

Naulls

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Naulls said, that allowed him to be prepared for the role he now plays.

"The players on the team have not made it difficult for me," Naulls said. "They've been the best bunch of guys personally I've ever associated with."

"We're extremely close. We're a close-knit team, and having to take over that leadership role hasn't been difficult whatsoever."

Probably one of Naulls' most noticeable traits is his quiet de-

meanor and his more-or-less relaxed expression on the court. Rather than being the vociferous type that tries to fire up the team, Naulls said he prefers to let his actions do the leading.

"A leadership role doesn't necessarily have to be one where you do a lot of talking," he said. Besides, whooping it up

doesn't exactly fit in with Naulls' personality.

"We have enough fiery personality on our team with Claude (Riley) and Reggie (Roberts) and Lowell (McHenry)," Naulls said. "So it's not me

to really go off and do a lot of hollering and screaming, unless I'm really, really upset. There's been nothing this year that's really got me upset to the point where I have to do a lot of hollering and screaming.

"If I go off and get out of control, who's left to run the ball club?"

His philosophy also ties in with his constant composure on the court. He's not sedated. He's using psychology. But you won't get Naulls to agree that he's relaxed on the court.

"I didn't know that I was that

relaxed playing because I have a lot of things going on inside my head," Naulls said.

"I read somewhere that it's sometimes to an advantage to look like you're so relaxed. I was reading a book (former New York Knick) Walt Frazier had, and he said, 'To look cool doesn't mean you are.' Somebody can be guarding you and you can have a look on your face where he doesn't know if he's bothering you or not. They (opponents) don't know whether to slack off or apply more pressure."

"Maybe it's a psychological thing," Naulls said. "But believe me, I'm not that relaxed on the court."

"I used to be a real verbal person. But I figure now you've got to use a little bit of psych. Why should I get mad at this referee when I know he's going to remember me cussing him out? If I'll just be nice and say O.K., if there's a questionable call, it could possibly go in my favor."

One can speculate all day on whether Naulls' approach has helped or not. But one thing's for sure; Naulls has improved over last year — in shooting percentage, free throw percentage and assist totals.

"Personally this season has been pretty much a satisfactory one because I'm doing the same thing I was doing last year, but I've raised everything," he said.

Naulls said he thinks the best is still ahead for the Aggies, who will take on St. Mary's Monday night at 7:30 in G. Rollie White Coliseum. He said the Aggies haven't put on their best show yet.

"I don't really think we've reached it (high point) yet," Naulls said. "The high point will be if we can make it to Reunion Arena for the (SWC post-season) tournament."

TANK McNAMARA

by Jeff Millar & Bill H...



Lee

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lems," he said in an interview. "I knew it wouldn't last, but if it did for a while, that's fine, but if it didn't that would have been OK too, because I played about the same role when I started. There wasn't really that much difference between starting and coming off the bench."

Lee started against Rice two days later, scoring eight points and pulling down three rebounds. When Texas A&M hosted Arkansas Jan. 13, Naulls came back to start and Lee jumped off the bench to score four points.

Here's the key: after opening the year as the No. 9 or No. 10 player on the team, Lee has moved up among the top six or seven. With guard Reggie Roberts not starting Wednesday's game because of disciplinary reasons, Metcalf inserted Lee into the lineup for the third time since early in January.

And Lee, who's shooting 50 percent from the floor for the season, couldn't be happier.

"I was hoping to get a lot of playing time," Lee said. "That's why I chose Texas A&M. I'm real happy with how my season's gone so far. You always hope to come in and play at a Division I college like this, and I've gotten a chance to play a lot."

"That's what's really been rewarding. By no means am I disappointed. There are a lot of games when you play a little more ... but I'm real happy with the season. I'll just work at it a lot this summer, and hopefully I'll have a chance to start next year."

Of the 24 games in which he's played, Lee has scored in 20,

with totals of 13, 10, 10, 9, 8 and 8 being his highs for the season. In two losses to Houston, playing in both as a substitute, Lee scored 19 points. In two losses to the Razorbacks, the freshman scored 14 points.

"It's hard to say which games I've enjoyed the most," he said, "but Houston and Arkansas are probably my best games because I've done very well against better teams. I kind of liked the game (at Arkansas' Barnhill Arena on Saturday, when he scored 10). The fans were really rowdy, but it's nice to have fans."

"When we went to Rice, there were only 1,000 people and that's terrible when you're playing in a place like that. The fans at Arkansas didn't give us a hard time, even though they threw a few things on the court. Our fans are loud, but they're not that dirty. It's a lot better having loud fans than not having any."

After averaging 27 points a game during his senior season at Washington High School in Washington, Ill., Lee said he's noticed a few changes in the game of basketball since coming to Texas A&M.

"I think the game is a lot tougher defensively," he said. "Offensively, it's definitely a lot tougher. Maybe that's just for me because I felt I was better offensively than I was defensively. Everybody's good, though — that's about the thing different about it."

After playing more than half a season against Southwest Conference opponents, Lee said the league's quality is impressive.

"I think the conference is real tough," Lee said. "We played too many road games at the begin-

ning of the year (12 of the 13 games) — everybody's about that. But it's always to have a good conference top to bottom ... and I think we have a well-rounded one."

If the Aggies finish the regular-season race in form well in the conference tournament, they'll have a chance to advance into season play. And Lee said he's excited about the possibility.

"We've had our games where we played real well and had games where we didn't do so well at all," he said. "But we have the talent to beat them if we just play like we're playing."

"I still feel that way though we played as well as we can play and still lost to St. Mary's. That's why when we get down to Southwest Conference tournament time, anyone who's able of winning, and I think we have as good a chance as anybody."

We've made a lot of progress and I think the team is a lot better now than it has been at any time in the season."

This year's freshman class which includes Lee, will set Brown, Roger Bock and Rick L. Gilbert, may be a key next season, Lee said.

"I think as far as freshman go," he said, "we've got a lot of experience, and we've got a lot of real talent. Last year we've gotten along real well with a few games just haven't got the way we wanted them to go."

"I think it's possible for us to come in here next year and be a starting position. I know we're a team, we've got to work together and I feel that we have to be going to work at it. It's important to have guys like those to

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