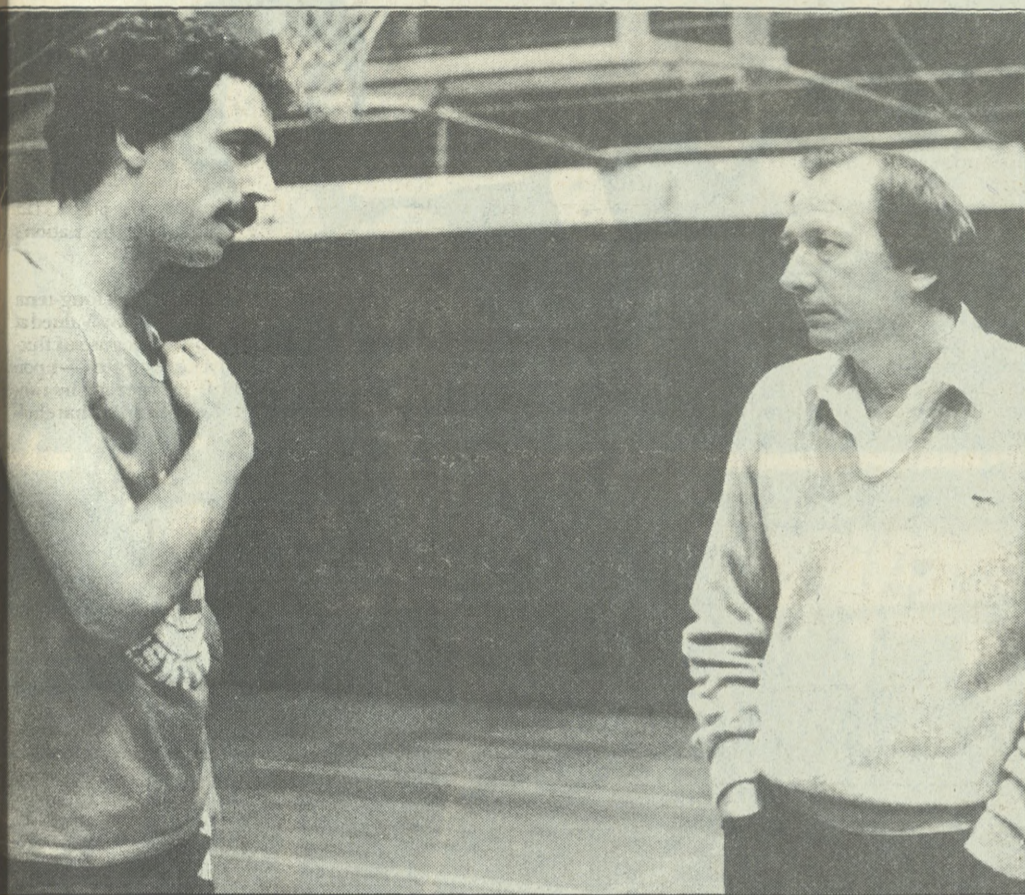


Texas A&M

# The Battalion Sports

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Lamar basketball coach Pat Foster talks to center Dave Richardson during the Cardinals' workout in G. Rollie White

Coliseum Tuesday afternoon. Lamar plays Texas A&M tonight at 7:30 in the coliseum in an NIT opener.

staff photo by Colin Valentine

## NIT opener pits Cardinals against A&M here tonight

by Frank L. Christlieb

Sports Editor  
Pat Foster says his Lamar University basketball team doesn't expect to match up, at least in size, against the Texas Aggies in the teams' National Invitational Tournament opener tonight at 7:30 in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

"Our basketball team has not played well in the last three weeks or so," the second-year Lamar coach said Wednesday. "We have a young team that has had to struggle all year to win games, and we've only won four of our last nine."

"Our players have done a tremendous job for us. We hope that we can come in and play a good game and make it interesting."

Lamar's tallest players are 6-9 senior center Dave Richardson and 6-6 junior forward Kenneth Perkins, while the Aggies' 6-10 Claude Riley and 6-11 Rudy Woods give Texas A&M a distinct height advantage.

The Cardinals, runners-up in the Southland Conference this season with a 22-6 record and a 7-3 league record, have partici-

Aggies	Cardinals
F Claude Riley (15.9, 10.3)	F Brian Kellybrew (10.6, 6)
C Rudy Woods (11.0, 7.9)	F Ken Perkins (12.4, 8.7)
G Tyren Nauls (12.6, 3.2)	C Dave Richardson (7.3, 6)
G Reggie Roberts (12.0, 2.6)	G Terry Long (14.5, 2.4)
G Milton Woodley (6.2, 2.0)	G Tom Sewell (8.8, 3.0)

pated in the NCAA tournament the past three seasons. Lamar has won each of its first-round games during those three tournaments, defeating Detroit in 1979, Weber State in 1980 and Missouri in 1981.

Whereas the Cardinals have never competed in the NIT, the Aggies, 18-10 during the regular season, are making their second appearance in the tournament. In 1979, Texas A&M defeated New Mexico and Nevada-Reno before losing to Alabama in the third round.

Texas A&M coach Shelby Metcalf said Lamar is a well-disciplined team that doesn't make many errors on the court.

"The thing about Pat Foster is that he's not going to beat him-

self," Metcalf said. "You've got to beat him. They play as mistake-free as any team and they play hard."

"We don't know much about them — names are all we know. Their guards are bigger than our guards and our inside men are bigger than theirs. Everybody tells us they're real aggressive."

The Cardinals are led by senior guard Terry Long, who averaged 14.5 points a game and shot 46 percent from the field. Long's season high of 29 points

came in a 94-64 victory over Florida Southern early in the season.

Perkins averaged 12.4 points and 8.7 rebounds a game, and pulled down 18 rebounds and scored 16 points in a 67-61 victory over Texas A&L.

Foster, an assistant coach at Arkansas between 1972 and 1980, said Long is the team's best outside scorer, and that Perkins is "real active around the basket."

Forward Brian Kellybrew, a first-year transfer from national junior college champion Westark Junior College, averaged 10.6 points and 6.3 rebounds a game this season.

"He plays hard-nose all the time," Foster said. "He's not a real good outside shooter, but he's a good all-around player."

"We're not a big team, and

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