

A&M basketball suffers setbacks

Aggies lose star center

By DOUGLAS PILS
Of The Battalion Staff

The Texas A&M men's basketball team suffered a serious setback to its rebuilding program Tuesday when it was announced that starting center David Harris would be leaving the A&M basketball program.

Harris failed to meet NCAA academic requirements.

A&M head coach Kermit Davis Jr., who is out of town recruiting, was unavailable for comment.

Davis told the Dallas Morning News that Harris missed some tutoring sessions and the Aggies were trying to find him a spot at an NAIA or a Division II school.

Harris, who was the SWC's leading shot blocker last season, was slated to be the big man in the paint for the Aggies next year. Now, with his departure, the team is left without a legitimate center.

Harris averaged 10.9 points and 7.8 rebounds for the Aggies last season. He led the Southwest Conference with an average of 3.5 blocks.

The addition of three new forwards may help alleviate that problem.

Maurice Sanders, a 6-6, 230 pound forward from Marshall University, Shedrick Anderson from Delgado Junior College and Anthony Ware from Central Florida

Community College have said they will transfer to A&M.

Coming from another Division I school, Sanders is the biggest addition to the team. He will be able to play immediately because Marshall is currently on NCAA probation.

"He's a solid guy who will help us with our inside defense," Davis said. "He will probably play power forward for us."

"Coach Davis told me that I will be playing forward," Sanders said. "I'll be there playing hard every night. I like to bang around and mix it up in the paint going for rebounds."

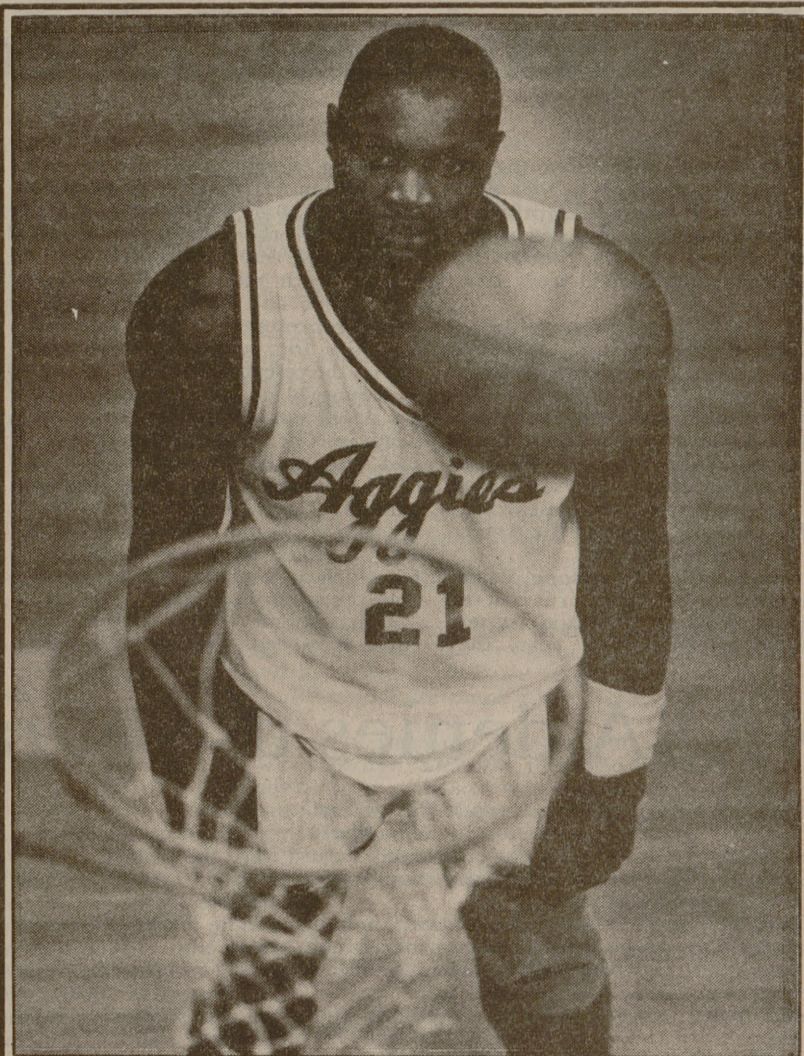
Sanders, who averaged 8.1 points and 6.5 rebounds while starting in 25 of Marshall's 28 games, has one year of eligibility left. He comes to A&M in the wake of some trouble of his own.

Sanders and two Marshall teammates were recently kicked out of school for a year for disruptive behavior.

Sanders was arrested in April for allegedly hitting a woman but charges were later dropped. The university would not say if the incident had anything to do with their decision.

The Aggies will need all the help they can muster in their 1990-91 campaign. After a tumultuous year that saw A&M go through two coaches, the Aggies hope Davis can give some stability to a shaky program.

Without a true big man on the roster, Coach Davis will need steady play from his forwards and Sanders said he hopes to fill that need.



Battalion file photo

Texas A&M center David Harris, named to the SWC All-New-comer team, is leaving A&M because of academic problems.

Pitching drives AL past NL, 2-0

CHICAGO (AP) — In the year of the no-hitter, not even rain could dampen American League pitching at the All-Star game.

The Nationals were held to record-low two hits and Julio Franco followed a 68-minute rain delay with a two-run double in the seventh Tuesday night that led the Americans to a 2-0 victory, their third straight and fourth in five years.

Never before had an All-Star team been held below three hits until Bob Welch, Dave Stieb, Bret Saberhagen, Bobby Thigpen, Chuck Finley and Dennis Eckersley combined to do it, giving the Americans their longest winning streak since 1946-49. It was the Americans' first shut-out since 1946.

The good pitching was helped by bad weather. Intermittent showers delayed the start of the game for 17 minutes, and a 16 mph wind blowing in from center field knocked down every fly ball. Franco's double off Rob Dibble came three pitches after play had resumed in the seventh.

For at least one game, Wrigley Field, known as a hitters' park, was a pitchers' paradise. And once again, after an OK afternoon in Chicago, playing at night turned out to be a bad idea.

The first night game ever sched-

"Roger Craig said he was going to manage like it's the seventh game of the World Series"

—Jack Armstrong, NL Starting Pitcher

uled for Wrigley Field in 1988 was rained out, and some traditionalists said it was revenge for putting in lights and tampering with the old ballpark. The first night game this season also was washed away; rain won't be a problem at next year's All-Star game, at Toronto's SkyDome.

Managers Tony La Russa of the AL and Roger Craig of the NL both said before it began that this was more than an exhibition, and they each played it that way. Intentional walks, pitchouts, stolen bases and even a brushback to Jose Canseco marked the game as Craig made the right moves, but got the same result as in last year's World Series against La Russa.

The AL, the league of no-hitters this year, also turned out to have the best hitters. Five of the six no-hitters

in the majors have been in the American, although the only pitcher on the AL roster with one — Randy Johnson — did not pitch.

Will Clark's line-drive single to center field with two outs in the first and Len Dykstra's leadoff single in the ninth was all the Nationals could muster. They had only two other runners, walks to pinch-hitter Tony Gwynn in the third and Barry Bonds in the eighth, a span of 16 batters.

The Americans managed only seven hits off a record nine pitchers, and it was enough.

Jeff Brantley, who retired Cecil Fielder on a fly ball with the bases loaded to end the sixth, gave up singles to Sandy Alomar, who slid into first base to beat shortstop Shawn Dunston's long throw, and Lance Parrish to start the seventh.

With the rain coming down harder, the umpires stopped the game. When it resumed, Dibble relieved and Franco hit an 0-2 pitch up the right-center field alley.

Franco later was thrown out at the plate by right fielder Darryl Strawberry, trying to score on Canseco's fly ball. And in the eighth, Franco flied out to Strawberry with the bases loaded to end the inning, but he already had done enough damage.

Lawmakers try to legislate conference unity

AUSTIN (AP) — Two San Angelo lawmakers say they plan to sponsor a bill in the 1991 Legislature that would force public schools that bolt the Southwest Conference for another conference without SWC approval to forfeit half of their television and radio revenue to the state treasury forever.

The penalty would apply to the University of Texas at Austin, Texas A&M University, Texas Tech University and the University of Houston.

Sen. Bill Sims and Rep. Robert Junell, both Texas Tech graduates, were upset by reports that several SWC schools are considering joining other conferences, the Austin American-Statesman reported Tuesday.

"The people of the state finance these schools, if not their athletics programs," said Junell, 43, a former football linebacker at Texas Tech. "We have a stake in this. If Arkansas wants to go, I hope the door doesn't slap them on the rear on the way out."

Cowboys' coach demands result, requires workouts

IRVING, Texas (AP) — Time off shouldn't really be time off, believes Cowboys coach Jimmy Johnson.

So he is pleased with his team's increased dedication in off-season training.

"All of the players have gone through extensive off-season programs."

When Johnson first took over the team before the 1-15 season of 1989, he wondered where the players were in the off-season.

Only a handful of players, such as Herschel Walker, Jim Jeffcoat, Steve Folsom, Danny White, Tom Rafferty and occasionally Bill Bates stopped by Cowboys facilities to work out. Vince Albritton came by to play racquetball, but most players stayed away.

"I had regular conversations with our people about why we didn't have more players working out," Johnson said.

The coach said he was told that the team didn't have an indoor weight room and they would rather work out at spas and had their own specialized programs.

"Everyone had excuses," Johnson said. "There were even comments from our people like, 'These guys are pros. They're not college players. You can't make them work out.'"

"I was catching enough flak about, 'Hey, we don't do it that way in professional football,'" Johnson said. "I said, 'Oh, OK.' Then we went 1-15. That's when I said, 'Hey, this is the way we're going to do it.'"

Johnson then enclosed the weight

room and had it air conditioned. He hired Mike Woicik as new strength and conditioning coach, began paying players to work out and dangled attendance bonuses.

It all made a dramatic difference. That difference may be showing up in some individual players, too.

Defensive lineman Danny Noonan is a shining example. He has earned the praise of Johnson and Woicik. Noonan has been among the team leaders for 20-yard times. He bench-pressed 440 pounds. And despite his 270-pound size, he has increased his vertical leap to 36 inches.

New receiver Alexander Wright leads 40-yard times with a 4.25 while running back Keith Jones was next at 4.31.

Tackle Mark Tuinei was tops in the bench press with 475 pounds, followed by end Walter Johnson's 460-pound effort.

Johnson said Monday that the average number of players from the team's 84-man roster jumped from about 6 to about 65 with more than 70 players attending some days.

"I emphasized time and time again that the guys who are going to make the club are going to be the ones who work," he said. "I think I got my point across."

"Buck Buchanan, who's been with the Cowboys a long time (16 years as equipment manager), says he's never seen a team work as hard as this group this off-season," Johnson said. "A guy like Buck is not going to say something like that just because somebody wants to hear it."

Hogs take next step toward SEC merger

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. (AP) — Academic and athletic department personnel at the University of Arkansas are answering a list of questions submitted by the Southeastern Conference, the UA chancellor says.

The questions, received Monday, marked the first contact between the conference and the university since Arkansas officials told SEC Commissioner Roy Kramer more than three weeks ago that they were interested in listening to the SEC's expansion ideas, UA Chancellor Dan Ferritor said.

"It's a pretty basic request for information," Ferritor said. "It's mostly questions on the governing of the university. There are questions concerning the Board of Trustees, expenditure levels, admissions standards. I thought it was a good solid set of questions that anyone interested in Arkansas would want to ask."

Ferritor said he relayed some of the questions to members of the academic staff and others were sent to the athletic department.

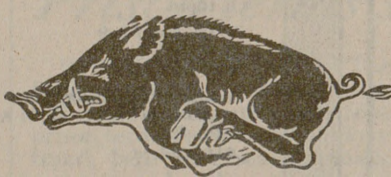
The questions were basic, UA Athletic Director Frank Broyles said. "If you were making a self study of our athletic department, you would ask those questions," Broyles said.

"There were questions about the general size of our budget, the size of our coaching staffs, the number of scholarships in all sports, our revenue stream, cost of all sports, ex-

penditures of all sports, salaries for all sports," Broyles said. "They're all along that line. It was exactly what we expected."

Ferritor said the questions would be given prompt attention. "We hope to have it done as soon as possible. We're certainly not going to sit on it," he added.

Arkansas is a charter member of the Southwest Conference and is a long way from making a move to the Southeastern Conference, Broyles said last week.



"It's not a done deal. Not anywhere near a done deal," Broyles said of the SEC's recent overtures to Arkansas.

Broyles said he believes any negotiations with the SEC would occur later rather than sooner because so much is involved.

"The next move is up to the SEC, and that is as it should be," he said. "When they feel they have something to talk to us about, a meeting will be set up."

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