

• Aggie Basketball 1990-91 •

1990-91 TEXAS A&M BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	(CST) TIPOFF
NOVEMBER		
10	ST. PETERSBURG AAU (exhibition)	8:00 p.m.
16	New Zealand National Team (exhibition)	7:30 p.m.
23-24	<i>Bearcat Classic</i> (Cincinnati, Kent State, Sam Houston State)	TBA
28	OKLAHOMA	7:30 p.m.
30-Dec. 1	† <i>Marshall Memorial Classic</i> (Marshall, Robert Morris, Mercer)	TBA
DECEMBER		
12	TEXAS SOUTHERN	7:30 p.m.
17	at Auburn	7:05 p.m.
20	TEXAS COLLEGE	7:30 p.m.
28-29	§ <i>BMA Classic</i>	TBA
JANUARY		
2	at Texas	7:35 p.m.
5	TEXAS TECH	Noon
9	TEXAS CHRISTIAN	7:30 p.m.
12	at Southern Methodist	Noon
14	CENTENARY	8:30 p.m.
19	BAYLOR	Noon
23	at Arkansas	7:30 p.m.
26	at Rice	Noon
29	HOUSTON	7:30 p.m.
FEBRUARY		
3	TEXAS	2 p.m.
6	at Texas Tech	7:30 p.m.
9	at Texas Christian	7:35 p.m.
13	SOUTHERN METHODIST	7:30 p.m.
20	at Baylor	7:30 p.m.
23	ARKANSAS	Noon
27	RICE	7:30 p.m.
MARCH		
2	at Houston	2 p.m.
8-10	§ <i>SWG Postseason Classic</i> (Dallas)	TBA
* — Cincinnati, Ohio † — Huntington, West Virginia § — Kansas City, Missouri		

NOTE: All game times are tentative and subject to change.

Young point guard confident in leadership role

By NADJA SABAWALA
Of The Battalion Staff

Brooks Thompson has had to grow up in a hurry. As a freshman last year, Thompson broke into the starting lineup midway through the season. Then came the turbulence — mounting losses, coaching changes, adversity.

It almost made him give it all up. "I just had a hard time last year with not winning," Thompson said. "I thought about leaving and made some contacts, but when I talked to (head coach Kermit Davis Jr.) about it, I decided to stay."

Now a sophomore, Thompson is being counted on to provide leadership to a young Texas A&M basketball team searching for an identity under a new coach.

Davis, making his A&M coaching debut Saturday in G. Rollie White Coliseum, is trying to revamp Aggie basketball. With just two starters from last year's squad, Davis is placing his trust in the hands of a 20-year-old.

"It's a lot to ask of a sophomore," Davis said, "to take over the leadership role. But he's been mature and working hard day in and day out."

The 6-4, 185-pound Thompson knows he has to be the leader of the "new and improved" A&M team both physically and vocally.

"I've got to make sure everybody and everything goes right," Thompson said. "Last year, I got upset because I couldn't be as vocal. They weren't saying some things I wanted to say and couldn't say."

"I didn't really have a lot of choice in what was going to be done around here, and I still don't, but I just go out and be as vocal and as positive as I can."

Last season, the Littleton, Colo. native averaged 8.3 points per game and saw playing time in all of A&M's 31 games, starting in the last six.

But last year wasn't one of the best for a player fresh out of high school and ready for the challenge of college ball.

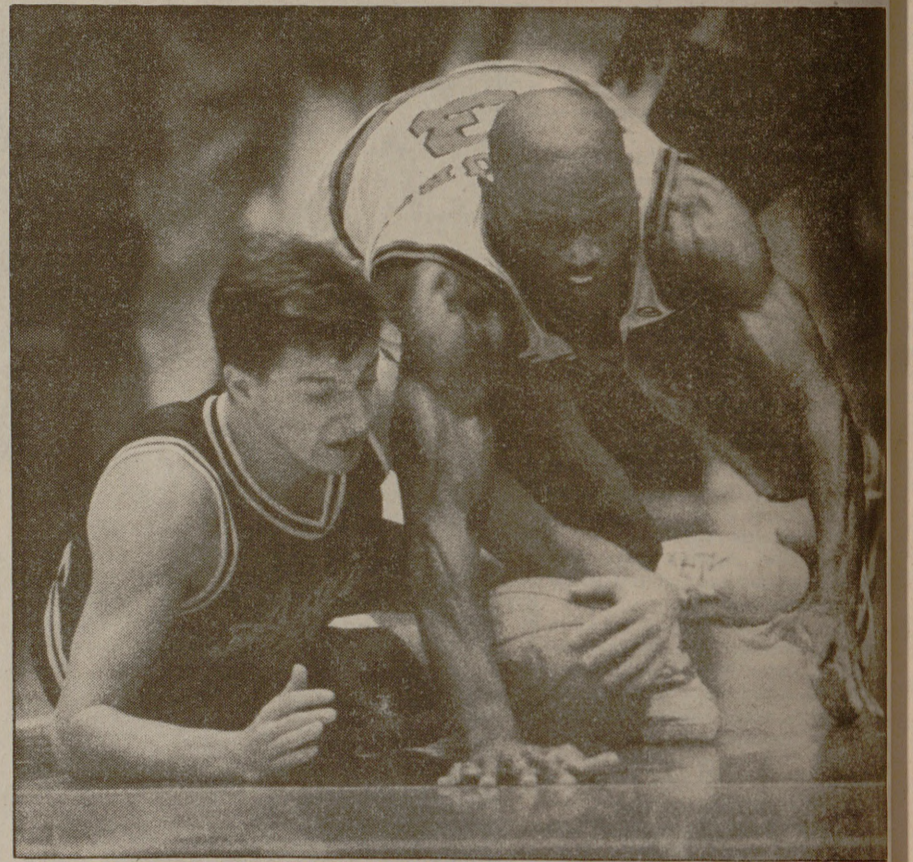
The Aggies' ongoing problem was a lack of marks in the win column. Even a midseason coaching change didn't help the faltering team that ended up 14-17 overall, 7-9 in Southwest Conference play.

"I had a hard time last year with not winning," Thompson said. "It was the first year I didn't win."

Two years ago, Thompson was averaging 28.7 points per game in high school on his way to being named the Colorado Prep Player of the Year. Last year's team problems, added with offseason training, have given Thompson valuable experience and strength going into the 1990-91 schedule.

"I've matured a lot physically from last year," Thompson said. "I've gotten stronger by working hard off-season. I worked a couple of camps, played in a summer league in Colorado and lifted weights."

Thompson said although the present Aggie team has worked together just three weeks, every player is working hard.



Battalion file photo

Texas A&M sophomore Brooks Thompson (left) said he is looking forward to the challenge of leading the young Aggie team from his point guard position.

"We need a lot of work because we're all so new," Thompson said. "We're doing a lot better than we did and we're coming around well."

"When Coach Davis came out here, he had to do a lot of teaching. We worked as hard as we could but it was hard to get everybody where he wanted us."

Playing college basketball has matured Thompson enough for him to receive the nod from Davis for the point guard position. And it's an opportunity Thompson is looking forward to.

"It's going to be my first year of playing point guard," Thompson said. "I didn't play it a lot last year. I think it'll be a hard challenge, but I'm ready."

"It's not all me," Thompson said. "We're all going to have to lead each other if we want to get anywhere."

As point guard, Thompson sets up the offensive attack. He has to know each player's abilities and trust that player's execution.

If A&M hadn't hired Davis, Thompson might have been hitting baskets at another university. Dismayed by the team's perfor-

mance and wondering about his role in a new coach's plans, Thompson considered leaving A&M.

"I was pretty much going to (leave) until I talked to Coach Davis about it," Thompson said. "He told me what he had to offer and I knew what the school had to offer. Like the school and I knew he could come and win, so I decided right then."

As a very physical and intense player, Thompson is excited about the new style of Aggie basketball brought in by Davis.

"It's just an unselfish-type of play," Thompson said. "That's really what he bases it on. I think we'll be successful."

Heading into tomorrow's opening day, the young Thompson is slated as a starter leading the team into its first competition as a unit. Davis said the team has no problem being led by a sophomore and their confidence in him will grow as he grows on the court.

"In college, especially a brand new program, you gain respect by your play and your toughness and your leadership," Davis said. "It doesn't matter whether you're freshman, sophomore, junior or senior."

Sixth Continued from page 7

"Guys could walk-on and then end up playing and getting a scholarship."

The goal of the program, Davis said, is to regain the interest of the student body and to get them excited about coming out to see the games again.

"I think it's a neat deal, if any place can do it, Texas A&M can," he said. "It will be prestigious, and before we're done, this place will be filled, and the new arena will have 12-13,000 people."

Getting people excited may be the No. 1

purpose of this season, Davis said. Winning ballgames will come after the stands are full.

"If anything this year, we've got to get the student body involved with basketball," Davis said. "I think that may be as critical as anything we do. Getting people coming back to games, maybe not imagining the success of our program by the wins or losses, but going to the games, making it an event they don't want to miss."

Pictures for the Aggieland

are being taken
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Saturday, December 1 — 8:00 P.M.

SPECIAL ADDED ATTRACTION!

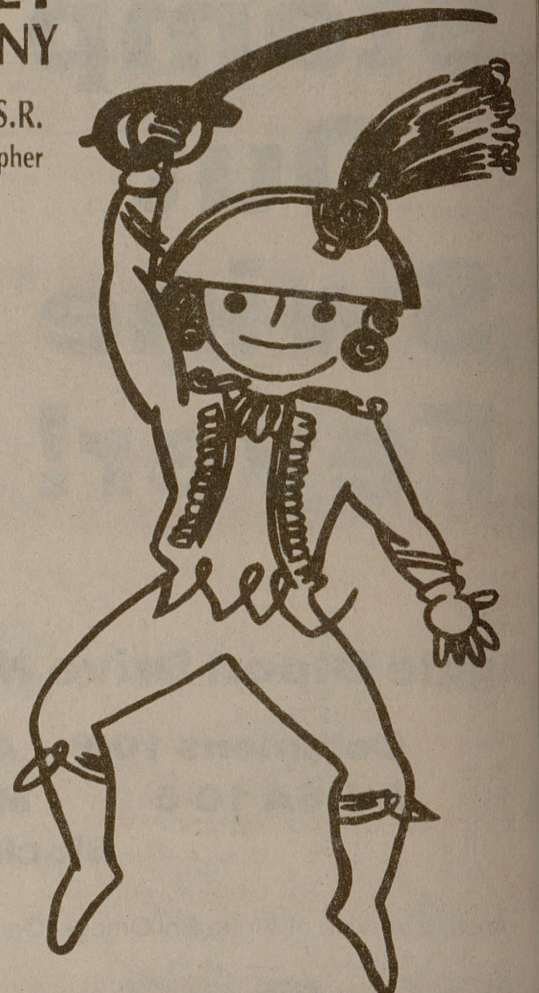
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