

Sports

Tournament time

Metcalf, Aggies open against Oklahoma City in Illinois Classic

By FRANK L. CHRISTLIEB
Battalion Staff
Shelby Metcalf has a unique philosophy about basketball tournaments.

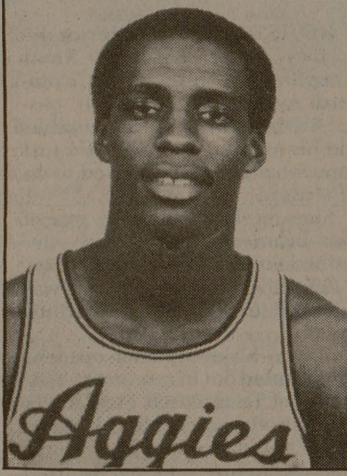
The 19th-year Texas A&M coach believes that teams benefit from playing in tournaments away from their home courts, even though road games always offer the greatest challenge. Even after experiencing a disastrous tournament last December, when the Aggies' seven-game winning streak came to a halt in the KOA Classic in Billings, Mont., Metcalf prefers a tournament schedule before the start of conference play.

Metcalf said he's confident about the three tournaments facing his team during the next three weeks. The Aggies, 3-0, start that series of road tournaments tonight when they play 3-2 Oklahoma City University in the first round of the Illinois Basketball Classic in Champaign, Ill.

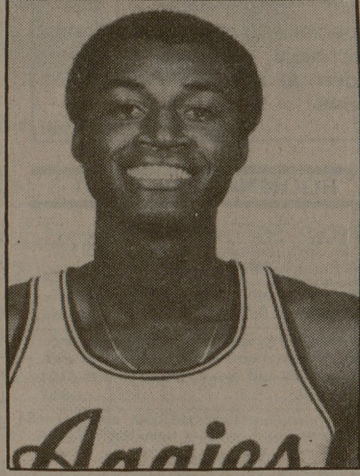
After watching his team defeat Louisiana State University 68-63 Monday night in G. Rollie White Coliseum, Metcalf didn't seem worried about the Aggies' first venture away from College Station. With the fine play he's seen from the Aggies in their first three wins of the season, Metcalf may have reason to be optimistic about their chances in the tough tournaments ahead.

In its first three games of the season, Texas A&M has defeated St. Edward's University, Sam Houston State University and LSU. Metcalf has seen outstanding leadership from junior guard Tyren Naulls, who has averaged 17 points a game, has nine steals and has connected on 50 percent of his field goals. The 6-4 Naulls has been compared to guard David Britton, who led the Aggies to a Southwest Conference championship two years ago.

Leading the Aggies in scoring through the three wins has been junior forward Claude Riley, averaging 19.6 points a game. Starting



Tyren Naulls



Claude Riley

junior forward Roy Jones and senior center Rudy Woods have also played important roles in Texas A&M's success. After the win over LSU, Metcalf cited Jones for his performance.

"I thought Roy played well," Metcalf said. "I think this was his best game. Roy's the guy who gets the team on the move — he's very deserving. He gets better all the time, and this is the best outing I've ever seen him have."

The Aggies, who have displayed a quicker offense with Naulls and fellow starting guard Reggie Roberts, must learn to discipline their movement of the ball, Metcalf said, especially in fast break situations.

"We've got to get to where we know the difference between when we've got the break and when we don't," Metcalf said.

After each of the three wins, Metcalf has emphasized that he's pleased with the Aggie starting five of Naulls, Roberts, Riley, Jones and Woods. However, Metcalf is still worried about Texas A&M's depth at the forward and center positions.

Reserves Lonnie Bluntson, 6-8, and Mike Thomas, 6-6, have

played well during the Aggie wins, but Metcalf wants more backups for his starters in case the team is hit by injuries.

As for the guards behind Roberts and Naulls, Metcalf says he couldn't be more pleased. Senior Milton Woodley and freshman Gary Lewis give the Aggies a potent supply of guard reserves, with Lewis averaging eight points a game and showing the on-the-court maturity Metcalf had expected before the season.

Lewis, who admitted the nervousness he felt in the Aggies' opening exhibition win over the Windsor Basketball Club, said he and his teammates felt confident after the Aggies' upset of LSU.

"Actually, it was the best I've felt out of all the games we've played here," Lewis said. "We were motivated, we were just so excited. I guess we had something to prove to everybody."

Lewis said Naulls has stepped in to become a "quiet leader" for the Aggies. Riley added to that assessment, saying Naulls' initiative on the court has helped to stabilize the team.

"He's just that kind of guard," Riley said. "He penetrates, he

shoots, he looks for his man. When you really need one, he makes the good play."

"There was some selfishness last year, but this year everyone plays as one. We don't have to worry about anyone not giving the ball to us, because we know he's going to."

Riley added that the Aggies are confident about the Illinois tournament, whose other first-round game features the hosting Illinois Fighting Illini against Army.

"As of right now, I feel that we're going to be able to compete with anyone up there," Riley said.

Oklahoma City coach Lonnie Nichols said he doesn't know how his team will fare against Texas A&M, but he's aware of the Aggies' strength. OCU finished the 1980-81 season 14-15, playing in the Midwestern City Conference.

"The University of Illinois, being the host team, will be strong and may be favored to win the tournament," Nichols said. "Texas A&M probably has better overall talent than anyone here. We're short, slow and can't jump, and Army has a disciplined, ball-control team."

"I know if we get the lead, they (the Aggies) are going to have to come out and chase us a little."

Nichols, who has three starters back from last season's team, said the Texas A&M win over LSU didn't surprise him. He said his team must stop Riley, Naulls and Woods to have a chance of defeating the Aggies.

OCU, which has a 3-2 record, has defeated the Arkansas-Monticello, Washington State and Southwest Missouri State. The Chiefs' losses have come to Fresno State and Western Kentucky.

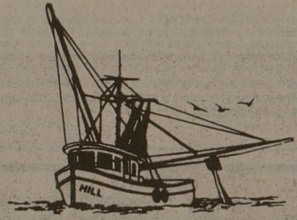
Nichols relies mostly on 6-6 senior forwards Ruben Jackson and James Campbell. Jackson averages 19.6 points and 7.6 rebounds a game.

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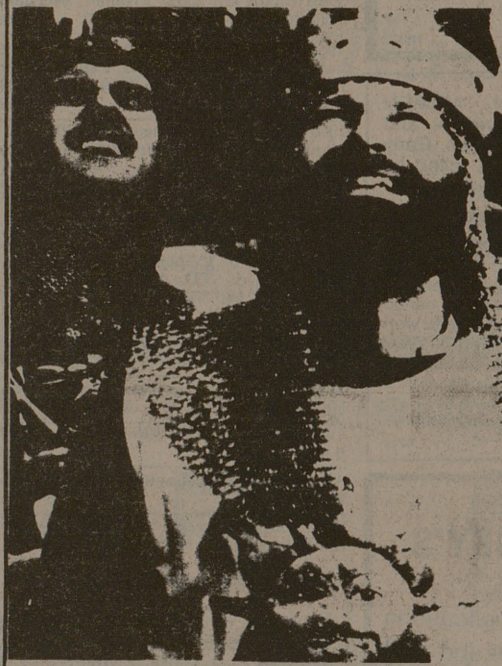
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Official says OU serious about suit

United Press International
OKLAHOMA CITY — The University of Oklahoma is willing to pay whatever is necessary to bring suit against the NCAA concerning the rights to televising football games, an OU official said Thursday in federal court.

Dee Replogle, president of the OU Board of Regents, testified that the university was "absolutely committed" to the lawsuit filed by OU and the University of Georgia against the NCAA.

He said OU was prepared to carry the suit to the U.S. Supreme Court if necessary and was willing

to pay any legal fees. Replogle said the suit was being funded by OU, Georgia and the College Football Association, a group of 61 of the country's major college football powers.

Oklahoma and Georgia claim that all CFA schools share interest in the suit and that the schools are seeking to have it certified as a class action against the NCAA.

An OU attorney told U.S. District Judge Luther Eubanks some CFA schools should be represented in a class action suit but should be allowed to remain

anonymous because of the fear of reprisals by the NCAA.

The suit, filed by the two schools in September on behalf of the CFA members, alleges the NCAA's control of television contracts violates anti-trust laws.

The CFA and NCAA have each negotiated their own television contracts with different networks.

The CFA claims the NCAA has threatened disciplinary action if schools participate in the CFA contract.

Viridon may give up post after two years

United Press International
HOLLYWOOD, Fla. — Bill Viridon says 30 years of traveling have left him tired.

So, the Houston Astros manager is contemplating giving up baseball in two years.

"I've had close to all the traveling I want. I've got two more years on my contract. I'll know about it (the future) in another year or so," Viridon said Thursday. "Thirty years in baseball is a lot of traveling."

"It's nothing else but the traveling. There's nothing else to read into it."

"Really, the ideal situation would be if you were a 'home' manager. But that's not possible. So when I'm through managing, I don't want to stay in the game, because there's not much you can do in baseball that doesn't involve some sort of traveling."

He took a team that finished 43½ games out of first place in

1975 and led it to a division championship in five seasons. For the past three years, the Astros have been contenders.

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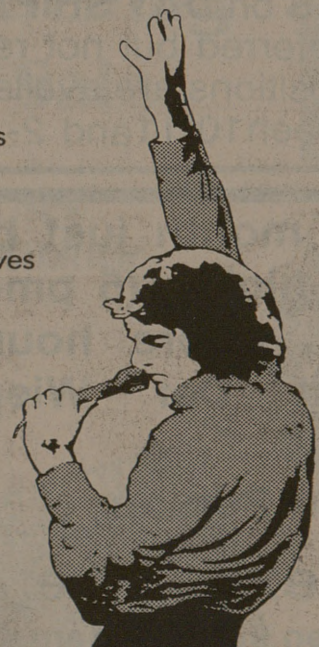
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