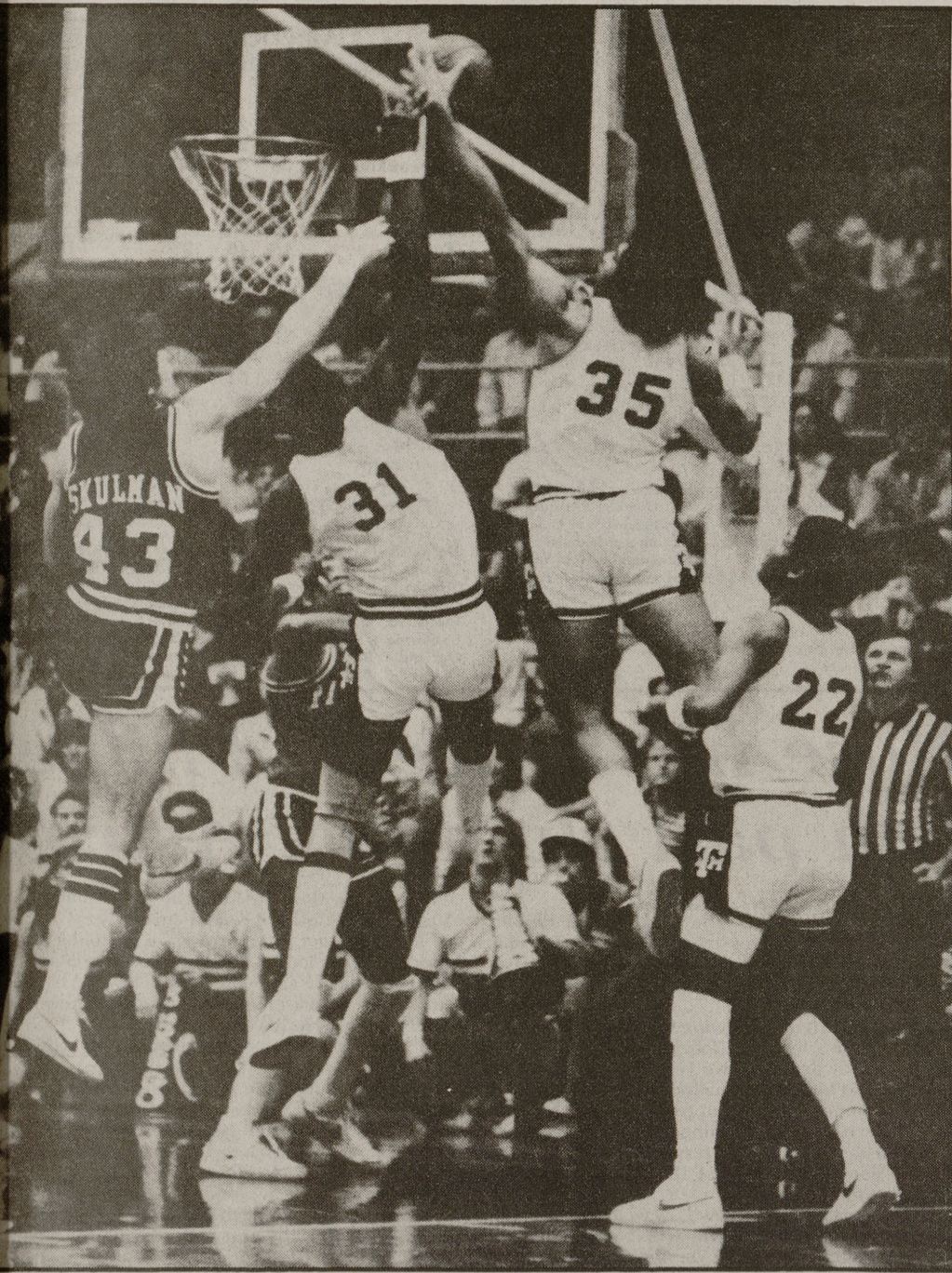


Sports



Vernon Smith (31) and Rynn Wright (35) show why they were respected and feared throughout the conference as they go for a rebound against the Arkansas Razorbacks. Smith finished his Aggie career as the all-time leading scorer while Wright was third. Both men were selected by the Philadelphia 76ers in the NBA draft Tuesday, Smith in the second, Wright in the third. Both are expected to report to the rookie camp in Philadelphia sometime this summer.

Staff photo by Brian Tate

Texas drops out of first

United Press International
ARLINGTON — The Detroit Tigers' starting pitching corps was carrying such earned run averages as 5.50, 4.47 and 4.30, so Sparky Anderson decided it was time for a change.

In this case, a change meant Aurelio Lopez, who had not started a game this year and had started only six in his off-again, on-again major league career.

And even though Anderson was not around to see much of it, Lopez responded by blanking the Texas Rangers for six innings and teaming with Kevin Saucier to throw Detroit's seventh shutout of the season Tuesday night, a 5-0 triumph that snapped a four-game Rangers' winning streak.

The Detroit manager had an early exit since he was kicked out in the first inning for arguing with third base umpire Greg Kosc on an appeal of an apparent strike against Bump Wills.

The Tigers' reliever recorded his seventh save of the season. He worked his way out of a two-on, no out jam in the seventh when the Detroit lead was 3-0. Then he mowed through the Rangers for the final three innings.

"I'm just on a hot streak, what can I say," said Saucier. "It's the first time I've been able to stay in games late and pick up saves. I just try to come out of the pen and throw strikes."

While Detroit bounced back from a poor outing the night be-

fore, Texas found itself involved in an evening of sloppy baseball. Two errors cost two unearned runs while Rangers' starter Jon Matlack, now 3-5, got nothing in the way of support.



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Smith, Wright chosen by 76ers

By RITCHIE PRIDDY
Sports Editor

Teamwork is the name of the game and for Rynn Wright and Vernon Smith Tuesday gave them the opportunity to continue the teamwork and individual styles that saw them win many games for the Aggies over the past four years.

The two men were taken in the first four rounds of the NBA draft Tuesday by the Philadelphia 76ers, Smith in the second and Wright in the fourth.

Reactions from the two varied, but both said they were overjoyed to have the opportunity to continue their basketball careers.

"I got really excited I got the opportunity to play more. I wasn't really surprised, but I'm awfully glad," Smith said.

Smith first got word of his selection from the 76ers public relations office, and after a short interview was able to talk to Pat Williams, the Philly general manager.

He said that they had been following me throughout my career and were high up on me. He said he wasn't sure that I would still be around by the time they got their

second round pick and was pleased to pick me," Smith said.

"I had no idea that they would draft me," Wright said, hearing the news first over the radio. "They had talked to me earlier and sent me a letter asking me to come to their camp. I was surprised and pleased to be drafted by them."

"It's nice. I like the team and I would enjoy playing for them. I've always liked them but it's one thing to be drafted and another to make the team."

Wright and Smith agreed that it would be nice to continue playing on the same team.

"It would be nice to play together some more. We've played together now for four years and we are good friends. He's a good friend to have going in there with. I'm kind of happy that we may be able to play together again," Wright said.

Smith said he heard that Wright was drafted by Philadelphia over the radio and called him up to ask if it was true. Sure enough, it was and he couldn't be happier.

"That was really great. I just like the opportunity to play with him again," he said.



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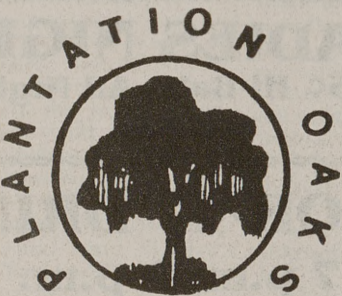
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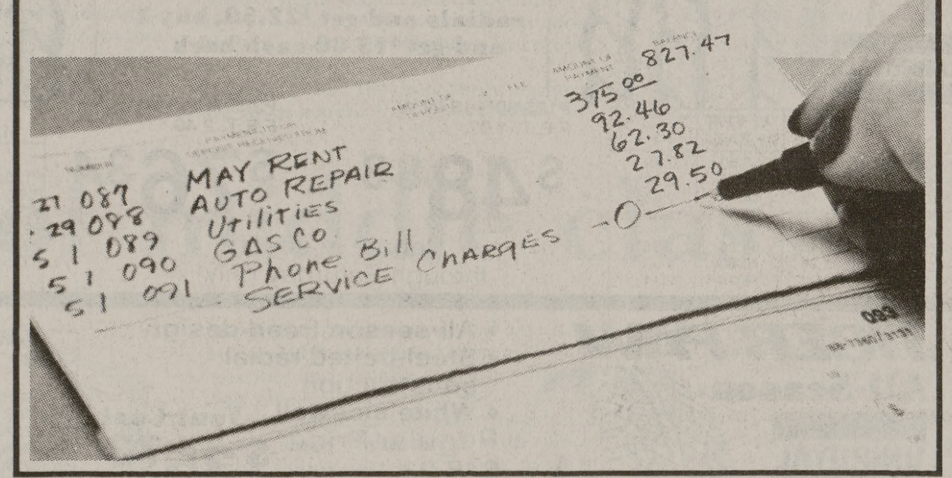
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