

New Ag tennis faces to rise from unknown

By **TONY CORNETT**
Sports Writer

There's a strip of paper across a wall in Texas A&M's men's tennis coach David Kent's office that says "Think Top 10." There's not much of anything in the office where coach Jan Cannon guided the A&M women's tennis program.

While the Aggie men are poised to improve on their No. 11 national ranking, their best ever, the women are looking to replace the resigned Cannon and break into the nation's Top 20.

Kent is administering both programs until an interim women's coach is hired.

"I think that in the next day or so we'll be naming an interim coach," Kent said. "That'll be coming from (Women's Athletic Director Lynn) Hickey's office. Coach Cannon resigned and she really did a good job for us. She was here for 4½ years. We made a lot of strides in that time under her leadership."

Kent talked about the qualities that the new women's coach will have to have.

"We're looking forward to having an interim coach," Kent said. "Some-

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body to come in with new ideas and aggressive leadership. We think that we'll probably get that person. We're real excited about everything on the tennis program right now."

Some of that excitement is due to the arrival of some fresh, talented faces on both the men's and the women's teams.

Three players will join the women's squad: Renata Arnold and He-

len Christaense from British Columbia, Canada and Kim Labuschangne from Pretoria, South Africa.

"Those two Canadian girls are very seasoned players and some of the best in Canada," Kent said. "We have a really top-notch player (in Labuschangne). She is very talented and she's very quick. She's the No. 2 player in South Africa."

Kent sees unequaled success for the women's team.

"With the people we have currently coming back on the women's team," Kent said, "I think we're going to have a solid team — the best (women's tennis team) in the history of Texas A&M."

South African Dean Johnson will be the sole addition to the men's squad.

"We're certainly lucky to have Johnson," Kent said. "He's one of the top juniors in the world. He's beaten the No. 1 junior in the world. He's played all over the world."

The men's team opens its home schedule on Jan. 25 against Houston Baptist University while the women open at home on the same day against Texas Southern University.

Aggie cagers to battle Warriors in The Summit

By **TRAVIS TINGLE**
Sports Editor

Shelby Metcalf's Texas A&M men's basketball team will take an early breather from the grueling Southwest Conference schedule, but won't be a much of break.

A&M will tangle with Marquette University, a national powerhouse under the coaching of Al McGuire in the late 70s, tonight at 7:30 p.m. in The Summit in Houston.

The game will mark only the second meeting ever between the Warriors and Aggies. Marquette breezed past A&M 73-58 in Milwaukee on Dec. 4, 1982.

Metcalf's Aggies, 8-4 overall and 1-1 in the SWC, come into Wednesday's showdown in Houston after an impressive 102-78 victory over Jim Haller's Baylor Bears last Saturday on regional television.

A&M's 102 points, 41 of which came from the hot hand of point guard Don Marbury, was the highest total ever scored against the Bears in Waco's Heart 'O Texas Coliseum.

Marbury's sterling performance was also fifth highest output ever by an Aggie basketball player. Only six other A&M cagers have bettered Marbury's 41 points in a single game.

Here's how the Aggies fared over the holiday break:

Defeated Valparaiso 76-66 and Drake 66-49 in the AAA-Drake Classic; lost to Illinois State 74-66 (OT) and defeated Pacific 79-62 in the UOP Classic; lost to Wisconsin 71-69 and defeated Alaska-Anchorage 54 in the Lobo Invitational; lost to Arkansas in the SWC opener 70-67 and defeated Baylor 102-78.

This Friday night the Aggies will undoubtedly face their stiffest competition of the season in the form of the No. 3 ranked SMU Mustangs. Tipoff is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

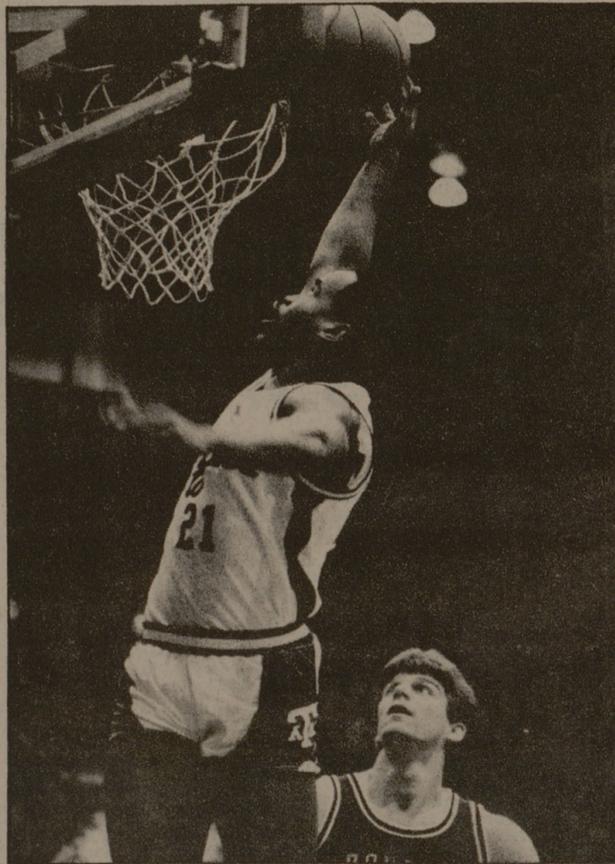


Photo by **PETER ROCHA**

A&M forward Winston Crite (21) heads into the Marquette game with a team high average of 8.3 rebounds per game.

Rozier becomes free agent

United Press International

LINCOLN, Neb. — Former Nebraska running back Mike Rozier said Tuesday an agreement has been reached that will enable the 1983 Heisman Trophy winner to become a free agent in the U.S. Football League.

"I will be playing someplace, I'm happy about that," Rozier said. "I'm tired of sitting around."

Rozier had been in the second

year of a three-year \$3.1 million personal services contract with Edward DeBartolo Sr., who owned the Pittsburgh Maulers of the USFL. The Maulers merged with the Philadelphia Stars and moved to Baltimore for the 1985 season.

"We are pleased at this time to announce Mike has accepted the terms of a buyout agreement from the Pittsburgh Maulers and with Mr. Edward DeBartolo, Sr., and should be-

come a free agent player within the next few days," said Brendan Moynihan, a Toledo, Ohio, accountant who works with Rozier's agent, Art Wilkinson of Philadelphia. Moynihan and Rozier appeared at a news conference.

"We will be happy to entertain contract talks at this time with any professional team interested in the services of Mike Rozier," Moynihan said.

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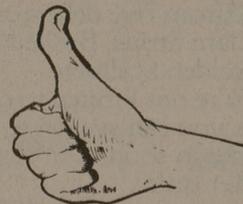
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