

Texas A&M

The Battalion Sports

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What's new in sports?

Carpenter ready for task as sports information director



Ralph Carpenter

by Joe Tindel Jr.
Battalion Staff

When the phones are tied up with calls from the press concerning an athlete or athletic event at Texas A&M University, it's a great day for Ralph W. Carpenter.

Informing the media and answering scores of questions about athletics is what Carpenter enjoys, and the opportunity to coordinate that function at Texas A&M as Assistant Athletic Director for Public Relations was one he couldn't pass up.

Carpenter was the sports information director at Texas Christian University until being hired by Athletic Director and Head Football Coach Jackie

Sherrill to replace Spec Gammon, the long-time sports information director at Texas A&M. Gammon retired during the spring.

Carpenter said the overall competitiveness of the athletic program and the presence of Sherrill at Texas A&M draws national as well as state and local attention to the University.

"I really think that when you're dealing, as we are, with a program that's going to be competitive in every way, you're really traveling at the apex of what ... anybody in public relations wants to be," Carpenter said.

The 47-year-old Carpenter is a graduate of Texas Tech Uni-

versity and a native of Texas. Before entering the public relations field, he was a newspaper journalist.

He was sports information director at Texas Tech University from 1967 until 1977, and he served as director of publicity for the Coaches All-American Football game. Prior to his job at TCU, he was sports information director at the University of Mississippi for four years.

Carpenter has also assisted the NCAA with media operations at the national semi-finals and finals of the national championship basketball tournament.

Of his return to public relations in the Southwest Confer-

ence, Carpenter said: "I've felt like most of my ties really were back in the Southwest (Conference). That's where I have most of my experience."

He said he was set on getting the job at Texas A&M.

"Having been at Texas Tech ... and having known Spec Gammon over the years ... I've always felt a kind of closeness to the school even though we were rivals at times," Carpenter said.

Carpenter has been traveling with Sherrill this summer to cities throughout the state, where Sherrill has been speaking to Aggie Clubs. The trips began with a May 3 visit to Conroe and will end Aug. 6 in Houston.

The main thrust of the 28 trips is to meet with Aggie Club members in each city and answer their questions concerning the athletic program, Carpenter said.

"It's a real opportunity for me to renew acquaintances with a lot of the media and to meet the Texas A&M people who are just as eager to be a part of this institution as the students are," he said.

With regard to his role in the Sports Information Office, Carpenter said he wants his department to set the standard for other schools in handling sports information.

"We want to be sure that we have the best possible program that can be in place at a university the magnitude of Texas A&M," he said. "We're going to try to be a model for other

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Lamar's Vint hired as Aggie basketball assistant

by Frank L. Christlieb
Sports Editor

Bob Vint, an assistant basketball coach at Lamar University during the 1981-82 season, Monday accepted a similar position at Texas A&M University.

The 33-year-old Vint, an assistant coach at Arkansas from 1972 to 1974, will fill the position vacated by former Aggie assistant Barry Davis. Davis took the head coaching post at Western Texas College in April.

Vint said Monday that he's eager about the chance to coach under veteran Texas A&M coach Shelby Metcalf.

"I'm really excited about the move to Texas A&M," Vint said. "I've been associated with the Southwest Conference since 1966, when I played for Arkansas."

"I think A&M's done well under

Coach Metcalf and has had a lot of winning seasons. It's a good ball club with players like Claude Riley, Reggie Roberts and Tyren Naulls, and I think Coach Metcalf and (assistant coach John) Thornton are extremely pleased with the recruiting this year, too."

While playing for the Razorbacks, the 6-8 Vint was chosen Academic All-SWC during the 1970-71 season. During his two years as an assistant at Arkansas, Vint coached with Pat Foster, now the head coach at Lamar.

From Arkansas, Vint moved into high school basketball, compiling a 122-95 record in eight seasons with three Arkansas high schools. During the 1980-81 season, Vint coached Russellville High School to a 24-8 record before the team lost in the quarterfinals of the state tournament. Vint coached at West Fork High from 1974-77 and at

Lincoln High during the 1971-72 season.

Vint said he's looking forward to moving back into the SWC as a coach.

"The Southwest Conference has really improved a lot during the past few years, and I think the quality of play has gone up a lot," Vint said. "I have mixed emotions about leaving Lamar, because Coach Foster and I have known each other a long time."

"We felt like this would be a better opportunity for me to broaden myself professionally and hopefully to lend something to the A&M program. A&M is the type of institution where you can go into anyone's home and they can identify with it. The emphasis they've put on athletics is widely known, and I feel that's an advantage from my standpoint."

"I think maybe A&M (basketball) is

hitting a new era as far as the schedule being upgraded and the quality of our opponents being upgraded, too," he said.

Vint described his high school coaching career as a successful one in terms of building the programs at West Fork and Russellville.

"I can say that the programs I left ... I left them in good hands as far as returning starters go," he said. "The thing that I tried to do as a high school coach was to establish a program that would feed on itself and prosper in that way. I was real pleased that I could leave something and it would be good from one year to the next."

His duties here will involve several phases of coaching, Vint said.

"From what Coach Metcalf and I have discussed, I will have responsibilities in all areas — coaching on the floor,

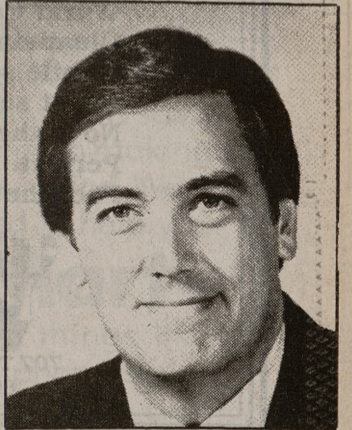
scouting, and recruiting," Vint said. "I imagine the emphasis will be one coaching defense, though. My philosophy of basketball is built around defense."

"There'll be some strategy adjustments because of the new 45-second shot clock they're going to use next year. You may have to put in some quick-hitting plays if you get down to five seconds and you haven't gotten off a shot."

"Coach Metcalf and I will basically share philosophies," he said, "and hopefully I can contribute something to the program."

Metcalf, who will be in his 20th year as the Aggies' coach, said:

"I was coaching in the conference when Bob was playing. Bob was a fine player and a fine young man."



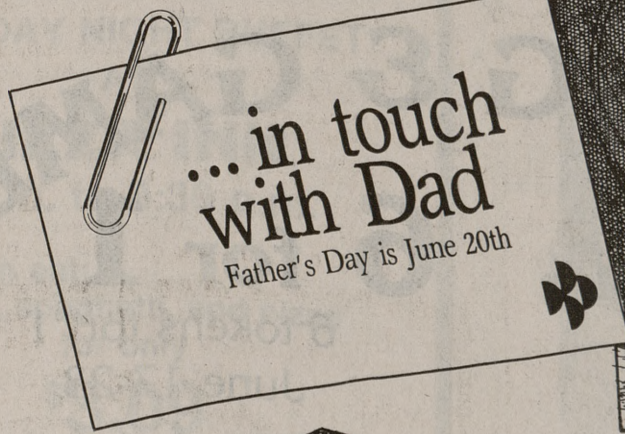
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