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From the Bleachers

Shelby's the problem

SPORTS EDITOR:
Jerry Bolz and his column on Jan. 31 called for more patience from us concerning Texas A&M Basketball Coach Shelby Metcalf, the grey fox. On the surface, Jerry seems to know what he is talking about. However, I can say with confidence that the Texas A&M student body, faculty and basketball program have been patient enough for the last 25 years.

Metcalf consistently fails to call the crucial timeouts in big games. A&M's four-point loss to Houston is a prime example.

After an incredible performance by the team, we found ourselves down by only two points with less than two minutes and the ball!

Even though Shelby had timeouts to work with, he failed to use even one, and we turned the ball over as our offense operated in total disarray, causing us to lose the game.

Jerry also mentioned Metcalf's problems in recruiting. But the main problem is Metcalf himself. A&M has been successful in acquiring talented players, but Shelby keeps running them off the team.

Last year, a big 6-10 forward had his differences with Metcalf and quit. He was one of the top scorers at San Jacinto Junior College (which is always number one in the nation).

This year, A&M recruited Tony Owens of Oklahoma. Before the season started he led all A&M scorers in every scrimmage. He also quit because of Metcalf. Ironically enough, A&M recruited Tony away from none other than Villanova!

If you've ever wondered why Texas A&M is at the bottom of the Southwest Conference with Rice, now you know. Until we get a big-time coach, we will not have a big-time basketball team.

Erik Stapper '90

Letters to the editor should not exceed 300 words in length. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit letters for style and length, but will make every effort to maintain the author's intent. Each letter must be signed and must include the classification, address and telephone number of the writer.

Mavs could stand Aguirre-less squad

It's time the Dallas Mavericks took a hard look at themselves and their future because the wheels have definitely fallen off the wagon.

They were practically 0-for-January; suffered their worst home loss to the Lakers (I think the Lakers are back from winter vacation now); guard Rolando Blackmon is gone for three weeks with a finger injury; sixth man Roy Tarpley is in a drug rehabilitation center and Mark Aguirre wants to be traded — again.

I like the last one, trade him and do it now.

Center James Donaldson was quoted this week as saying "You haven't heard the word 'elite' thrown around here in a long time," and he couldn't have been more correct in that assumption. The Mavericks are a prime example of what can happen when a team loses its team unity, begins to feel the heat from the media and ultimately loses much of its fan support. Same song, second team for Dallas.

Part of that problem might lie on the shoulders of Aguirre.

There is no doubt that Mark Aguirre is a superstar in the NBA, he was one of the first in a long line of productive draft choices that has made the Mavericks one of the strongest franchises in the league. But through all his success, he has never impressed me as being much of a team player.

His early run-in's with coach Dick Motta were well documented.

Granted, Motta is not a yes man when it comes to dealing with players and he might have been too stubborn in dealing with Aguirre, but he did what he had to do. Motta did make his share of concessions to Aguirre, but could you blame him?

He quickly became of the hottest players in the NBA and was beginning to put people in the seats at Reunion Arena, which hadn't seen large crowds since the circus or



Steven Merritt Assistant Sports Editor

Marymount scores 181 to break scoring record

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Loyola Marymount and U.S. International scored two points every 14 1/2 seconds. A shot went up every 11 seconds. Loyola won 181-150, and a point was scored for every eight fans at the Lions' Gersten Pavilion.

Those 2,661 saw one crazy game. So crazy that the official scorer wrote "Whew!!!" at the bottom of the shot chart.

It was the highest scoring college game ever, breaking five NCAA records for offense and ending a home-and-home series during which 637 points were scored.

Loyola broke the 100-point barrier Tuesday night on an 8-foot jumper by Enoch Simmons with just 56 seconds gone in the second half, and Coach Paul Westhead said: "In a game like this, we can get in excess of 200 points."

The 331 total points in the game broke the record of 306 that Loyola and U.S. International set on Jan. 7 when the Lions beat the Gulls 162-144.

AC/DC concerts.

So the feud died down for awhile, but the personalities involved weren't going to keep it that way.

The second round between Motta and Aguirre didn't end as smoothly. Accusations were traded. Aguirre even went after Motta in a game. Somebody had to go.

Motta did, but not exclusively because of Aguirre, he said. I think it should have been the other way around.

Then the new guy came to town — John MacLeod. He was laid back, soft-spoken, easy to get along with, but a stern coach nonetheless.

Aguirre was pleased. He wouldn't cause anymore trouble. Sure. Here we go again.

Aguirre was hot last season, but his production so far this year is nowhere close, and the bickering has begun again.

Here is where the leadership qualities are absent in Mark Aguirre, when the team needs them most.

This is a time when a player needs to step forward and bring the team together, not just by setting an example with his playing ability, but off the court as well.

Aguirre isn't doing that now, he's just making the situation worse by making excuses. He is one of the few people on the Dallas team that can unify the players. But, unless he changes his attitude, he, and the ballclub, will be better off if he finds another team.

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