

Britton is off for the pros as Dallas drafts him third

by RICHARD OLIVER
Sports Editor

David Britton, the man who stole basketballs as well as the hearts of Texas A&M University fans during his career here, graduated to the big leagues Tuesday, as he was drafted by the Dallas Mavericks of the National Basketball Association in the third round of the college draft.

Britton, a 6-4 guard who was instrumental in the Aggie's march to the SWC championship this season and subsequent victories against Bradley and North Carolina in the NCAA regionals, averaged over 11½ points a game during the season, and had a 45 percent field goal percentage.

Mavericks General Manager Norm Sonju said Tuesday the fact that Dallas fans were familiar with Britton was a factor in his being picked by the NBA's newest expansion team, but his abilities outweighed everything else.

Aggie coach Shelby Metcalf agrees.

"I think he's a good player," he said. "He makes the big plays and he has a certain flair. Our fans certainly liked him."

Britton is known most for his showmanship, but Metcalf said Britton will probably settle down in the professional ranks.

"I'm sure he'll play it straight in the pros," he said. "It's an older age group. It'll be a good experience for him."

Metcalf said he feels Britton has the tools to make it.

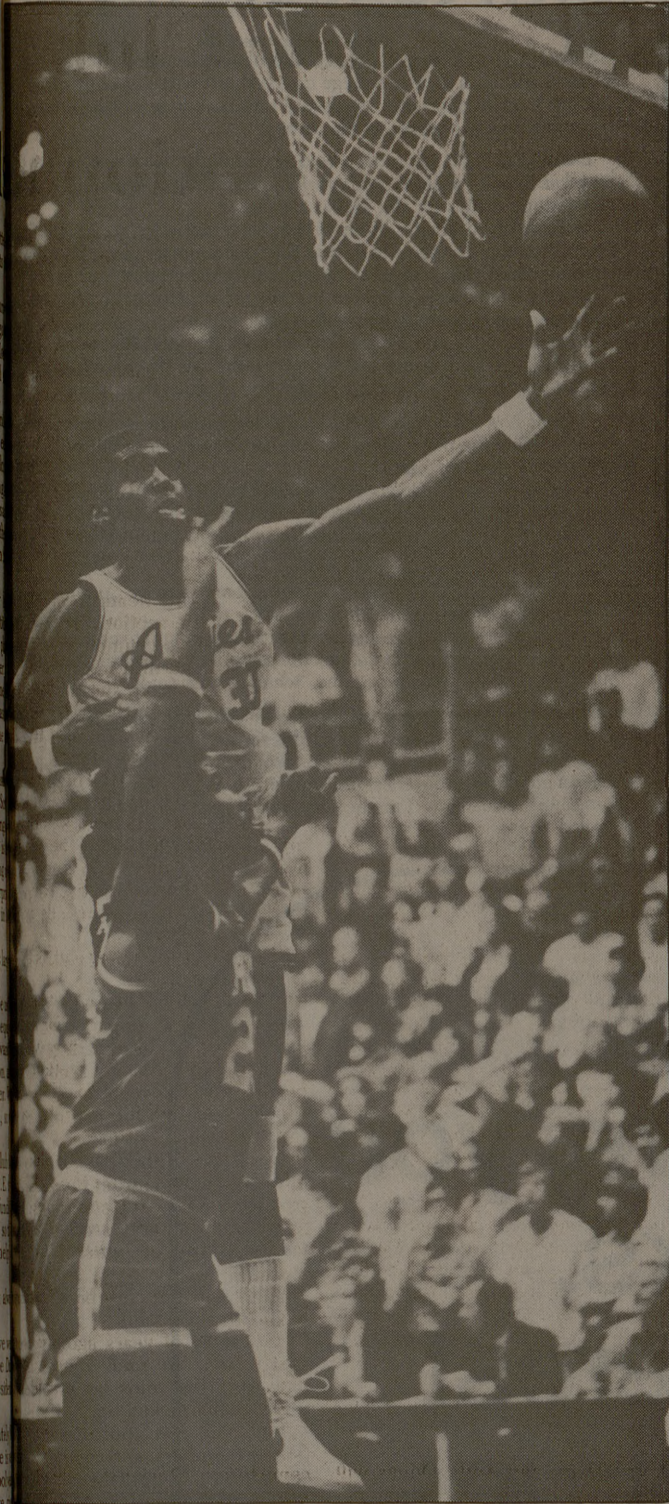
"He's good one-on-one," he said. "He's a big guard. There aren't too many big guards around. He's a great rebounder, and a good scorer. I think he's got a good chance to make it. In fact, I'll be surprised if he doesn't."

Metcalf said the fact that Britton will be close to his college home won't be too important.

"During the year, David played well anywhere. He played probably one of his best games of the year in Las Vegas. Being from New York and everything, he's played in front of all kinds of crowds. I don't think that'll be a factor."

Britton was the second SWC player to be picked in the NBA draft. The Los Angeles Lakers picked Texas' Ron Baxter after Britton was chosen in the fourth round. SMU's Brad Branson was chosen by the Detroit Pistons in the second round.

Texas A&M won the regular season SWC title this season, and also won the post-season tournament. In the NCAA regionals, the team defeated Bradley and North Carolina before losing to eventual national champion Louisville in overtime.



David Britton drives for a layup during SWC action against Rice earlier this season. Britton was selected in the third round of Tuesday's basketball draft by the Dallas Mavericks of the NBA. Photo by Brian Blalock.

Rangers ride Oliver to win, stop Brewers 3-1 to end skid

United Press International
MILWAUKEE — Al Oliver homered and delivered a pair of singles to drive in two runs in support of the five-hit pitching of Ferguson Jenkins Tuesday night, giving the Texas Rangers a 3-1 victory over the Milwaukee Brewers.

Oliver belted his sixth homer in the fourth to tie the score 1-1 after Robin Yount gave Milwaukee a 1-0 lead with his ninth homer in the third. The Rangers, who snapped a five-game losing streak, scored the go-ahead runs in the eighth off starter and loser Moose Haas, 6-5.

Mickey Rivers singled, Bump Wills walked and Oliver's RBI single scored Rivers with the winning run. Rusty Staub's sacrifice fly added an insurance run.

Except for the homer by Yount, Jenkins, 4-4, allowed only one runner as far as second base as he registered his fourth complete game. The veteran right-hander struck out five and walked one.

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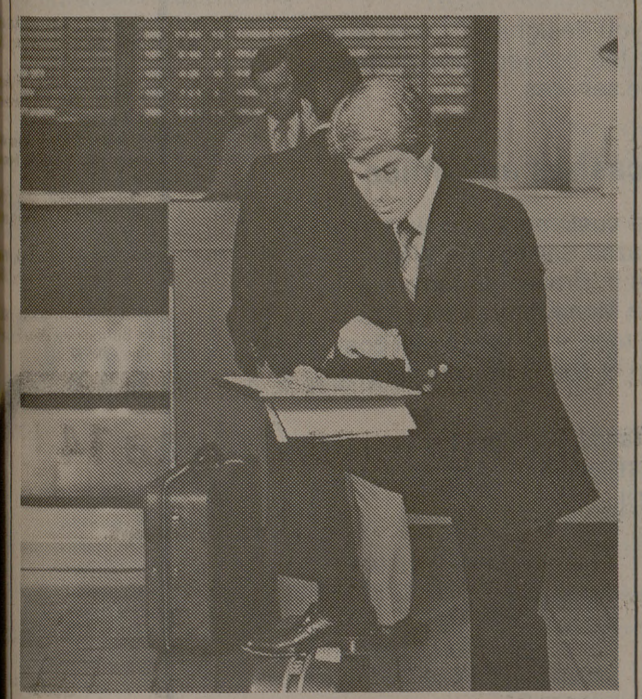
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Hous.	32-21	.604	—	Kan C.	33-20	.623	—
Los A.	32-21	.604	½	Chic	28-25	.528	5
Cinc.	30-23	.566	1½	Oakl.	26-28	.481	7½
S. D.	25-29	.463	7	Stl.	26-28	.481	7½
Atla.	21-30	.412	9½	Texs.	24-29	.453	9
San F.	22-32	.407	10	Minn.	23-31	.415	11
Eastern Division:				Eastern Division:			
Mont.	29-20	.592	—	Nyor.	33-19	.635	—
Pitt.	29-22	.569	1	Milw.	28-22	.560	4
Phil.	26-23	.531	3	Balt.	27-26	.509	6½
New Y.	23-27	.460	6½	Clev.	25-25	.500	7
Chic.	22-27	.449	7	Tnto.	25-26	.490	7½
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