

Smith leads Texas A&M to First Union Classic title

By MIKE BURRICHTER
Battalion Staff

The Texas A&M basketball team took a step closer to entering the elite class known as the nation's Top 10 this weekend after breezing to two easy victories in the First Union Basketball Classic at Charlotte, N.C.

The 12th-ranked Aggies beat host North Carolina-Charlotte Friday night 75-64, and followed with a 76-62 win over Davidson in the championship game of the fourth annual tournament Saturday night.

Friday night, senior Vernon Smith caught fire, hitting for 30 points, and freshman guard Reggie Roberts came off the bench to spark a laid-back Aggie offense into breaking a tight game open.

In the finale, the team shot 68 per cent from the floor, their best effort this season, to break UNCC's three-year hold on the tourney. Rynn Wright and Rudy Woods each scored 24 points in that game, as the Aggies coasted in the second half after taking a 33-28 lead after the first period.

Once again head coach Shelby Metcalf utilized his newest and most effective weapon in leading the team

to a 5-0 start: the bench. Against Davidson, he played 11 people. Starting off in a one guard offense with senior Tyrone Ladson directing the attack, the Ags employed a man to man defense for most of the game.

When the Ags go to the two-guard offense, Metcalf has the delightful problem of having to choose just who Ladson's counterpart will be, with Roberts, Milton Woodley, Bruce Sooter, Jay McHugh and Mike Brown all vying for the extra slot.

Metcalf also must choose which one of his big men, that comprise The Wall, has to sit down. Those two decisions are going to get tougher to make as the season goes on, as the younger guards gain experience, and reserve forwards Roy Jones and Maurice McDaniel are pushing for starting positions.

Jones recently got off of medication for a toothache, and is starting to come on. McDaniel, a transfer from Florida State a year ago, is another forward who won't be eligible to play for another month. Metcalf probably won't be losing much sleep over those "quandaries."

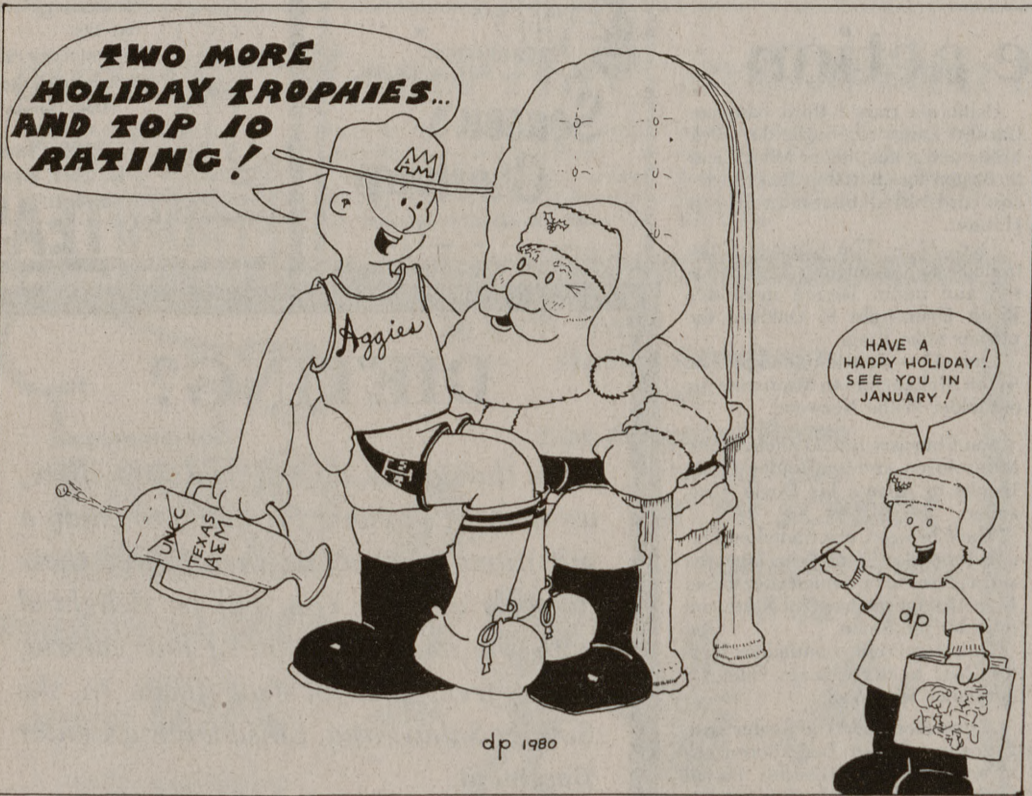
Smith was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player and was joined on the all-tournament team by Wright. Todd Haynes of Davidson, Donnie Koonce of UNCC and Larry Petty of Wisconsin make up the rest of the all-star squad.

The Aggies return to the Eastern seaboard next weekend to compete in the Virginia Tech Invitational at Blacksburg, Va. There the Aggies face James Madison, which competed in the National Invitation Tournament last year, in their first game. Virginia Tech meets Pittsburgh in the other game this Friday night.

Forward Claude Riley said he hoped a tournament victory in North Carolina would earn the team "a little respect." He'll find out this week when the next polls come out.



Vernon Smith



dp 1980

Women's swim team finishes 3rd

By RICHARD OLIVER
Sports Editor

The Texas A&M University women's swimming team, behind a superlative effort by Tracy Johnston, placed third Saturday in the University of Houston Invitational.

The meet, which was held without powerhouses Texas and SMU, was won by TCU, which garnered 656 points to win. Host Houston finished in the runner-up position with 600 points, followed by the Aggies with 558.

Southwest Texas State, Lee and Rice made up the bottom three spots.

Johnston led the Aggies by setting a school record in winning the 100 yard individual medley at 1:01.24. She also won the 200 yard breaststroke, the 200 yard individual medley and the 100 yard breaststroke.

Aggie results:
100 yard individual medley — Johnston, 1:01.24, 1st.
100 yard breaststroke — Johnston, 1:10.21, 1st; Michon Breisacher, 1:11.53, 2nd.
200 yard breaststroke — Johnston, 2:27.99 (one second off the school record), 1st.

800 yard freestyle relay — third.

100 yard freestyle — Philis Burns, 55.45, 2nd.

400 yard freestyle relay — 2nd.

200 yard individual relay — Johnston, 2:10.68, 1st.

One meter diving — Christie Jacob, 283.2 points, 3rd; Julie Moffit, 6th; Kim Miller, 7th.

1,650 yard medley — Tori Tesser, 18:43.98, 4th.

50 yard freestyle — Philis Burns, 25.49, 3rd; Kathy Mitten, 26.32, 5th.

Last year at the University of Houston Invitational, the Aggies finished with only 168 points. Assistant coach Bill Miller said the differ-

ence lies in the team's attitude.

"Yes, we did quite a bit better," he said Sunday. "We swam much better as a team. And I guess part of it was due to the fact Texas and SMU weren't there."

Texas swimmers were busy with finals and SMU was competing in the Kansas Relays.

"I think they're (Ag swimmers) a little bit more interested with what everyone else on the team is doing," said Miller. "They're more team oriented this year. We went down there (to Houston) looking to compete well as a team. The team as a group swam much, much better than last year."

United Press International
ANAHEIM, Calif. — The struggling and injury-decimated Los Angeles Rams host the Dallas Cowboys in a nationally televised game tonight in another key matchup between the two perennial playoff teams.

The Rams will enter the game

without their top three halfbacks — Wendell Tyler, Elvis Peacock and Eddie Hill — who are out for the season with injuries. Quarterback Vince Ferragamo, who sustained badly bruised ribs in last week's loss to Buffalo, was listed Saturday as a questionable starter.

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IM Game Plan

INTRAMURAL BASKETBALL ENTRIES: Entries for IM Basketball will re-open for new students and late forming teams on Monday, January 12 through Thursday, January 22. There are a large number of entries, so take advantage of this extended deadline and come by 159 East Kyle to sign up as soon as possible.

BASKETBALL OFFICIALS REMINDER: All IM Basketball officials should remember that the roundball season starts on the first day of classes (Monday, January 19). All officials should contact the IM Office to verify when you work.

BASKETBALL COURT RESERVATIONS: With the large number of IM Basketball teams wanting court time for practice, the IM Department has decided to take reservations for the courts. Beginning on December 9 and continuing through the beginning of the IM Basketball season, groups can reserve half-court areas for one hour periods. The courts that will be used are on the third floor of G. Rollie White Coliseum. Courts will be available for reservations on Monday through Friday at 5 to 7 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 2 - 4 p.m. Once the season begins, reservations will be taken for the weekends only with the times to be announced. The IM Reservation number is 845-2624 and remember, reservations can be made no more than 24 hours in advance.

INTRAMURAL LOGO CONTEST: The Intramural-Recreational Sports Department is looking for a new logo for the upcoming academic year. The contest is open to students, faculty, staff and their respective spouses. Prizes will be awarded to the top three entries. Stop by the IM Office at 159 East Kyle and pick up an entry form and contest rules. Who knows — you may have a talent waiting to surface.

New Year's Resolution: Join A Sports Club!

The Tae Kwon Do Club was one of the 42 teams competing as an Extramural Sports Club this fall.

Over two-thousand Aggies participated in one or more sports clubs during the past semester at Texas A&M University.

The Texas A&M Extramural Sports Club Association presently consists of 42 teams in 26 different sports. These teams offer the opportunity for students to participate in intercollegiate competition that cannot be offered through the Athletic Department. The clubs provide a program of instruction, recreation and competition in the various sports activities.

One of the most positive aspects of the sports clubs is that they offer different levels of instruction and competition. You do not have to be a skilled expert in the respective field to become a member of a club; the opportunity to learn and grow will be provided.

So why not make that New Year's resolution now — stop by the Intramural Office and find out more

about one of the following sports clubs first thing next semester.

- *Archery
- *Association of Handicapped Athletes
- *Badminton
- *Bicycle Racing Team
- *Bowling
- *Fencing
- *Field Hockey
- *Gymnastics
- *Handball
- *Judo
- *Lacrosse
- *Polo
- *Racquetball
- *Roadrunners
- *Rodeo
- *Rugby
- *Sport Parachuting
- *Skeet & Trap
- *Soccer
- *Tae Kwon Do
- *Team Handball
- *Volleyball
- *Water Polo
- *Weightlifting
- *Wrestling

*Indicates that this club has both men's and women's teams.

FOR THE RECORD

The Intramural Department and local McDonald's Restaurants will bring you a Special Wednesday edition of the McDonald's Highlights this Wednesday's Battalion. Be sure you pick up a copy to take home for the holidays.

Judo Club

Texas A&M University's Judo Club had all eight entries place in the Austin Invitational Open Saturday, Dec. 6. The team brought home four first places, three seconds and a fourth.

In the Men's Lightweight Division, Alex Ramirez placed second while Martin DeCastongre came in fourth.

Michael Legett won the Welterweight Division and William and Larry Kaplan won their respective classes in the Middleweight Division. In the place honors went to Gordon in a Middleweight class.

A&M's women represented Yelba Roman and Leeannmond, finished first and second respectively, in the Women's Middleweight Division.

Acknowledgements

This ad is sponsored by your local McDonald's® Restaurants at University Drive and Manor East Mall. Photos by David... Stories by John Bramblett.

Graduating Senior Rod Henson is our McDonald's® "Be Our Guest" recipient this week. Rod is shown here in action during a racquetball doubles match last week. He can pick up his card, good for free food at McDonald's®, by stopping by the IM Office.

Flickerball Finals

The flickerball season came to an end last Wednesday night with the new game in town highlighting the action.

The new game is co-rec flickerball and Wraft took the initial class A title while the Misfits won class B.

Keeping the ball away from the oppositions girls was the strategy used by Wraft according to team member Veronica Clarke. Clarke added that they tried to get the ball to their girls. Wraft defeated LD 100, 22-17.

The Misfits topped the Wild Wons to capture the class B crown. Their basic strategy, according to Don Royder, was to let the men get the ball down field to the women and then let the women score. The final was 28-7.

The closest game of the night was the Men's B final as Sudden Death nipped the Ambassadors 19-16. "Our biggest strategy was

Intramural basketball will open the second semester IM season. Late entries are currently being accepted and will be accommodated where space permits.