

# Sports

## Lady Ags face tough tests in Dial Classic tournament

By Doug Hall  
Sports Writer

As if final exams weren't enough to worry about this weekend, the Texas A&M women's basketball team opens the Dial Classic women's basketball tournament tonight at the California State-Long Beach site against three teams which last year combined for 74 victories against 19 losses.

Not the ideal place for a struggling 2-3 A&M team.

The Dial Classic is a month-long series of four-team tournaments hosted by 11 different campuses across the nation. The Lady Aggies first game is tonight at 6:00 against Montana State and will be followed by Cal State-Long Beach versus the Arkansas Lady Razorbacks.

Montana State, though it has struggled through a 3-2 start, returns several key players off of last year's 23-6 team, including leading scorer Tracy Hill, a 5-11 freshman forward.

A&M Head Coach Lynn Shelton is well aware of the week-end's competition and is hoping it will give her team some experience against quality opponents.

"This is a really good tournament with a lot of tough teams," Hickey said. "Montana State hasn't started off real well this year, but they're still a good team. If we get by them, then we have (2-4) Arkansas or (4-1) Cal State Long Beach which is seventh in the nation right now. It is really good experience for us. It's about time for us to play a good team. We're due a good tournament."

Hickey said this is the first year the Lady Aggies have been invited to the tournament and that he was surprised to find out Arkansas was playing at the same site.

They (tournament directors) called this summer and said we were short a team," Hickey said. "We didn't know Arkansas

was going to be at the same site. It's usually not good for teams from the same conference to play in preseason, but they put us on opposite sides of the bracket."

If she had her preference, however, Hickey would like to see her team take on the 7th-ranked 49ers from Cal State-Long Beach whose only loss in five games this season came at the hands of No. 1 Texas.

"I hope we get to play Long Beach," Hickey said. "The purpose of the preseason is to see

some other good teams around the country.

"Our first problem though is Montana State. We need another win to get our confidence back. We don't want to look ahead, but just play one game at a time."

Hickey also said that although the Lady Aggies are trying to bounce back from last weekend's disappointing 83-79 loss to Nebraska, the entire team is healthy for the first time since practice started.

## Ags hope to slow quick Nebraska

By Homer Jacobs  
Sports Editor

Texas A&M basketball Coach Shelby Metcalf said he wanted to have a pre-finals bash for all Aggies, complete with punch and cookies at Sunday's A&M-University of Nebraska game at G. Rollie White Coliseum.

But when his elaborate plans fell through, Metcalf resorted to asking Aggie fans to come out at 2 p.m. at least to take a break from studying.

"When finals come, they'll (students) have an alert mind and a relaxed body," Metcalf said.

A&M students may have a relaxed mind and body, but the Texas Aggie basketball team probably will have one big headache.

A&M, 3-1, takes on a small, quick, three-point bomb squad from Nebraska that could run circles around the taller, less mobile Aggie big men.

"They got a lot more three-point shooters than we have," Metcalf said.

The head bombardier for the Cornhuskers is 6-0 guard Brian Carr, who averages 18.5 points per game. He'll likely share offensive output with 6-2 forward Anthony Bailous, who also pours in 18.5 points a contest.

Forward Bill Jackman (6-8) is the only Nebraska starter over 6-4.

Metcalf said he's still in search of a true center to anchor the Aggies' inside game.

"We need to have somebody come through at the center position," he said.

A&M assistant coach John Thornton said the team's overall defense must improve if the Aggies are to negate the quickness of the Cornhuskers.

"Everybody is going to have to play team defense," Thornton said. "Our post defense is going to have to be really better than it has been."

The Aggies will take a break for finals after Sunday's game, before resuming play at the Kentucky Invitational Dec. 19-20 in Lexington, Ky.

## Paper reports Murray received cash illegally

From staff and wire reports

A Dallas firm allegedly paid Texas A&M quarterback Kevin Murray more than \$3,000 for work he never did, two former employees of the firm told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram Wednesday. The payments would be in violation of National Collegiate Athletic Association rules if Murray did not actually perform the duties.

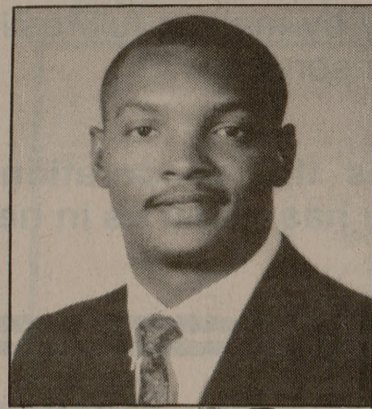
In a copyright story, the newspaper said that Murray received at least 11 checks totaling \$3,550 between January 1983 and January 1984 from Venture Properties Inc., a Dallas firm owned by Rod Dockery, who has close ties to A&M.

Dockery has said Murray was paid for cleaning printing presses at the firm, but a former employee says the work was not performed by Murray.

A&M President Dr. Frank Vandiver issued a statement, saying the allegations were essentially the same as the ones reported about a year ago.

"In any event, I see no useful purpose is served in commenting on such reports. We are well aware of the basic allegations, and so is the NCAA," Vandiver said.

The Battalion contacted A&M Coach Jackie Sherrill Thursday, but



Kevin Murray

he would not comment on the allegations.

The Star-Telegram said it has obtained copies of the checks. Mike Swan, a lawyer who represents Murray, said the NCAA also has copies of the checks.

The payments would violate NCAA rules under each of the following circumstances: if Murray was paid in excess of the going rate for work he performed; if Murray did

not work; or if Murray worked while school was in session.

Judy Nelson and Reggie Oakley, the former employees, said Murray did not clean printing presses and was paid in excess of the going rate.

Murray, a junior, could lose his eligibility if he is found to have violated NCAA rules, and the A&M football program could also face sanctions.

"It was just unbelievable that he (Dockery) would say that Kevin worked there," said Nelson, who said she was fired by the company.

Nelson said the only time she saw Murray at the company was one time when she was instructed to give him the keys to a company car.

Attempts to reach Dockery by phone and in person were rebuffed by his office workers.

Murray would not comment unless Sherrill gave permission, the A&M sports information office said.

The allegations against Murray were reported last year, but no punitive action has been taken by the NCAA.

Efforts to reach Swan Tuesday and Wednesday were unsuccessful.

## Sputtering Cowboys face Eagles

IRVING (AP) — The Dallas Cowboys try to shake out of their worst slump in 21 years on Sunday against the lowly Philadelphia Eagles who have yet to win an NFC Eastern Division game.

The Cowboys, who have had a winning record for 20 consecutive years, plunged to a 7-7 record after a 6-2 start.

The Eagles, 17-14 losers to the Cowboys in October, are 4-9-1 and 0-6 in the division under new coach Buddy Ryan who predicted Philadelphia would win them all.

The Eagles have 21 players with three years' experience or less.

Dallas Coach Tom Landry said the Eagles "have good, young players. They will have to be reckoned with in the future."

The Cowboys are nurturing distant hopes for the NFL playoffs.

They have to beat Philadelphia and Chicago then hope San Francisco loses twice and Minnesota loses once.

The six-point underdog Eagles may have to go without quarterback Randall Cunningham, who injured the thumb on his passing hand in last Sunday's 10-10 overtime tie with St. Louis.

Matt Cavanaugh was set to replace

Cunningham. The Eagles signed Kyle Mackey as a backup.

The only game Cavanaugh has started this year was in an earlier 17-14 loss to Dallas on Rafael Septien's 38-yard field goal with two seconds left.

Landry has indicated he might use Reggie Collier Sunday if starter Steve Pelluer flounders against the Eagles.

The Cowboys are in jeopardy of suffering their first losing season in 22 years.

The Eagles are 2-13 in Texas Stadium and have lost six of their last seven games to the Cowboys.

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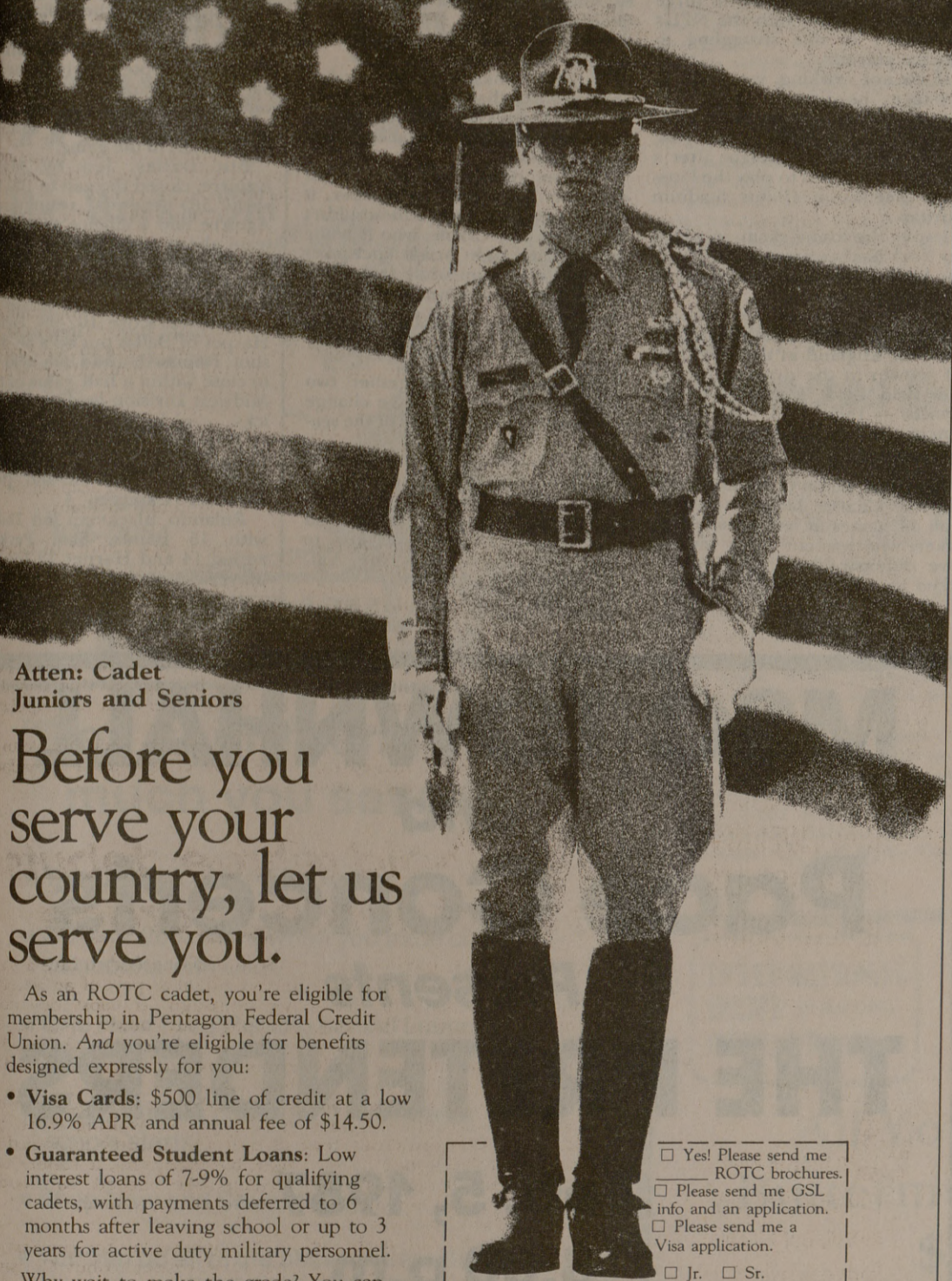
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