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10pm-10:45pm Thursday Nights
All students and faculty invited

Metcalf says his players have no drug problem

By LOYD BRUMFIELD
Reporter

The Texas A&M men's basketball team does not have a drug problem, Coach Shelby Metcalf said Wednesday.

Metcalf, speaking before a small crowd at Sully's Symposium, said he had no doubt that his players are clean.

"I know we have no drug problems on our ballclub," Metcalf said. "We have a drug-testing policy in the department. I tested every player before we started practice. Then once a week we draw names out of a hat and we test randomly."

Metcalf was answering questions concerning the arrest of two A&M players on drug charges over the semester break. He also said he believed the arrests were correct.

"There's no doubt in my mind that it (marijuana) was in their car," he said. "I believe the law. They'll go to trial just like anyone else."

Metcalf also explained why he didn't suspend the two players.

"I felt like the guys were clean, so I didn't see why I should keep them

off the team," Metcalf said. "I believe I did the right thing."

"There's a lot of writers who wanted me to kick them off the team, but most of them are from cities where there are other schools we play. I never had anybody around here tell me to kick them off the team and I think I've been fair with them."

Metcalf said he believes in punishing players privately, not publicly. He used a recent incident concerning a player at the University of Arkansas who was suspended for missing curfew as an example.

"If a player misses curfew here, I'm still going to play him," he said. "I'm going to punish him, but I'm going to punish him privately and I'll tell you why: If that player's the difference for us winning the game, then I'm punishing the rest of them who showed up on time. That's just my philosophy."

Metcalf also discussed the dissertation he wrote on crowd behavior at Southwest Conference games.

Metcalf, who earned his doctorate

in 1974 at A&M, said he chose that behavior as his subject because of the fights that occurred during conference games.

"We had a fight here in 1972, one at Baylor in 1972," Metcalf said. "and Baylor was a bad one."

Fights weren't the only problem, Metcalf said. A&M's crowd was the most too nice, he said.

"For 10 years we had the place to play basketball from the standpoint of sportsmanship in the nation," Metcalf said. "We were winning more games on the road than we were at home. The crowd was just too nice."

Through the years crowd behavior has become sufficiently intimidating, Metcalf said.

"I think throwing the book is wonderful," Metcalf said. "That's good bull. I don't see how one can get hurt by a piece of paper."

Metcalf said he didn't see more unruly incidents that occurred in G. Rollie White Col-

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For more information, contact the Student Government office in the Pavilion room 222.

Sponsored by Alpha Phi Omega, Omega Phi Alpha and Student Government

February 24, 25, 26 and 27

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10-6 p.m.

Commons
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Pavilion
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February 20

8:00pm
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February 21
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