

Young teams need a big brother for guidance on court

The NBA season commences Friday. Most of the teams will be looking to shake the preseason jitters and hit the floor running. But some flat-footed teams will stumble and fall flat on their faces, and have to suffer through a season full of bumps and bruises.

Scott Wudel

When you're young it's only natural to play reckless and get a few bruises. But with the guidance of an older, experienced, brotherly figure, the unfledged can stay out of a lot of trouble.

A prime example of this is the San Antonio Spurs. Their story has been well told but there neighbors in the league haven't quite figured out the gist of the message.

The Spurs were the Dallas Cowboys of the NBA the last few years. The had been digging themselves deeper into a hole each season, but somebody got smart and decided it was time for change.

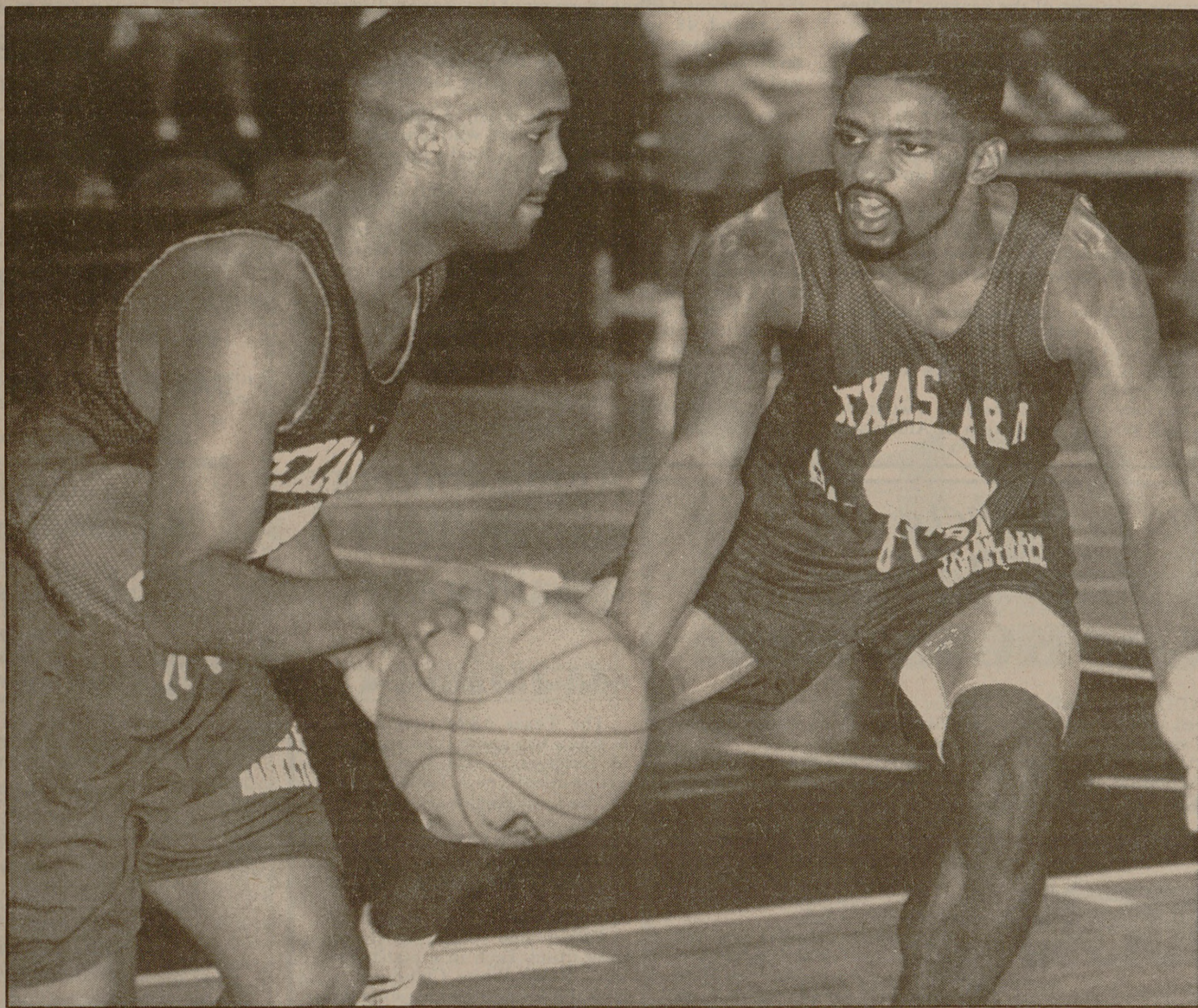
A little luck in getting to draft David Robinson three years ago was just the beginning, and the most celebrated reason for the team's success when he finally put on the Spurs uniform. But when you look deeper, there is a much more important reason for the change in attitude.

With Robinson on the way, management decided it would be a good idea to put four other players on the court with him who really knew how to play the game. Smart.

Through the draft and a few blockbuster trades they put on the court a team that a city could be proud of. The most important element, though, was the addition of veteran Terry Cummings.

A bulky Cummings was a rock of spiritual guidance for a young, gifted team. He joined four other players in the starting lineup that had one year or less NBA experience. His seven previous

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MIKE C. MULVEY/The Battalion

Texas A&M guards David Edwards (left) and Darrin Terry (right) get ready for the coming basketball season. Monday is Meet the Aggies Night at G. Rollie White Coliseum with an exhibition game followed by a photo and autograph session. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and there is no admission charge. Halftime highlights include a celebrity hoops contest.

A&M cornerback named defensive player of week by AP

From Staff and Wire Reports

Texas A&M junior Kevin Smith won The Associated Press Southwest Conference defensive player of the week for the second time this season. Smith was honored for returning two interceptions for touchdowns in a 41-15 victory over Rice.

Smith is now tied with Southern Methodist's Russell Carter and Texas Christian's Ronald Fraley for the SWC record of 18 career interceptions.

Smith's touchdown returns of 35 and 78 yards gave him a SWC record-tying three career touchdown interception returns shared by Houston's Johnny Jackson and Cornelius Price.

Houston quarterback David Klingler joined Smith by earning the AP's offensive player of the week honor. This marks Klingler's second time to be honored as well.

"On a good day, you have such a feeling of confidence," Klingler said. "It's a great feeling to go out there and know you're going to complete the passes."

Klingler had that good feeling enough last week to complete seven touchdown passes in leading the No. 6-ranked Cougars to a 62-28 victory over Arkansas.

Klingler had 473 total yards against the Razorbacks and tied an NCAA record with his sixth 400-yard passing performance of the season. He shares that record with Houston's 1989 Heisman Trophy winner Andre Ware and former Brigham Young quarterback Jim McMahon.

"The greatest thing about this offense is that on a bad day, it only takes three or four drives to win a ball game," Klingler said.

Klingler has been matching Ware's statistics this season and he has a good chance of breaking many of the records since he plans to return in 1991 for his senior season. Ware left after his junior year to become the first-round draft pick of the Detroit Lions.

"I've got more to come back for than Andre did," Klingler said. "We can go undefeated next year and we can play in a bowl."

NCAA probation will keep the Cougars out of a bowl game until next season.

"But Andre took care of his teammates because he knew that I was ready," Klingler said.

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jim favors a student on the A&M board of regents. 	?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jim favors a clean environment, favors deposits on cans & bottles & has been endorsed by the Sierra Club. 	?
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