

Gary Lewis

Freshman guard finds transition tough, but A&M basketball system an easy adjustment

by Frank L. Christlieb

Sports Editor
 Gary Lewis can't take credit for starting a basketball tradition in his family. But he's done more than enough to keep the trend alive.

Lewis, one of four highly interchangeable guards on the Texas A&M basketball team, comes from a family of eight. Each of his five brothers has played basketball during his life, so Lewis' six years of experience have been a mere addition to his family's basketball obsession.

Lewis' father started the baseline drive which spread throughout the family.

"Basketball has been in the family for a long time, because my father played in the Air Force for a couple of years," Lewis said. "It was after my eighth grade year that I got really interested."

Lewis' father, Lloyd, played for that Air Force team with Texas A&M coach Shelby Metcalf during 1957 and 1958. The connection had a great deal to do with Lewis' choosing to attend Texas A&M.

Another member of Lewis' family followed his father's example by playing basketball for the Air Force. Greg Lewis, a senior attending the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo., has played for the team for four years. He's the captain of this year's squad.

The Aggie freshman guard, who lives in Tuscon, Ariz., began playing organized basketball in eighth grade. At Sahuaro High School, where he transferred after his freshman year, Lewis moved straight to the varsity after having played for the freshman team during his first year.

As his high school career progressed, Lewis' role on the team changed.

"I started for the varsity," Lewis said. "I played quite a bit, but I was more of a playmaker and an assist man. I only averaged about six points a game."

"My sophomore year, we had quite a few seniors, and I could have gone out and run the show a little, but it wasn't meant to be. I guess it was the summer before my junior year that the players

started looking to me as a leader."

But Lewis says that during his junior year, when he averaged 23 points a game, Coach Dick McConnell used him in a slightly different way.

"There were many times when I had to post up," Lewis said. "I was the best jumper on the team (currently with a 36-inch vertical jump). They used to throw me alley-oop passes. It's really kind of funny, because now I'm throwing them and I used to be receiving them."

During Lewis' senior year, the team had a record of 22-1 and won the city championship. In addition, Lewis was named to honorable mention all-America, all-state and all-city teams. His senior year statistics included 20 points, eight rebounds, 5.4 assists and three steals a game. "The coaches I had in high school taught me the fundamentals of basketball — nothing tricky or anything," Lewis said. "That's helped me a lot."

Lewis, a 6-1, 190-pounder, said that although several schools scouted him in high

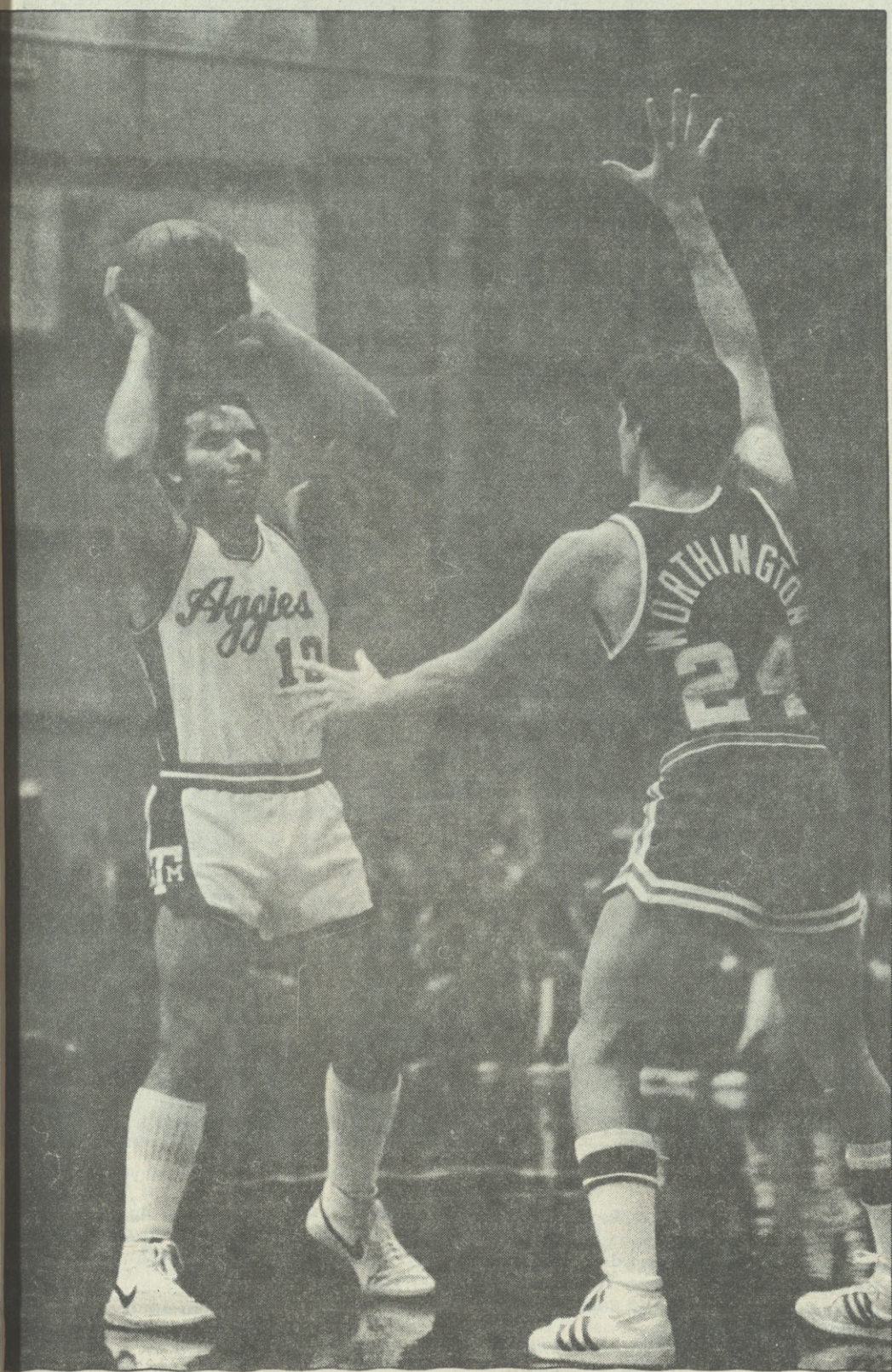
school, he decided upon Texas A&M because of Metcalf's persistence in recruiting him.

"A&M was the only one ready to give me the paper to sign," Lewis said. "So I guess you take what you get. To be truthful, A&M was my last choice. But I'd rather go with a team that wants me than a team that doesn't really want me."

Lewis said he's happy about his participation with the Aggies this season. Metcalf has molded Lewis and starters Milton Woodley, Reggie Roberts and Tyren Nauills into an effective backcourt combination. The four have combined for 36.4 points a game.

Although he averaged only six points a game during the regular season, his 79 assists, 23 steals and 74 percent free throw shooting have been keys in Texas A&M's 17-9 season. Lewis averaged 23 minutes of playing time in 23 games, and his season highs came when he scored 15 points and had eight rebounds against Texas Tech Feb. 8.

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staff photo by David Fisher

Texas A&M freshman guard Gary Lewis prepares to pass while under defensive pressure from Jack Worthington, freshman guard at the University of Texas, during a

game earlier in the season. Lewis has overcome freshman jitters to fit into Coach Shelby Metcalf's system of alternating guards in the Texas A&M lineup.

Aggies sweep Gents 11-9, 5-2 to remain undefeated

by Denise S. Sechelski

Battalion Staff
 The Texas A&M baseball team didn't treat the Centenary Gents with much Southern hospitality Tuesday at Olsen Field.

Centenary opened its season against the Aggies and still has an empty win column as the Aggies swept a double-header 11-9 and 5-2 from the Gents. The Aggies' season record is now 6-0.

Freshman Phillip Taylor started the first game for the Aggies but went only three

innings. He gave up one run in the first inning and four in the third off five hits.

Sherman Corbett, also a freshman, came on in relief of Taylor and pitched three tough innings in his first collegiate outing.

Aggie coach Tom Chandler said he was pleased with his pitchers although it was definitely a hitters' day.

"We had some bright spots in our pitching today," Chandler said. "Corbett pitched pretty well. Taylor had some trouble because he was getting the ball up and they

were hitting him."

The Aggie offense also started slow and got only two runs in the first three innings off starter Tony Taylor.

Texas A&M trailed by three going into the fifth inning, and with no outs, Billy Cannon doubled with bases loaded to drive home two runs.

Things only got worse for the Gents as Taylor balked while trying to catch Cannon

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Wednesday March 10, 1982	5:15-6:30 p.m. Room 501 Rudder
Tuesday March 23, 1982	3:45-5:00 p.m. Room 226 MSC
Tuesday March 23, 1982	5:15-6:30 p.m. Room 226 MSC

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