

Sports

Tall talent

Women's basketball team relies on new height

By GAYE DENLEY
Battalion Staff

Last season's Texas A&M University women's basketball team set some rather dubious records on its way to a 7-22 season: most games lost in a season (22), most consecutive losses (7), and most points allowed in a game (112) against the University of Southern California.

"We had a very bad year," third-year coach Cherril Rapp said.

Nevertheless, a solid defense, an average height that some men's teams would envy and a promising crop of freshmen and junior college transfers should aid the 1981-82 team's recovery.

Senior point guard Kelley Sullivan said, "We're going to be a lot improved. We'll have a lot more height to help us."

better in some areas, and in some we probably could have done worse."

The biggest challenge for the Aggies will be replacing the leadership and talent of last starters Trigg Crawford, Tammy Crafton and Cathy Fuller, who collectively scored 24 points a game for Texas A&M last year.

"We're going to be real inexperienced starting out the year," Rapp said. "From last year, we only have one full-time starter (Sullivan) returning, so it's going to be a game with a lot of mistakes."

Rapp hopes the leadership void will be filled by Sullivan, last year's high scorer with an 11.7 average per game, and by 5-6 freshmen Romy Gandy, another point guard.

"Kelley Sullivan is our only

senior, and hopefully she'll develop into our court leader," she said. "I think we have some other players, too. Romy Gandy is doing an excellent job of court leadership. Those are probably our two point guards, and of course you depend on the point guard to lead the team."

Sullivan said, "I think sometimes they expect a lot, but that comes with being a senior."

In addition to Trink and Sullivan, 6-1 junior post Cathy Foreman will probably start, Rapp said. Prospects for the other two spots include Gandy, junior forward Kelly Krauskopf, a 5-11 returning letterman, sophomores duRae Gill, a 5-9 forward, and Sheryl Clark, a 5-8 guard and five newcomers.

Junior college transfers Kelli Harned, another 6-3 post, and

Lynette Joiner, a 5-9 forward, bring excellent shooting skills to the team's "sputtering" offense, Rapp said. At 6-3, freshman Michell Tatum lends even more height to the post position. Forward Janet Duckham at 6-foot and guard Jenni Edgar at 5-8, both freshmen, add intensity and a lot of natural ability to the lineup, Rapp said.

Edgar said, "I know we're rebuilding a new team this year, but we're expecting a lot of good things."

Saturday's season opener against New Mexico State will begin at 7 p.m. in G. Rollie White Coliseum. Other schools on the Aggies' schedule include Stephen F. Austin, the University of Oklahoma, McNeese State University, and Southwest Conference opponents.

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