

Aggies open Shootout with Tigers

by Frank L. Christlieb
Sports Editor
The last time the Texas Aggies competed in the Great

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Alaska Shootout, they had to struggle to finish seventh in a field of eight teams. Losing its first two games to Iona and Lamar largely because of the absence of all-conference forward Vernon Smith, Texas A&M didn't win until the final day of the tourney, when the Aggies trounced University of Pacific 82-66.

That was 1979. The previous year, the Aggies opened by losing to North Carolina State, then defeated Indiana and University of Alaska-Anchorage to earn fourth place.

Friday at 11 p.m. CST, Texas A&M opens the 1982 season and

the 1982 Shootout against the Clemson Tigers at the Fort Richardson Army installation in Anchorage. With four returning starters from last season's 20-11 National Invitation tournament quarterfinalist, Coach Shelby Metcalf's players are confident about this year's tourney.

Texas A&M lost to the Athletes in Action 59-57 in G. Rollie White Coliseum Saturday. This year's version of the Shootout includes Texas A&M, Clemson, Alaska-Anchorage, Louisville, Florida, Washington, Vanderbilt and Illinois.

Jimmy Gilbert, the Aggies' starting freshman center from Huntsville, said he believes he and his teammates will have a successful season.

"I've been working out with Claude (Riley, Aggies' leading returning scorer) and the guys all summer," Gilbert said, "so I really feel good about the season. I feel like we're really going to have a good team this year."

Here are first-round games in this weekend's Shootout, as well as facts on each team participating in the tournament. All times listed are Central Standard Time. For each team, 1981-82 records will be in parentheses, and for each team's starters, last season's scoring averages will also be given:

FRIDAY: Louisville-Florida, 5 p.m.; Washington-UAA, 7 p.m.; Clemson-Texas A&M, 11 p.m.; Vanderbilt-Illinois, 1 a.m. (Saturday morning).

SATURDAY: Loser Louisville-Florida vs. loser Washington-UAA, 5 p.m.; winner Louisville-

Florida vs. winner Washington-UAA, 7 p.m.; winner Clemson-Texas A&M vs. winner Vanderbilt-Illinois, 11 p.m.; loser Clemson-Texas A&M vs. loser Vanderbilt-Illinois, 1 a.m. (Sunday morning).

SUNDAY: Seventh-place game, 3 p.m.; fourth- and sixth-place game, 5 p.m.; third- and fifth-place game, 8 p.m.; championship game, 10:30 p.m.

PAST SHOOTOUT CHAMPIONS: 1978, North Carolina State; 1979, Kentucky; 1980, North Carolina; 1981, Southwestern Louisiana.

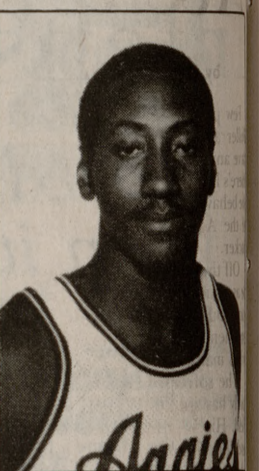
TEXAS A&M (20-11): Claude Riley — forward, 6-10, 215, senior, (16.3 pts., 10.2 reb.)
Roy Jones — forward, 6-7, 195, senior, (7 pts., 4.3 reb.)
Jimmy Gilbert — center, 6-9, 200, freshman

Tyren Naulls — guard, 6-4, 205, senior, (12 pts., 3 reb.)
Reggie Roberts — guard, 6-3, 188, junior, (11.7 pts., 2.6 reb.)

CLEMSON (14-14): David Shaffer — forward, 6-7, 220, sophomore, (6.5 pts.)
Fred Gilliam — forward 6-9, 220, senior, (10.7 pts., 5.3 reb.)
Raymond Jones — center, 6-8, 215, redshirted during 1981-82

Milan Belich — guard, 6-1, 170, sophomore, (2.5 pts.)
Vincent Hamilton — guard, 6-4, 170, junior, (15 pts., 4.8 reb.)

The Tigers, who defeated Athletes in Action 69-66 Nov. 9, are picked seventh or eighth in the Atlantic Coast Conference this season. They finished 14-14 overall and 4-10 in the ACC last year, ending the season with upset victories over Maryland and



A&M center Jimmie Gilbert excited about the season

North Carolina State to qualify for the National Invitation Tournament. However, the Aggies lost to Mississippi 53-49 in the first round of the NIT.

Clemson's top substitute, Glen McCants, a 6-9, 200-pound freshman, called "Mr. Basketball in South Carolina" for his performance during his senior year in high school.

ILLINOIS (18-11): Anthony Welch — forward, 6-10, 180, sophomore
Efreem Winters — forward, 9, 210, freshman

Bryan Leonard — center, 10, 230, senior, (4 pts., 3.8 reb.)
Derek Harper — guard, 6-8, 185, junior, (8.4 pts., 4.6 reb.)
Bruce Douglas — guard, 6-7, 175, freshman

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