

Home at last

Aggies host SMU after tough road losses

by Frank L. Christlieb
Sports Editor

Guard Reggie Roberts says the Texas A&M basketball team says he's confident that the Aggies can rebound from two straight road losses to Baylor and Texas Tech.

Even though the Aggies have a pack of teams only a half-game behind their heels, Roberts said Tuesday, Texas A&M's next two games should put some distance

between the top seven teams in the Southwest Conference.

After Monday night's games, including the Aggies' 91-82 overtime loss to the Red Raiders, five teams emerged in a tie for third place. Arkansas, at 8-2, leads the conference, while Texas A&M holds down second with a 6-4 record. However, Baylor, Houston, Texas Tech, TCU and Texas are all in third place at 6-5.

Roberts says Texas A&M's recent troubles should come to an end when the Aggies play SMU tonight at 7:30 in G. Rollie White Coliseum. The Aggie Ladies, 7-17 for the season, host the Lady Mustangs at 5:15.

Texas A&M, which lost to Baylor Feb. 3 in Waco by a score of 58-55; is in the midst of a two-game losing streak, the Aggies' longest of the season.

"Going back and playing in front of the home crowd is really going to be a lift," Roberts said. "At Texas Tech, we didn't play real well, and still it was a close game."

omore averaging a team-high 14.2 points and six rebounds a game, and 6-8 freshman Larry Davis, averaging 10.4 points and five rebounds a game. Roberts said the Aggies have a plan on how to stop Davis, who has had an above-average freshman season.

"We're going to have a pretty good matchup on him," Roberts said. "We're going to have Claude (Riley) on him, and I think we should be able to stop him."

Riley, leading Texas A&M with averages of 15.3 points and 10.3 rebounds a game, said the Aggies must not let down with the crucial portion of the schedule ahead.

TANK McNAMARA

by Jeff Millar & Bill H



Recruits pledge as first letter-signing day arrives

by Frank L. Christlieb
Sports Editor

High school football recruits Jimmy Hawkins of San Antonio Holmes and Todd Tschantz of Lake Highlands Tuesday announced their decisions to attend Texas A&M.

Both said they would sign letters-of-intent today, the NCAA's national signing date. Instead of requiring athletes to sign national and conference letters, the NCAA has combined both dates into one for the first time in history.

Another change in this year's procedure is that head coaches will not be allowed to travel to sign groups of players. Regulations adopted by the NCAA forbid a head coach from signing a player unless the athlete comes to the college campus.

In addition, the NCAA forbid any contact with the high school students until Dec. 1 and limited the number of visits a coach could make to a high school.

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Hawkins said he plans to study computer science.

Tschantz, another all-around athlete who led defensive end and linebacker in addition to place-kicking chores, opted for Texas A&M over Arkansas.

"The coaching staff is real good and I like all the facilities," Tschantz said. "Besides, like the people down there."

Tschantz, a 6-2, 210-pounder, said he chose Texas A&M receiver coach Jerry Pettibone over his decision Monday night. Pettibone was Tschantz this morning at 8 to get his signature on a national letter-of-intent.

Newton's 6-foot, 195-pound running back, Anthony Byerly, who still must decide between Texas A&M, Nebraska, Texas and Houston Tuesday night that he doesn't know when he will make an announcement about his choice.

Byerly said he probably will not make a decision today, and added that he's not leaning toward any of the four schools. He did clarify that A&M is still on his list of prospective schools.

Texas A&M remains in the race for the George Smith of Douglas, Ga. Smith, a 6-1, 210-pounder, gained over 1,400 yards last season.

A Georgia source said it appears that he may choose Texas A&M over Florida, Georgia State and Georgia. The source said Florida is making an all-out effort to attract Smith, who is the top prospect in Georgia.

Bonwell Royal, Smith's high school coach, said that Smith would probably make a decision today.

"He and I and his uncle (whom Smith will have a meeting (this morning), Royal said. "When we come out of the meeting there will be a lot of light shed on the whole thing."

Hawkins, a 6-foot, 190-pound tailback, narrowed his prospective schools to Texas A&M, Baylor and Texas before making his choice.

"I think it's mainly the school itself and the tradition that made me choose A&M," Hawkins said Tuesday.

As a three-year all-district performer in District 30-5A, Hawkins played free safety, punter and place-kicker for Holmes. Hawkins totaled 2,017 yards during his high school senior season, and was given the team's award as the athlete showing the most dedication.

Hawkins said that the Texas A&M coaching change, which inserted Jackie Sherrill into former head coach Tom Wilson's position, had no effect on his decision.

"I didn't think it changed the minds of that many people," Hawkins said. "He (Sherrill) is pretty impressive."

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Aggies roll over SHSU

The Texas A&M men's tennis team won its singles matches against Sam Houston State University Monday to remain undefeated in 1982. Playing at home, the Aggies didn't lose a set to SHSU in the third meet of the

spring season.

Freshman Kimmo Alkio played the number one singles match and beat Wally McAfee, 6-1, 6-0.

Brian Joelson came back from a loss Sunday against Houston Baptist University to beat Art

Cann, 6-0, 6-0.

In the other matches, Pazourek won over Jameson, 6-3, 6-2; Tom Judson Wade Bartels, 6-3, 6-1; Kowal beat Michael Hunter, 6-2; and Greg Hill defeated lie Blackbird, 6-3, 6-2.

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"I don't think the losses hurt us too much," Riley said. "It's going to be a lift to come home, but I don't think we're really down. We're really going to have to fight to keep second place. It hurt because we dropped two behind Arkansas, but it didn't hurt as much since Texas and TCU lost."

Texas and TCU would have jumped ahead of the Aggies in the standings if they had won Monday night. However, the Longhorns were defeated 77-63 by the Houston Cougars and the Horned Frogs lost 79-69 to the Razorbacks.

"We'll just talk about the mistakes we made and try to correct them," Riley said. "We're going to start out in a pressure man (defense) and if we can stop their inside game and pressure the ball outside, we'll be all right."

"SMU cannot handle pressure. When we played up there (Jan. 19, with the Aggies winning 81-55), we pressured them, and they couldn't handle it. So we're going to do the same thing again."

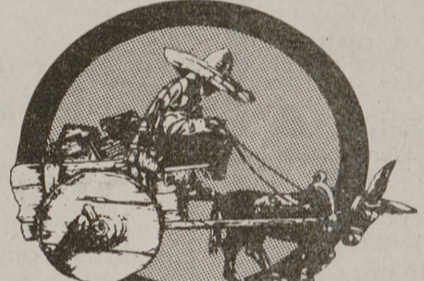
Roberts said the Aggies shouldn't have as tough an assignment in playing the Mustangs.

"We'll really be up for SMU, and we don't think they'll be any trouble," Roberts said. "We're still in second place, and that's one good thing about it."

The Razorbacks may not keep their current pace, which has brought them a 15-3 season record, Roberts said.

"We think Arkansas is going to slip, and they still have to play us next week (Monday)," Roberts said.

The Mustangs' key players include John Addison, a 6-6 soph-



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