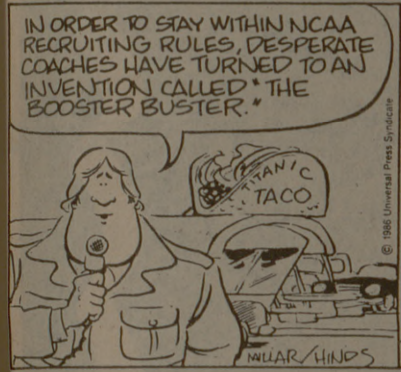


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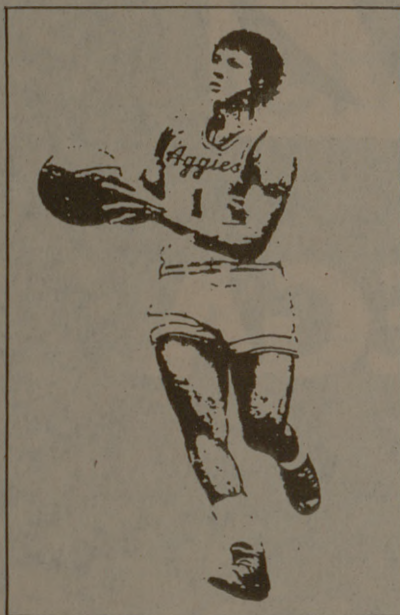


by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds

Master Recruiter

Aggies' Foreman looking for a few good 'cagers'

By DANNY MYERS
Reporter



Willie Foreman doesn't see himself as your average college athletic recruiter. And neither does Texas A&M Basketball Coach Shelby Metcalf. Metcalf says Foreman is "by far the best recruiting coordinator we've had since I've been at A&M." Foreman, a former basketball player with the Aggies and Harlem Globetrotters, says he doesn't follow a set pattern when recruiting a potential A&M athlete. He just remembers what he liked when he was being lured away to college as a high school hoopster.

"I think a lot of a recruiters who, first of all, can make me comfortable with him and then can tell me a lot about the school," Foreman says. "I also like to know about the (head) coach and his coaching techniques. These are the things I try to do when I recruit."

"We talk basketball and then we talk about things that the player likes and what he wants to do after he graduates."

Since most recruits have visions of playing in the NBA, Foreman says he tries to put their basketball careers in perspective.

"Most players don't make it to the professional level and having a degree from Texas A&M says a lot if they don't," he says. "The school usually will sell itself."

"Our players have the same opportunity to make it that I had, but I hope they don't take the same road I took. You can make it a lot of ways and I went the long way."

The "long way" Foreman took included leaving A&M in 1978, before receiving his degree in recreation and parks, to play for the NBA's

New Orleans Jazz. Because of a contract dispute with the Jazz, however, he joined the Fresno Stars of the Western Basketball Association.

It was then that Foreman's basketball career literally took a funny bounce.

The Harlem Globetrotters were scheduled to put on a show after one of the Stars' games, and the Trotters coach watched Foreman score 40 points that night.

He immediately offered Foreman a contract.

Foreman went on to be known as "Sky" with the Globetrotters because of his slam dunking aerial acrobatics.

Finally, at 30, Foreman came back to A&M to receive his degree.

"If I could do it all over again I would get my degree first," he says.

"This is what I try to tell our players."

Metcalf says Foreman was a loyal and talented player and has carried that talent over to his current job on the A&M staff.

"His past experience has enabled him to meet so many people," Metcalf said. "He knows everybody, but, more importantly, everybody knows him."

"I can tell you right now that Willie will be the best recruiting coordinator Texas A&M has ever had."

Foreman, in his first year at the job, has already landed two of the most highly sought after guards in the nation.

Darryl McDonald and James McGhee, who both attend Westchester Community College in New York, are ranked 3rd and 13th respectively by many Division I recruiters and have signed letters of intent to play for the Aggies next season.

McDonald, a 6-foot-3 sophomore averaging 20 points and 7 assists a game, was recruited by such schools as Nevada-Las Vegas, Maryland and North Carolina State.

McGhee, a 6-foot-1 freshman, is leading his region in scoring with a 24.7 point average and was recruited heavily by Maryland, Northeastern and Bradley.

McDonald said the fact that Foreman told him he wasn't going to recruit any more guards since he and McGhee were coming to A&M swayed his decision.

"The people I recruited will make a big impact on the team next year," Foreman said. "They're all junior college transfers and they can play."

"I also have a bunch of high school guys I'm working on now and they should be able to contribute. Not so much next year, but on down the line they should be stars."

Watson may be shoe-in for Open

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Tom Watson's luggage was lighter by a pair of golf shoes when he came to town for the \$450,000 Shearson Lehman Brothers Andy Williams Open.

"You always take an extra pair of golf shoes to Pebble Beach," Watson said. "And when you leave, you throw them away. They're ruined."

While the rain, hail, mud and severe winds at last week's AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am may have taken their toll on his footwear, the tournament formerly known as "The Crosby" also provided the basis for a little optimism by Watson.

The five-time British Open champion finished a strong third last week — and made a move at the lead in the washed-out and uncompleted fourth round. It was the best finish in eight months for Watson, who's trying to dig his way out of a lengthy slump.

"I hit some bad shots, too many of them, last week but I hit a lot of good shots, too, and that's encouraging," he said.

Watson, a six-time PGA Player of the Year, did not win a tournament last season.

"I just didn't work hard enough last year, and that's the result. You usually get out of something what you put into it, and I'm working harder this year," he said before a practice round at the Torrey Pines Golf Club, where the renamed Andy Williams tournament begins Thursday.

Watson, a two-time winner of this event, leads a field of 156 players who will be chasing an \$81,000 first prize. They'll play one round on both the North and South courses at the public facility with the last two rounds played over the South course.

"I like Torrey Pines," he said. "And I've played well here before, which is a little bit of a plus. I'm looking forward to it."

Among his chief challengers are veteran Ray Floyd, Tom Kite, 1985 leading money-winner Curtis Strange, Mark O'Meara, Corey Pavin and Masters champion Bernhard Langer of West Germany, who has not finished lower than 15th in four previous starts this season.

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