

Sanctions to zap BU basketball

NCAA cites Baylor for 30 violations

Associated Press

WACO — Baylor University's basketball program has been cited by the NCAA for 30 specific violations that will cost the school six scholarships over the next two seasons and a shot at post-season tournament play, according to published reports.

The violations include players receiving cash, airline tickets, free transportation, and hunting and fishing trips, the *Waco Tribune-Herald* quoted an unnamed source as saying.

They were detailed in the NCAA's original letter informing Baylor of its findings. The NCAA has made no official announcement yet on its probe.

Maxey Parrish, Baylor sports information director, said Tuesday that the school had been ordered by the NCAA not to discuss the findings.

Although final penalties have not been determined, Baylor will be allowed only 11 scholarships for the 1986-87 season and 13 for the 1987-88 season, the *Tribune-Herald* said. The NCAA's scholarship limit is 15.

Baylor currently has 13 players on scholarship. The team's only seniors, guard Carlos Briggs and forward Edwin Mitchell, were dismissed by head coach Gene Iba last week for reasons he said were unrelated to the NCAA probe.

Both players, who had been suspended in December by the NCAA, plan to remain in school, and their scholarships could not be transferred even if they were to leave Baylor.

The newspaper reported its source as saying the scholarship reduction could be reversed, but believes that action unlikely after the NCAA Council's subcommittee on eligibility reduced the season-long suspensions of guard Eric Johnson and post Darryl Middleton to nine games Sunday.

Both players will be eligible to return to action against Texas A&M Feb. 1 in Waco.

Baylor Athletic Director Bill Menefee, former faculty representative Edwin Horner and new faculty representative David Guinn met with the Committee on Infractions in New Orleans Monday at the NCAA convention.

Under the sanctions outlined by the newspaper's source, Baylor cannot sign any recruits this season, and only up to six for the 1987-88 if all the current players' scholarships are renewed.

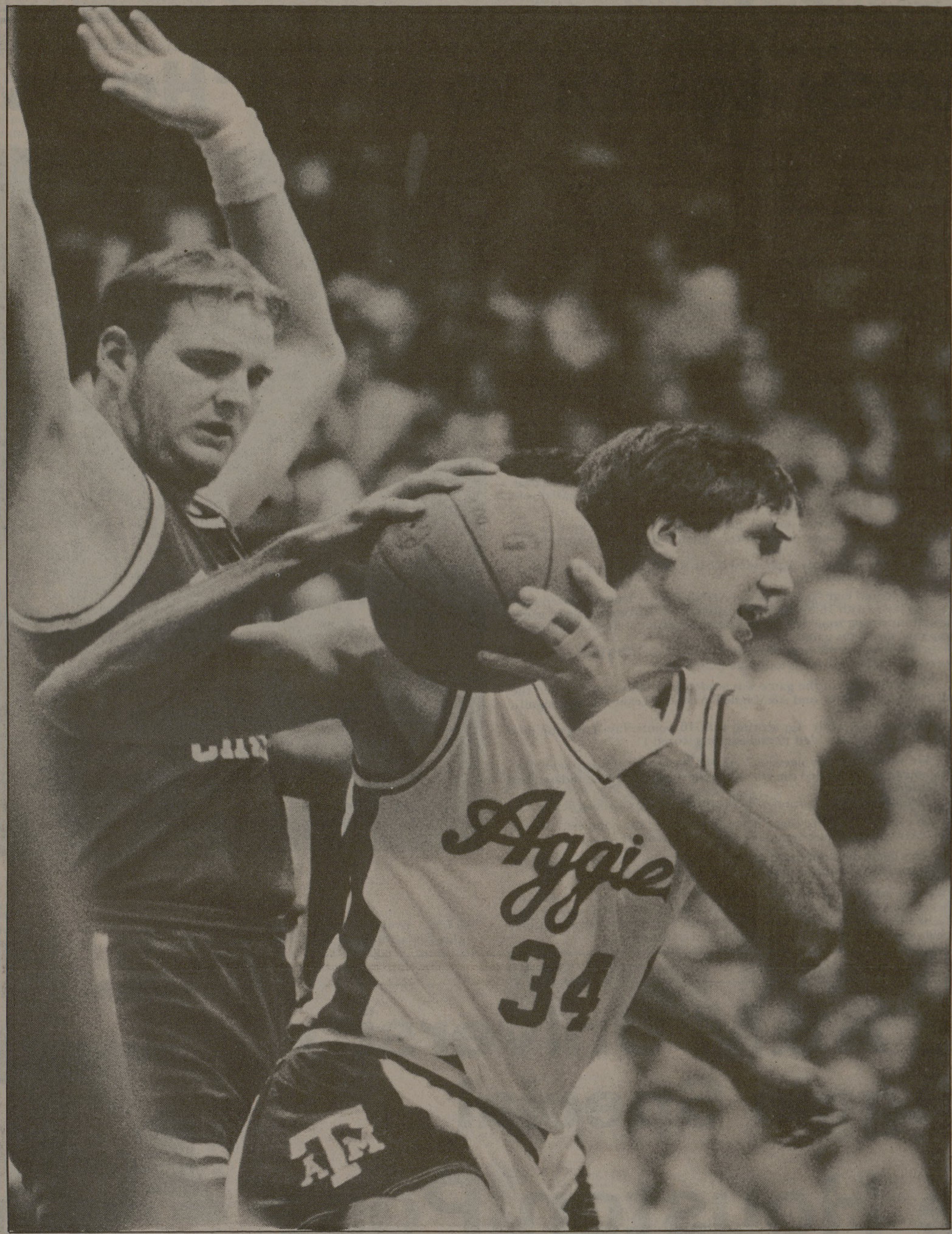
Without the sanctions, Baylor would have been able to sign four players in each of the next two years. Two players offered scholarships last spring did not attend Baylor, accounting for the two unused grants.

Only two current players, junior Mark Buchanan and freshmen Stephen Hafford, are not on athletic scholarships. Iba could put either or both on scholarship, but hasn't made

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A&M hosts Texas in unusually 'big game'

By TRAVIS TINGLE
Sports Editor



A&M's David Thompson (34) pulls down a rebound in front of Texas Christian's Greg Grissom during the Aggies' 64-60 Southwest

Conference win over the Horned Frogs Saturday. A&M hosts Texas tonight at 7:30 in G. Rollie White Coliseum for the SWC lead.

Photo by DEAN SAITO

It's not at all unusual for a proverbial "big game" to surface within the first few weeks of the Southwest Conference basketball race.

But what is unusual about the first "big game" of the '85-86 conference title chase tonight at 7:30 in G. Rollie White Coliseum is which teams are involved — Texas A&M and Texas.

The Aggies (9-6 overall, 3-0 in the SWC) and Longhorns (9-6, 4-0) will put their unblemished conference records on the line tonight. The winner should claim at least a share of first-place in the SWC and gains an inside track to the outright title.

Unusual? Not really. Not where SWC basketball is concerned. All you can predict in this conference, year-in and year-out, is the unpredictable.

And this year is no exception. Coach Bob Weltlich's Longhorns, picked by most experts to finish no better than seventh in the conference, find themselves atop the standings going into tonight's showdown with the Aggies.

Behind the shooting of forward Patrick Fairs and the rebounding and scoring ability of center John Brownlee, the Horns can no longer be considered the laughing "stock" of the SWC. Texas has posted its four SWC victories over Houston, Rice, Arkansas and Baylor.

The Aggies, under Coach Shelby Metcalf, were considered legitimate contenders during the preseason. But a tough non-conference schedule, which included Top 20 teams such as Georgia Tech, Pittsburgh and Alabama-Birmingham, coupled with injuries to key starters slapped a "mediocre" tag on A&M before the start of SWC play.

But when conference play cranked-up, so did the Aggies. A&M has run off a string of three victories over Baylor, SMU and TCU. Suddenly, the Aggies, led by the inside scoring ability of guards Don Marbury and Todd Holloway and forward Winston Crite, appear to be anything, but mediocre.

In fact, TCU Coach Jim Killingsworth issued Weltlich's Longhorns a warning after the Aggies' issued the Horned Frogs a 64-60 Saturday — G. Rollie White Coliseum is a tough place to play.

"We now have one big advantage over most of the conference teams," Killingsworth said. "We don't have to come back here (to College Station) this year."

So while A&M and Texas are busy fighting for first-place, two preseason SWC favorites, Arkansas and Houston, will be battling for last.

Arkansas, which most sports writers thought was a cinch to be in the thick of the SWC race, isn't. The Hogs are tied for last-place with the Baylor Bears at 0-4 and host the Cougars, 0-3, tonight in a regionally-televised game.

Houston, which usually always makes a run at the title under the coaching of Guy V. Lewis, lost to Rice Saturday in Hofheinz Pavilion for the first time in its history. The Owls' victory over the Cougars in Hofheinz was their first in 16 tries.

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