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Saturday, Feb. 13-Valentine's Dance with Bill Busby and

SMU's Bliss looking for answers

by John Wagner

Bliss looked disappointed. His he thinks his team is improving Mustangs had just been defeated by Texas A&M 67-58 for his young team for hanging in their eleventh SWC loss, and he there. His words were optimislooked like a father whose son tic, but his face told the entire had just flunked out. Not mad, story not sad, and certainly not sup-

SMU basketball coach Dave the Mustangs played well. Yes, steadily. And yes, he is proud of his young team for hanging in

Bliss' Mustangs lost a game rised. He just looked dis- they were never really out of, and yet were never really in. The Bliss stood outside the SMU Ponies were able to get the ball dressing room after the game inside, but when they did, they and answered the same old missed the shots. They were able

questions, the ones he hears afto keep the Aggies from getting ter every game. Yes, he thought the ball inside, but Reggie as quickly as upperclassmen."

Bliss said the Mustangs' ina-Roberts and Milton Woodley killed them from the outside. Try as they might, the Mustangs just couldn't win, and Bliss is wearing the strain of losing in the SWC everywhere he goes.
"Losing gets to me," Bliss said,

"But I think the reward will be that much greater because of it." Pretty optimistic for the coach of a team that's 6-16.

The Mustang head coach had nothing but praise for the Aggies and junior forward Claude Riley, but he also had some good words to say about his own players.

"I'm pleased we didn't quit tonight," Bliss said. "Young players don't get disappointed

bility to make necessary defen-

sive adjustments hurt them. 'We're kind of a young team, and some of these guys haven't even played 20 games together,"

Bliss said. "We're just not able to make that extra adjustment." Although SMU held Riley to 7 points, Bliss couldn't say enough

about the Crockett Rocket. "When God invented the word 'stud' he was talking about Claude Riley," Bliss said, adding that Riley was the best defensive

big man in the SWC.

Bliss also praised Mustang guard Dave Piehler for playing a smart game. When Piehler fouled out with 3:08 left in the game, he didn't look disappointed — just tired. The junior from Newton, Kan, played a leadership role for SMU bringing the ball up against the Aggies' press and scoring points. After fouling Tyre Naulls for his fifth personal, walked to the bench, ripped the tape from his wrists and hun

his head in a towel. "I should have avoided those stupid fouls," Piehler said. not sure what I was from field, but I think I shot pre-

He was six of seven with a rebounds. Not a bad night, that's not all. With his first ket, Piehler became the player in SMU history to some 1,000 career points.

A&M obtains signatures of 27 football recruits

by Frank L. Christlieb

Sports Editor
After watching Texas A&M sign 27 high school football recruits during the NCAA's first official signing date, Head Coach Jackie Sherrill says he's pleased with the results.

"I thought our recruiting went very well, especially considering the short time we had for Sherrill said Wednesday. "Our assistant coaches worked very hard, did an excellent job and lived up to their recruiting reputations.

"I was very pleased and certainly pleased for the assistant coaches, because they were on the road the whole time. I think it comes back to one factor and that's the credibility and reputation of the coaches — they have certainly (upheld) those. I'm looking forward to sitting down and organizing and working out the details.'

Receiver coach Jerry Pettibone said the credited recruiting coordinator Dan LaGrasta for

his role in the process. "I think that Dan LaGrasta

added continuity to the recruiting effort — he did and excel- wall — 6-foot, 190 (4.6) lent job of keeping things going during the transition period ... Garla and did a good job of letting us know who the top players were and who we should try to get," Beau. Pettibone said.

Included in the list of Aggie recruits are two quarterbacks, two running backs, four wide receivers, six offensive linemen, one kicker, three defensive ends, one defensive tackle, three linebackers, two cornerbacks and three safeties.

defensive back Billy Brown, a 6-4, 240 (5.2) transfer from San Francisco City College. Brown is 5-8, 180 pounds from Lindale.

Here is a list of the 27 recruits who signed national letters of intent Wednesday, with 40-yard dash times listed in parentheses: Kevin Murray, QB, North

Dallas — 6-1, 180 (4.6)

Lance Haverda, QB, Marble Falls — 6-2, 185 (4.6) Jimmy Hawkins, RB, San Antonio Holmes, blue chip -5-11, 195 (4.6)

▶Jeff Bolton, WR, Sou Garland, blue chip - 6-2, 17

Jeff Nelson, W. Beaumont Charlton-Pollard 5-10, 170 (4.4)

✓Shea Walker, WR, Pc Arthur Jefferson — 6-foot, I Tony Slaton, WR, Decan Ga., Columbia High School

6-foot, 180 (4.5) **∠**Mark Graham. Texas A&M has also enrolled Richardson Lake Highland

Randy Dausin, OL, Antonio Roosevelt - 6-4,

► Duncan Webb, OL, Naco

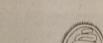
doches — 6-4, 225 (4.9) Randy Wylie, OL, Richard son — 6-3, 220 (5.1) Steve Shiller, OL, Arl ton — 6-2, 220 (5.0)

Steve Evans, OL, Beer **—** 6-3, 255 (5.1)

See A&M page 19



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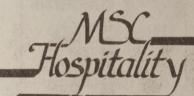
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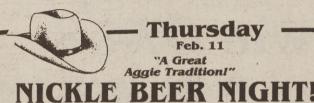
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