored Soviets in the 5 p.m. EST semifinal doubleheader opener Friday night.

"We definitely have to go into the game thinking there's a possibility to beat them, which there is," said Dave Christian, who set up three goals Wednesday night to key a 4-2 U.S. victory over West Germany in the Blue Division finale. "Maybe we'll catch them on an off-night and maybe we'll have a great night."

In the second game Friday night, at 8:30, Sweden meets Finland, which earned its way into the medals round with a victory over Holland Wednesday night.

If the Americans lose to the Soviets but beat Finland, they are assured of no less than a bronze medal.

top sprinter Curtis Dickey and pole vaulter Randy Hall.

Dickey has a sore hamstring muscle, but coach Charlie Thomas said Thursday all the injury needs is some rest.

"It's not serious," he said. "But it could be if we took a chance running him."

Dickey will also miss the Border Olympics in March, but will compete in the National AAU Championships Feb. 29 in New York City.

Hall, who cleared 16 feet, 6 inches in winning the pole vault at the SWC championships, is just getting some rest. Thomas is also resting four of his long jumpers — Johnny Hector, Reggie Jamerson, James Redus and Sam Wilson — after they had to jump on a hard surface in the meet which was held in Fort Worth.

The idea of competing against Rice without these men doesn't bother Thomas because he said this meet isn't vital.

"It's important because it's a sche-

duled Texas A&M event," he said. "However we're not putting that much emphasis on the meet."

His emphasis has been on the SWC championships, a meet he says he didn't expect to win even though he has the best athletes he's ever had.

"Indoor (meets) are geared for middle distance running like the mile and three-mile," Chandler said, "and we're not real strong in middle distances."

The Aggies won the championship by being strong in the sprint and field events, while Arkansas — favored to win because of its outstanding middle runners — finished second.

The next major event for the team is the Border Olympics, held in Laredo March 1.

"Border Olympics is always a big meet," Thomas said. "There're lots of Aggies in Laredo — they always play the Aggie War Hymn before the meet events start."

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