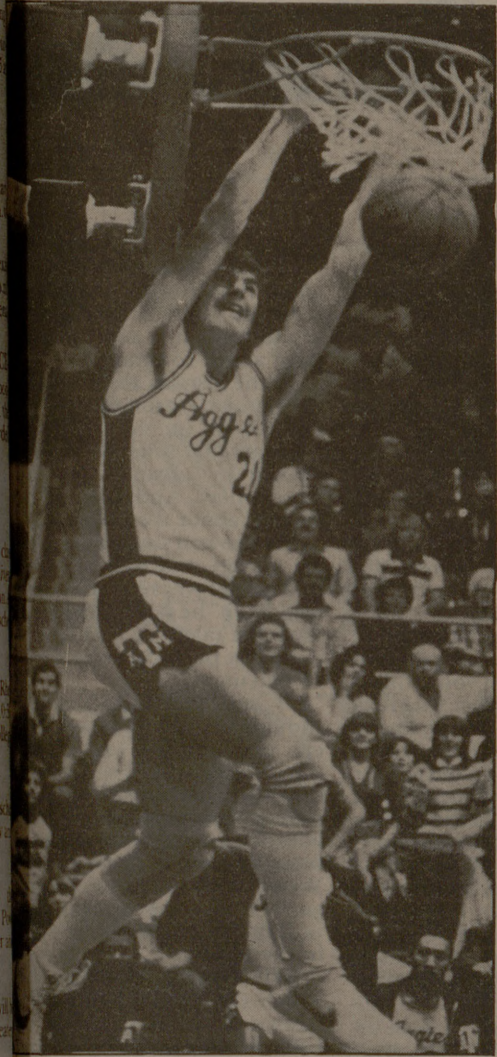


Texas A&M

The Battalion Sports

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Naulls, Lee pay big dividends for Aggies



photos by Peter Rocha and Donn Friedmann

At left, Texas A&M guard Doug Lee slams the basketball in a recent Aggie game, while at right Tyren Naulls lays

a shot in over a Rice Owl defender. Both Naulls and Lee have been big contributors for Texas A&M this year.

Naulls survives rocky road at UCLA to fit in as Aggie 'Mr. Consistency'

by Joe Tindel Jr.

Battalion Staff
Tyren Naulls hasn't had a long career at Texas A&M, and his experiences as a college basketball player haven't all been wonderful.

But the Aggies' 6-4 senior has fought off adversity to become one of Texas A&M's most valuable assets. As point-guard, Naulls runs the offense and has become one of the leaders of this year's squad. Going into Wednesday night's game against Baylor he was shooting 51.4 percent from the field and was one of the top four free throw shooters in the conference. Naulls has been the high-point man in six of the Aggies' contests this sea-

son, and recently turned in an excellent performance at Arkansas where he scored 19 points, contributed five assists and consistently beat the Razorbacks' man-to-man pressure in the backcourt.

It all sounds rosy. But Naulls had to exit a rocky path at UCLA before he could find the on-ramp to the road to success at Texas A&M.

Naulls was prepared for his freshman year at UCLA, but his sophomore year brought about the disappointment that led him to Texas.

"My first year at UCLA was, for a freshman, supposedly great," Naulls said. "I only play-

ed like eight or nine minutes a game. But supposedly, there, that was good. You had to stand in line and wait your turn. I knew before I got there that that would be the situation.

"My second year there I started out as a starter and I ran into some difficulty for some unknown reason. I don't know if I was liked or not liked. But school had become just a secondary factor, because with my playing time going down it started having adverse effects on my grades. And I figured I didn't necessarily have to put myself through this for another two years."

So with disappointment

affecting his ability to concentrate on his schoolwork, Naulls sat down to talk with his parents. His mother suggested he transfer to the school where his high school coach's friend coached, he said. Texas A&M coach Shelby Metcalf had been that coach's teammate at East Texas State, and by virtue of that connection, Naulls found himself bound for College Station.

Naulls spent his first year at Texas A&M as a redshirt, got closer to his new teammates and received word from Metcalf that he would soon be a team leader. It was that "advance warning" as well as his teammates' support,

See NAULLS page 14

Lee pleasant surprise for A&M

by Frank L. Christlieb

Battalion Staff
For a college freshman, Doug Lee has an extraordinary amount of confidence.

After becoming a Texas Aggie and a member of Coach Shelby Metcalf's 20th basketball squad, the 6-foot-4-inch, 205-pound Lee decided he'd make an extra effort to prove himself on the basketball court. And though he's averaging just 4.5 points a game, Lee's performances as a substitute guard and

forward have made an impact on his coaches and teammates.

That's why Lee's playing more than many freshmen play during their first season in college. After starting Wednesday night against the Baylor Bears and scoring eight points, Lee has played in all but one of the Aggies' 25 games this year.

When Texas A&M opened the season in Anchorage, Alaska at the Great Alaska Shootout, Lee knew only that he was one of the top 10 players on the team.

After watching his freshman guard score 14 points in three games at the tourney, Metcalf decided that Lee would be a player to watch.

Playing in each of the Aggies' next 10 games, Lee scored 40 points and had 18 rebounds. And before he had a chance to call home and tell his parents, Lee had landed smack in the midst of Metcalf's starting five, even though it was only temporary.

In his first start of the season,

against Angelo State on Jan. 6 in G. Rollie White Coliseum, Lee scored 13 points and had 6 rebounds. Lee replaced senior point guard Tyren Naulls, who was recovering from a knee injury while trying to cope with personal problems.

"I think (Metcalf) just kind of felt that Tyren needed to sit down for a little bit so he could get himself together because he'd been having a few prob-

See LEE page 14

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ENTRY FEE: \$6.00

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FOR MORE INFO: Contact Bill Birkhoff 779-4844

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