

Big games a playground for Ags' Crite

By CHAREAN WILLIAMS
Assistant Sports Editor

The Southwest Conference Post-Season Classic is Texas A&M forward Winston Crite's private playground.

Crite was named to his third straight SWC all-tournament team Monday.

Men's Basketball

In the Aggies' three tourney games last weekend, the 6-foot-7 junior scored 52 points (20-of-26 from the field, 12-of-14 from the line) and pulled down 26 rebounds.

"I think if you check the stats, I play well in the all the big games," Crite said. "I seem to get tough when it counts. Somehow, I seem to play better against the big guys in this conference."

Following the regular season, Crite was left off every All-SWC team despite being near the top of the conference standings with 12.9 points and 7.8 rebounds a game.

But in Saturday's 55-47 win over Texas, Crite got some satisfaction and perhaps proved a point to his critics. He teamed with A&M center Jimmie Gilbert to stop the SWC's Offensive Player of the Year, UT's John Brownlee, cold.

Crite snagged Brownlee's missed dunks, botched lay ups and bad passes and converted them to points for the Aggies.

While Brownlee went 2-of-10 from the field, scoring a season-low six points, Crite went 7-of-8 and scored 15.

"What can you say?" Crite said. "I guess (Brownlee) deserved it based upon what he did in the regular season. But the tournament is different. The tournament is a whole new season."

However, the 11th SWC tourney didn't end the way Crite and the rest of the Aggies had hoped.

Texas Tech gave A&M a 67-63 knot on the chin in the championship game Sunday afternoon to earn the SWC's automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament.

The Aggies, with their 20-11 record and regular-season tri-championship, expected to get an at-large bid to the nation's most prestigious tournament.

But it was not to be.

"We really did think we would get a bid," Crite said. "The selection committee apparently felt our conference just wasn't that strong this year. It's kind of funny. I think there should be a rule that says that at least two teams from every conference get to go (to the NCAAs)."

The National Invitational Tournament picked up A&M and three other SWC teams (TCU, Texas and SMU). It will be A&M's second straight appearance in the 32-team field.

"You have to be a little bit down," Crite said. "It really bothered us not to get the bid. We just have to go out and try to improve our record and end the season on a good note."

"We feel like we should have already earned some respect, so now



A&M's Winston Crite (21) gets a backward dunk over Arkansas' Eric Poerschke (52) in Friday's SWC tournament game. A&M will play its first-round NIT game Thursday night in Wyoming.

Photo by DEAN SAITO

we're just playing for ourselves." And playing for a trip to the NIT's Final Four in New York City. "If we get to the finals, that would be a thrill," Crite said.

But to get to Madison Square Garden, the Aggies must win three games in a row, beginning with

Thursday's first round encounter at hostile Wyoming.

"We can't go into the game down like we were last year," Crite said. "If we don't want our season to be over with, we have to be ready. We have to pull together for one last effort."

Which won't be easy since the Ag-

gies so desperately wanted a NCAA bid.

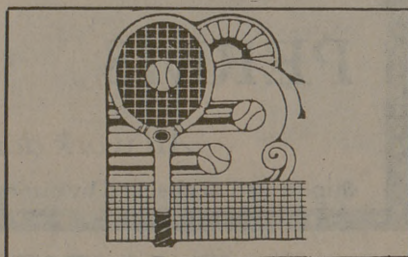
"You can't get over that feeling (that the NIT is second class)," he said. "Since there are 64 teams in the NCAA Tournament, the team that wins the NIT can only say it's the 65th-best team in the country."

A&M to host 2-day tennis workshop

By CAROLYN VEIGA
Reporter

If your plans for spring break this year entail spending the week in the exotic metropolis of Bryan-College Station, then consider brushing up on the old backhand and participating in a tennis workshop being held Friday and Saturday at Texas A&M.

Jan Baldwin, tennis coordinator of A&M's physical education department and member of the United States Tennis Association, said that she began the clinic at A&M last year to help those interested in improving their tennis skills and knowledge



of the game.

Baldwin said the program is open to everyone and beginners are welcome.

"The program gives a lot of infor-

mation that you won't always have access to," Baldwin said. "Since the activity in P.E. classes are done in such a short time, students don't have enough time to play and learn proper skills."

The two-day workshop begins Friday, from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. in 351 G. Rollie White Coliseum and 274 Read Building, and continues Saturday, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Omar Smith Tennis Center.

Instruction will be presented through films, slides, indoor practice skills and outdoor court play.

Steve Smith, director of the Tennis Technology program at Tyler Junior College and a member of the advisory staff for Tennis magazine, will head the clinic along with nine other instructors.

The cost of the A&M tennis workshop is \$10 and applications are available in 216 G. Rollie White. Applications will also be available at the door before Friday night's clinic.

"The purpose of this workshop is to conduct a high quality clinic at a minimal cost so everyone can benefit," Baldwin said.



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