

Sports

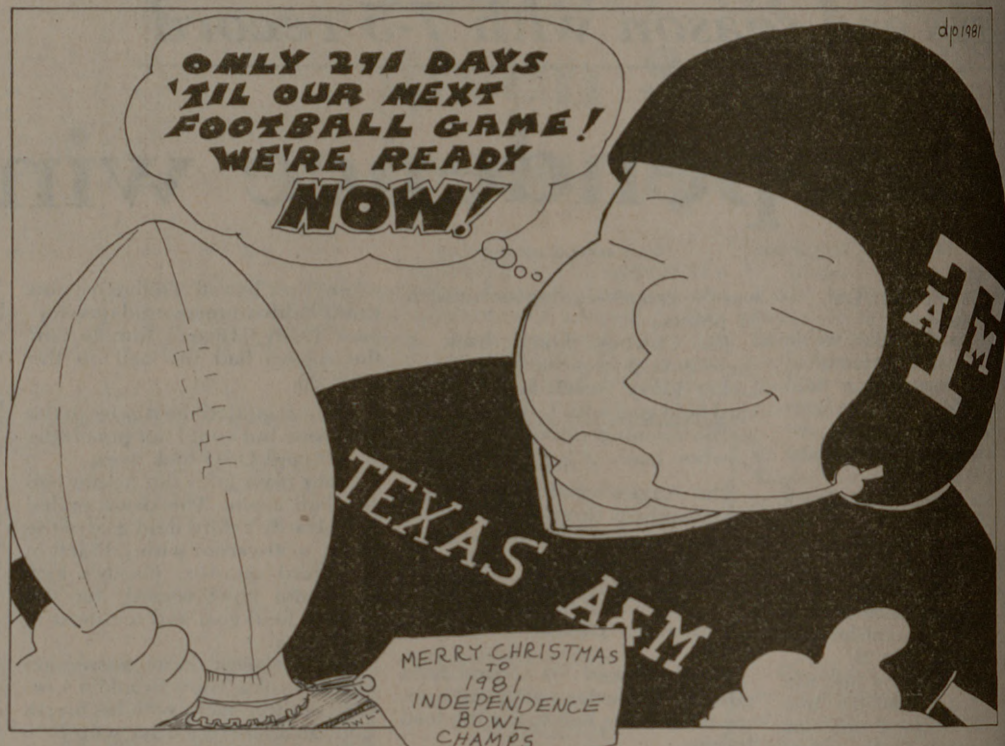
Metcalf says Illini Classic loss experience for Aggies

By FRANK L. CHRISTLIEB
Sports Editor
The Texas A&M basketball team's performance on its first trip of the season wasn't spectacular, but coach Shelby Metcalf says the Aggies gained valuable experience from it.
After defeating Oklahoma City University 89-77 in Friday night's first-round game of the Illinois Classic in Champaign, Ill., the Aggies dropped Saturday's tournament championship game 76-63, hosting Illinois University in front of more than 16,000 fans. However, Metcalf has been tough on too many road losses during his 19-year Texas A&M career. "I was pleased with the way we played."

The Aggies, now 4-1, faced one of the nation's best unranked teams in the Fighting Illini, who raised their record to 4-1 by winning the Illinois Classic for the third year in a row. Illinois' only loss of the season came in overtime at the hands of No. 11-ranked Missouri.
In the Aggies' win over Oklahoma City, forward Claude Riley and guard Tyren Naulls each scored 17 points, while center Rudy Woods finished with 16. Texas A&M outrebounded the Chiefs 44-42, with Woods' 11 and Riley's eight leading the way.
The Aggies continued to shoot well, hitting 53 percent of their shots against OCU, while the Chiefs could connect on only 44 percent. Texas A&M totaled 10 blocked shots in the game, as Woods had four and Roy Jones and Lonnie Bluntson each had three.

The Chiefs' James Campbell scored 31 points, while Rubin Jackson had 20. Campbell, who set a tournament record with 51 total points after scoring 20 in the Chiefs' 77-52 third-place win Saturday night over Army, hit 15 of 23 shots against the Aggies.
Illinois had defeated Army 72-37 in the tourney's opening game Friday night, causing most followers to anticipate the Aggie-Fighting Illini championship game. Texas A&M and Illinois have similar teams, with both having quick guards but depth problems at the forward and center positions.
After both teams started the game hitting nearly all their shots, the Aggies took a 17-12 lead with 15:04 left in the game. While the Aggies went cold, the Illini continued their hot shooting to take a 41-35 halftime lead.
The game was tied nine times in the first half, with the last deadlock at 31-31 with 5:23 remaining in the half.
Texas A&M had its chances to narrow the six-point lead in the second half, but Illinois' unexpected weapon scored basket after basket to send the Illini to a 70-55 lead with 5:46 left in the game. Senior James Griffin, a 6-10 center from Texas' Grandview High School, scored a career-high 27 points for Illinois, while senior guard Craig Tucker finished with 17.

For the Aggies, Woods had 20 points and six rebounds, and Riley had 15 points and 13 rebounds. Guard Reggie Roberts had 12 points to equal his total from the previous night. The Illini outrebounded the Aggies 35-33, while shooting 56 percent from the field.
Riley was named to the all-tournament team, along with Campbell of OCU, and Griffin, Tucker and Perry Range of Illinois. Griffin was also named the tourney MVP.
Metcalf said Illinois, which had been noted mostly for quick guards after losing its front line last season, was the best team the Aggies have faced this season.
"That was probably the most quickness we've seen out there this year," Metcalf said. "Griffin played the best game he's ever had, and their inside game was better than we thought."
Riley said the Aggies' first road trip of the year will have a positive effect on the team.
"The game against OCU was kind of a sluggish game," Riley said. "We had been in the fast-paced games, but this one was a little slower. We were kind of used to the high-spirited crowd, and we got out there and heard boos."
"It (the loss) is definitely not going to hurt us, because we played well. We're just going to work to correct the things we did wrong. There's not a player that's down — everybody's got a positive attitude."



Season's end Volleyball team loses to No. 1 Hawaii

By GAYE DENLEY
Battalion Staff
The top-ranked University of Hawaii ended post-season play for the Texas A&M women's volleyball team this weekend, defeating the Aggies in the NCAA regional semi-finals in Seattle, Wash., in straight games, 15-7, 15-9, and 15-7.
The match, televised on CBS in Hawaii, pitted the 15th-rated Aggies against the nation's number one volleyball power. Texas A&M earned a berth in the game by beating 20th-rated Pepperdine University last weekend in G. Rolie White Coliseum.
"It was a good match," Coach Terry Condon said. "We played with them at the beginning of every game."
She said the Aggies got off to a

strong start, but the quick defense and net play of Hawaii were more than they could handle.
"It was their defense mainly that hurt us — they dig everything," she said. "We also had trouble passing their serves, and that hurt a little."
Wendy Wilson, Sue Wetzel and Chemine Doty had outstanding efforts for the Aggies, Condon said, adding that the entire team played one of its better matches.
Although they lost, Condon said it was hard for the Aggies to be depressed — they were just happy to have advanced as far as they did in post-season play.
"We expected to be in the top twenty, but getting to regionals

was just an added bonus," she said.
The University of Southern California went on to win the region, upsetting Hawaii in the final round.
The Aggies finished the season with a 40-16 record and their highest-ever NCAA ranking. All-SWC picks for the Aggies include Wilson, a senior outside hitter, Jennifer Geise and Sue Wetzel, both junior middle blockers, and Chemine Doty, a freshman second-team middle blocker.
Wilson, who missed her commencement exercises to play the weekend, said it was well worth it. "They're both important, but I don't have any regrets," she said.

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Road games keep haunting Aggies

By GAYE DENLEY
Battalion Staff
The Aggie Ladies' basketball team played its "best game of the year" Saturday against Oklahoma State University, but lost 72-56.
Coach Cheri Rapp said another poor shooting performance spoiled one of the Aggies' best-executed games of the season. Although Texas A&M outshot Oklahoma State 65-62, and shot 21 free throws to the Cowboys' 19, the Aggies could sink only 35 percent of their field goals. Oklahoma State, on the other hand, connected on 48 percent of its attempts.
"We played our best game of the year, but we just couldn't hit the basket," Rapp said.
Oklahoma State took an early lead, and the score went back and forth for most of the first half. The Cowboys went on a spurt near the end of the half, she said, to establish a 38-27 halftime lead.
The Aggies pulled within four points twice in the second half, but the Texas A&M press, playing catch-up, gave up a couple of key baskets that sealed Oklahoma State's victory.

"They were a good team," Rapp said. "It's worth 10 points just to have the home court, though, and we don't feel too bad."
Rosie Aldridge with 16 points and Barbara Archie with 14 were the game's high scorers, boasting the Cowboys to an 8-2 season record. For Texas A&M, Kelley Sullivan once again led the way with 14 points, while Lynette Finney and Janet Duckham added eight apiece.
Rapp said that, despite the loss, she is more encouraged by her team's play than she has been a season. The Aggies' low shooting percentages, which are becoming a habit, can be corrected, she said, and the players will focus on that shooting in the next few practices.
The loss, their fourth in as many starts, drops the Aggies to 2-4 in the season. In its only other action this semester, Texas A&M traveled to the Dallas Classic this weekend to face Wayland Baptist University in Saturday's first game. The Aggies' second-round opponent in the tourney will be McNeese State University.

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