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Spurs fans loyal through the good, the bad and the ugly

It is said that life is full of many highs and lows, ups and downs, peaks and troughs ... the list goes on. Yet we are blessed with the ability to deal with these changes and wait patiently for the highs to come along after so many lows.

Such is the case in the ever-so-popular world of sports. We all have our favorite team and as loyal fans, we've watched it change for better or worse over the years.

At one time, our favorite team was at the rock-bottom of its league, but we went to the games or watched them on TV anyway. After all, the ticket lines were short and the aggravation we sustained watching the helpless band of glutinous self-destruct somehow gave us a release from our own problems.

Besides, better days and a pool of first-round draft choices were ahead of us.

Then one season the long wait is over. A team of new faces takes the field or court and suddenly things are coming up roses. As loyal fans we marvel at each touchdown pass, are dazed by each slam dunk, and rejoice with each home run. We see crazy fans paint their faces team colors.

The stadium wave actually becomes fun, while the "Hey-hey" song vibrates the walls of the arena. Our team is labeled "the Cinderella story of the league." The only problem is we can't get tickets to the game anymore.

Case in point — the San Antonio Spurs.

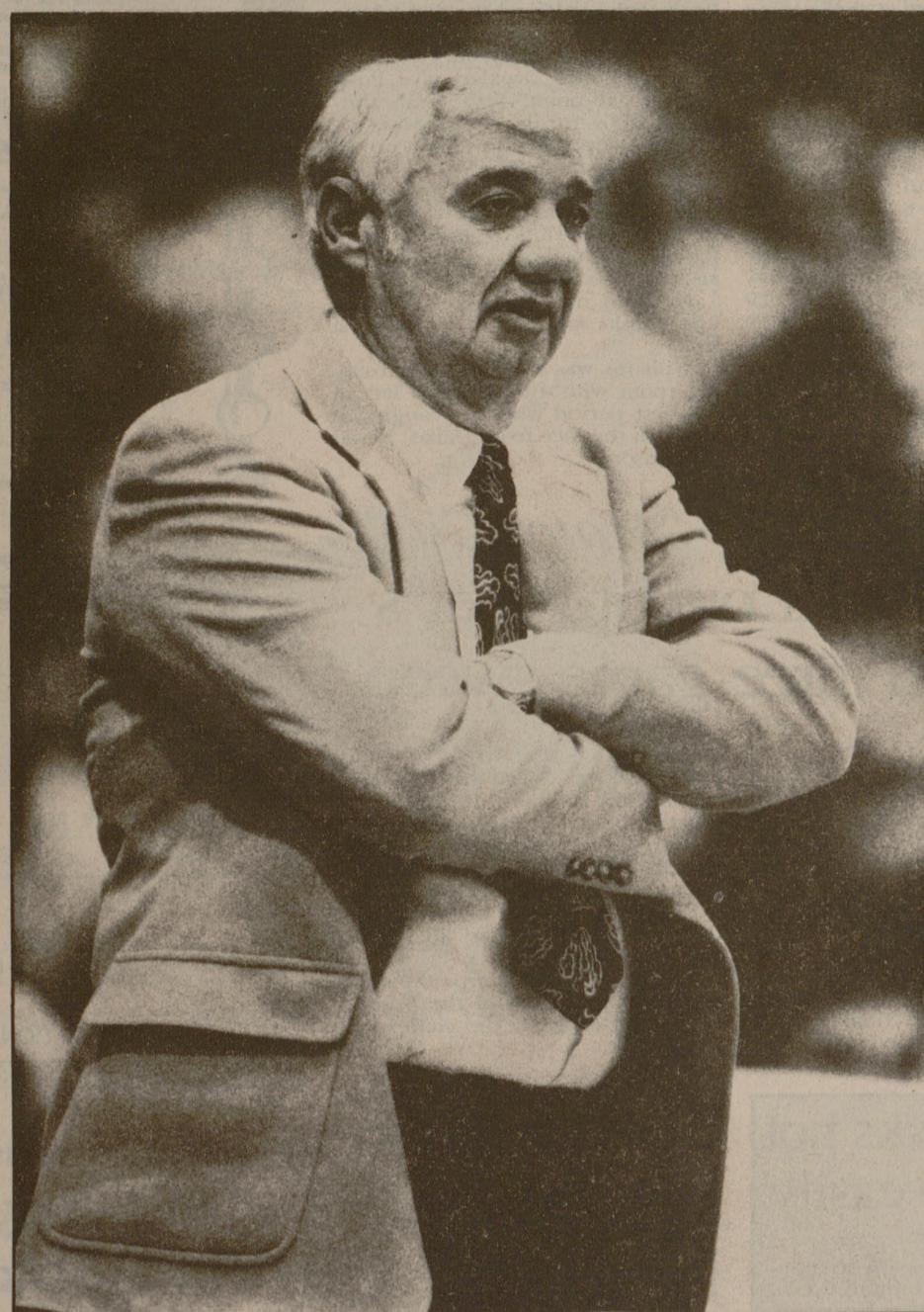
Many San Antonians remember the days when the Spurs were fighting for division and conference titles. That was over seven years ago and the team seemed the falter more every year since. Spurs' fans witnessed the performance of sub-par players, scoffed at team trades, coaching changes, and even pleaded for divine intervention. All in a day's work for faithful fans.

Now it is exhilarating to see a team turn around the way the Spurs have. They improved 35 games this season on the shoulders of one Navy ensign and a fleet of young faces, not to mention a city full of ecstatic Spurs' fans now reaping the rewards of a long wait.

After the Spurs captured the Midwest Division title in the final game of the season, nearly every one of the 16,000 fans present stood at their seats after the final buzzer and cheered fanatically for 30 minutes. They chanted the players' names, stomped their feet, and celebrated the reality of the event until the champagne-soaked players returned.

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A&M reassigned Metcalf



Battalion file photo by M. Mulvey

Former A&M basketball coach Shelby Metcalf was reassigned to head up an outreach program in East and Central Texas for at-risk young people.

From Staff and Wire Reports

It's taken a little more than three months, but former Texas A&M basketball coach Shelby Metcalf has been reassigned, the University announced Tuesday.

Metcalf, who was removed as coach by Athletic Director John David Crow in January, accepted President William H. Mobley's invitation to assume responsibilities for developing an outreach program in East and Central Texas for at-risk young people.

Metcalf's title is senior representative for University relations, a position that will be affiliated with the Office of School Relations.

"I appreciate the confidence that Dr. Mobley is demonstrating in me by giving me this opportunity to serve the University that I love, and to continue my association with young people," Metcalf said.

The outreach program was created two years ago in cooperation with the University of Texas to establish minority-oriented outreach centers in key metropolitan areas of the state.

The program has centers in Dallas, Houston, San Antonio and McAllen, and others are scheduled to open soon in Corpus Christi and Austin.

A&M's portions of the program are run by the Office of School Relations.

"With Dr. Metcalf's help, we will now expand A&M's outreach efforts into an area not covered by our cooperative program, but one that certainly deserves our attention," Mobley said.

Mobley announced the appointment after several sessions in which he, other members of the University staff and Metcalf explored ways in which the former Aggie coach could continue to provide service to A&M.

Metcalf served A&M for 32 years, including the last 27 as the Aggies' head coach. He compiled a 438-306 record at A&M, and holds Southwest Conference records for most seasons and most games.

He earned his doctorate in philosophy from A&M in 1974.

"Dr. Metcalf's ability to work with young people will be a valuable asset in the University's expanding efforts to encourage junior and senior high school students to finish high school and pursue further educational opportunities that are consistent with their interests and abilities," Mobley said.

"Dr. Metcalf is a valued member of our University community, and he will add unique strength to our outreach program."

Lady Aggies sign Blinn's Fasnacht for '90 season

From Staff and Wire Reports

The Texas A&M women's basketball team continued to rebuild its forces Tuesday with the signing of guard Jennifer Fasnacht from Blinn College in Brenham.

The junior from Austin is the third player to sign with the Lady Aggies this spring, joining Shawn Medlock from Waco's McClellan Community College and Beth Burkett from Jourdanton High School.

"Jennifer is an excellent competitor and a proven leader who will give us needed depth at the guard position," said A&M head coach Lynn Hickey in a statement released by the University's Sports Information Department. "She's a strong leader as well as a good student."

"She's the type of student-athlete that we want at Texas A&M."

Fasnacht will be reunited with former Blinn teammate Yvonne Hill. At Blinn, Hill and Fasnacht combined forces to lead the Lady Bucs to a 24-10 record, a conference and regional championship and a berth in the junior college national tournament.

"Jennifer and Yvonne were a great duo at Blinn," Hickey said. "I hope they can create the same kind of chemistry at A&M."

Fasnacht received all-conference recognition both her freshman and sophomore year at Blinn. She averaged 7.2 points, 8.3 assists, and 4.3 rebounds.

Wayne Williams, Blinn College head basketball coach, said in addition to her intangible skills, Fasnacht's greatest asset could be her intangible skills.

"She has tremendous dedication to the game," Williams said. "She is a very intense worker and a great competitor, particularly when the game is on the line."

With the signing of Fasnacht, the Lady Aggies completed their recruiting for the 1990-91 season.

"We feel that we've got some quality players coming in," Hickey said. "The two junior college guards should be able to help us immediately."

Hickey also said that Terri Jo Bartlett, redshirted last year, has the ability to dominate the SWC.

"Nobody in the SWC is going to sign anybody that big or that good," Hickey said. "These players are good, solid additions, both athletically and academically, to the young group that we've got coming back this season."

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been out of the game," Floyd said. "We've got players who can play with anyone, whether he is in or out of the game."

James Worthy led the Lakers with 26 points. Magic Johnson had 17 points, but none in the fourth quarter.

"We shouldn't force up shots like we did that their double-team coaxed us into," Johnson said. "Tonight, they made the plays they needed to offensively and defensively in the last five minutes."

"We have to play 48 minutes, not 40 minutes."

Lakers coach Pat Riley agreed with his star.

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