

NBA draft opens today

Aggie duo waiting for word

Smith said several teams, including Washington, Utah and New York had expressed interest in him. He also attended the Rockets camp last week with Wright.

Smith said that he really doesn't care who drafts him — as long as he is picked — and can continue playing basketball.

He also said that it would be hard to tell what might happen and plans only to spend some time near the phone today "just waiting" for that phone call that will determine his future.



Vernon Smith



Rynn Wright

By RITCHIE PRIDDY
Sports Editor

For Rynn Wright and Vernon Smith today could be one of the most important days in their lives. For today could very well determine their futures, at least in basketball — providing all goes well.

With today's NBA draft at hand, both players are hoping for the opportunity to play for some NBA team in the near future. Although not potential first-round picks, the former Aggie greats could very well go in the top three or four rounds.

Both men capped off brilliant careers with Texas A&M this spring, even though each had a something less than spectacular senior season. Smith finished as the Aggie's all-time leading scorer with 1,778 points, surpassing John Beasley's mark of 1,594. Averaging 14.9 points per game, he also finished with 978 rebounds — an average of 8.2 per game.

Wright finished as the number three all-time leading scorer with 1,495 points, an average of 12.5 per game. He also had 561 rebounds, averaging 7.2 per game.

Wright, speaking from his home in Dallas, said that he had visited camps offered by the Washington Bulls and Houston Rockets, practicing and scrimmaging for the scouts.

"It really wasn't much, just drills and scrimmages to see what you could do," the 6-6 forward said.

Wright said that it was hard to tell what the teams thought of each player as the scouts didn't take any aside to let them know what could happen.

"I really don't know what to expect. I feel good about the opportunity to be drafted. As far as what will happen I can't really say."

Assistant coach Barry Davis, himself a former Aggie standout ballplayer, went through a similar experience in 1976 when he was eligible for the draft.

"You just never know who will take you. There's a lot of different teams that have shown interest in them (Wright and Smith). We have sent a lot of him of them to different teams but there's no telling what will happen," he said.

"The main thing is getting drafted up by somebody and give it your best shot."

Davis was co-captain of the 1976 championship team and was drafted by the Houston Rockets.



Photo by Brian Tate

This Bud's for me!

Benny Parsons relaxes with a group of admirers following his victory Sunday in the TWIS history. Earnhardt finished second while Bobby Allison and Richard Petty took third and fourth, respectively. For his efforts Parsons took home \$22,750. Sharing World Speedway outside College Station, Parsons, edging Dale Earnhardt by one-half second, won the 400-mile event with an average speed of 132.475 for his second NASCAR win in five weeks. The race, mar-

Aggie golfer places second in Texas Amateur tourney

Jacky Lee, a 19-year-old Texas A&M University sophomore from Houston, finished second in the Texas Amateur Golf Championship in Houston Sunday.

Lee, though finishing behind several other amateurs, secured the title for the second time, making up the difference by the sixth hole and took the lead in the final round Sunday.

Brooks, winning the title for the second time, finished with an even-par 216.

Brooks parred 17 while Lee doubled to take the lead. He missed the 17th to finish with an 18 to finish with an even-par 216.

Lee was also named to the Junior All-American second team last year.

Ellis said that he thinks Lee has made the adjustment now and expects more than a good golf game from each player.

"Texas A&M is a tough, tough school and golf is a demanding sport. It takes a great deal of time to practice and prepare for each tournament and it's tough to be able to compete with school work," he said.

The type of people I've recruited are people who do well in both. I don't stress it now because of traveling expenses. Each golfer that will get their degree and do well in golf as well," he said.

He just had a little trouble adjusting. Last year he won the Houston tournament (another amateur tournament) so close by and in New Mexico, Oklahoma and Louisiana," he said.

Experience isn't the only thing Ellis wants from his players. He is a demanding coach who expects more than a good golf game from each player.

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