

ports

Wrestling team takes second in state meet

By STEVE SISNEY
Sports Staff

Despite unexpected losses by its top performers, the Texas A&M University wrestling team managed to take second place last weekend at the state meet due to strong showings by its other wrestlers.

The Aggies finished with 53 points and barely squeezed past third place with Texas State University, which scored 51 1/2 points.

Heavily favored Richland College captured the meet title with 78 points. Texas Tech finished fourth, "We had expected to do better," planned head coach Bob Santini.

At the meet, our veteran wrestlers had a tough time, but our freshmen stepped up the pace.

Coming as a major disappointment to the Aggie wrestlers was a second place finish by John Sweatt, a former state champion in the 142-

lb weight class. Sweatt was pinned in the final 20 seconds of his match by a wrestler from UTEP.

Santini, the defending state champ at 167 pounds, retained his title with a convincing 20-0 win in the finals.

Bill Kelvey finished second in the 118-lb division, with Rick Vigue and Curtis Templet each earning a third place berth at the 134-lb and heavyweight classes, respectively.

Unseated (unranked) freshmen Phil Schauer, 158, and Mike Walch, 177, both did surprisingly well, finishing fourth in their respective weight classes.

Finishing 8-2 for the season, the Aggie wrestlers, though considering this year as a rebuilding year, feel the season was a success.

"It was an encouraging year. We went into the year with six open weight classes," summarized Santi-

ni. "Although we didn't pick up any stars, we picked up some good, solid wrestlers."

While the Texas A&M team will be losing its top wrestlers in the 118, 134, and 190-lb classes, several incoming freshmen — state champions within their own states — have indicated they wish to try out in these weight divisions next fall.

The Aggies will also be picking up a transfer student who captured the 118-lb title this past weekend.

With this expected influx of wrestling talent, the Aggies have scheduled a two-week trip to California in January to help gain national exposure.

Although the Texas A&M wrestling team is not sanctioned as an official varsity sport by the University, the team wrestles a full varsity schedule.


Rockets beat Washington

United Press International
HOUSTON — Moses Malone's 33 points led Houston to a 110-97 victory over the Washington Bullets Wednesday night and moved Houston into a second-place tie with the San Antonio Spurs.

The Bullets were ahead 54-50 at halftime with Greg Ballard leading the way with 12 points.

The Rockets, 33-32, remain in playoff contention along with San Antonio, Indiana and New York, and travel to Washington for a game Thursday night.

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SWC spotlight shifts to Alamo City tonight

United Press International
SAN ANTONIO — The Southwest Conference post-season basketball tournament embarks on a new tonight, but no matter what type history is being made, it will still be the same old teams battling for championship.

The tournament moves to San Antonio for the first time ever — a major college event to a city that does not have a Southwest Conference school.

The tournament officials voted last year to move the tournament to the 16,000-seat Alamodome arena, partly for a change of scenery and partly to elicit support from the home-town advantage.

The Aggies won the regular season championship with a 14-2 league record — a game ahead of the Arkansas

this year."

Tonight's quarterfinal round games will have the Texas Longhorns (17-9) meeting the Houston Cougars (14-13) and the Texas Tech Red Raiders (15-12) meeting the emotionally charged SMU Mustangs (16-11).

The Texas-Houston winner will return Friday night to take on the Arkansas Razorbacks in the semifinals and the Tech-SMU survivor will tangle with Texas A&M. Winner of the tournament will receive an automatic bid to the NCAA tourney.

Texas defeated Houston in both of their regular season games while Texas Tech and SMU split their two contests.

"Texas handled us better than any team in the league," said Houston Coach Guy Lewis, referring to 99-73 and 84-82 losses to the Longhorns. "We played everybody else pretty good but Texas wore us out."

Texas Coach Abe Lemons said Lewis had done the best coaching job in the Southwest Conference this year.

"They are probably the most improved team in the league," said Lemons. "They have had a lot of adversity but still they have come back. We're not playing bad, either, but Houston has really come on. I would think this would be an even battle."

SMU Coach Sonny Allen resigned under pressure last week and his team responded by winning a first-round game over Baylor to push the Mustangs into the San Antonio phase of the tournament.

"Actually I don't think our players will be thinking about my situation," Allen said. "Players just love to play. They are going to be up for the game, but that's just because it is a tournament game."

SMU and Texas Tech have a history of close ball games. None of their last nine games has been decided by more than six points.

In their first meeting this year SMU won by a point in Dallas and later in the season the Red Raiders were winners by three points in Lubbock.

Rudy's woes worrying Metcalf

United Press International
SAN ANTONIO — The coach of the Texas A&M basketball team is favored to win the Southwest Conference post-season basketball tournament would just as well not think about it.

In fact, he doesn't.

"There isn't anything I can do about who is favorite and who is not," said Texas A&M coach Shelby Metcalf on the eve of the tournament's opening games.

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Razorbacks. And Metcalf acknowledged that one of the big reasons for this year's title has been guard David Britton.

Britton, a junior college transfer, was inconsistent at best last year and was frequently benched by Metcalf.

This year, with the Aggies needing vastly improved guard play to go with their talented front line, Metcalf made Britton a special project.


But if Britton has turned into a key factor in the A&M success this year, speculation began to center around the zeal being displayed by 6-11 cen-

ter Rudy Woods. Woods averaged only 11.7 points a game this year — making him 22nd on the league's scoring list.




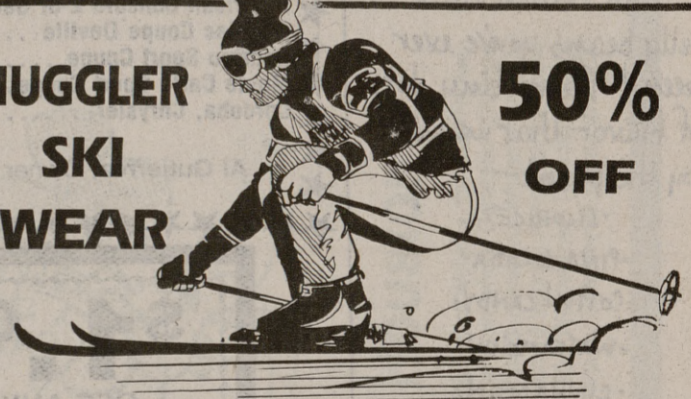


"I haven't talked to Rudy," Metcalf said. "I'm sure he has come here ready to play. At least I would think so. This late in the season, if you have to worry about the attitude of your players, you have the wrong people playing for you."

Texas A&M will begin play in the tournament Friday night in the semifinal round against the winner of tonight's SMU-Texas Tech game.

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