

Aggie basketballers to face TSU tonight

From Staff and Wire Reports

The Texas A&M basketball team will hit the court again tonight after a long break.

The Aggies (2-8) will host Texas Southern University (2-5) at 7:30 in G. Rollie White Coliseum. The game will be shown on a tape delayed basis at 10:30 on Home Sports Entertainment.

A&M has been idle for over a week. The Aggies defeated Mercer University 72-65 in the consolation game of the Marshall Memorial Classic on Dec. 1.

Coach Kermit Davis Jr. says the Aggies have tried to remain competitive during the break.

"It's always difficult when you have 8-10 days off and your trying to practice during final exams," Davis said.

"Our players have handled it well and we've practiced hard with a lot of game simulation."

"We've tried to get as much out of our scrimmages as possible."

Davis said TSU is the most athletic and physical team the Aggies have faced since they played Oklahoma.

He says A&M will have to offset the Tigers inside game with aggressive rebounding.

Shedrick Anderson, the Aggies' 6-8 center, will have to fill the middle for the team. Anderson is averaging 7.8 rebounds a game.

Senior Lynn Suber is A&M's leading scorer in the Aggies first five games, posting a 15.6 point average.

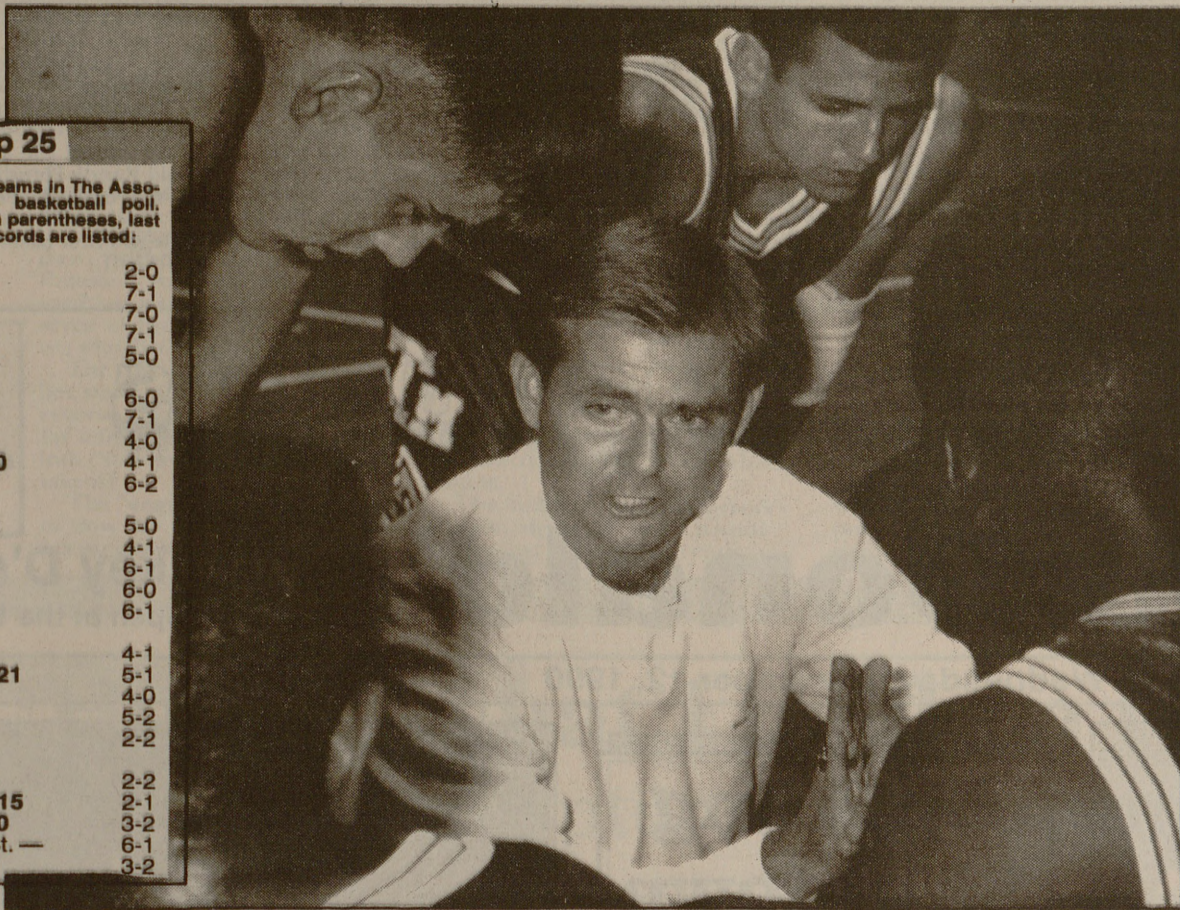
Isaac Brown follows with 15.2 points a contest.

A&M has never lost to TSU in its three previous meetings. The teams

AP Top 25

The Top Twenty Five teams in The Associated Press college basketball poll. First-place votes are in parentheses, last week's position and records are listed:

| | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| 1. UNLV (63) 1 | 2-0 |
| 2. Arkansas 3 | 7-1 |
| 3. Syracuse 4 | 7-0 |
| 4. Arizona 2 | 7-1 |
| 5. Georgetown 6 | 5-0 |
| 6. UCLA 8 | 6-0 |
| 7. Indiana 7 | 7-1 |
| 8. Ohio St. 9 | 4-0 |
| 9. North Carolina 10 | 4-1 |
| 10. Duke 5 | 6-2 |
| 11. Georgia 13 | 5-0 |
| 12. LSU 18 | 4-1 |
| 13. Oklahoma 16 | 6-1 |
| 14. St. Johns 17 | 6-0 |
| 15. Pittsburgh 11 | 6-1 |
| 16. Connecticut 14 | 4-1 |
| 17. South Carolina 21 | 5-1 |
| 18. Kentucky 25 | 4-0 |
| 19. Virginia 21 | 5-2 |
| 20. Alabama 12 | 2-2 |
| 21. Michigan St. 19 | 2-2 |
| 22. Southern Miss. 15 | 2-1 |
| 23. Georgia Tech 20 | 3-2 |
| 24. E. Tennessee St. | 6-1 |
| 25. Texas 23 | 3-2 |



Mike C. Mulvey/The Battalion

Texas A&M coach Kermit Davis Jr. gives his team instructions. His Aggies, who are coming off of a 10-day layoff, will face Texas Southern tonight at 7:30 in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

last met in 1987 in the finals of the Jowers Jamboree. The Aggies prevailed 85-64.

In the Tigers last outing, they were beaten by Oral Roberts University 103-98, despite 24 points from Ray Younger.

Younger, a senior, is the team's leading scorer, averaging 22 points a game. TSU's front line, consisting of center Charles Parker and forwards David Arceneaux and Raule Collins, grab 27 rebounds a game.

The Tigers' only victories this season came against Montana State (85-77) and North Texas (86-68). Both

were home wins.

TSU finished 19-12 last season and advanced to the NCAA tournament after finishing second in the Southwestern Athletic Conference.

Point guard Brooks Thompson leads the team with 4.2 assists a game. He is the team's third leading scorer, averaging 13.8 points a game, with a season-high 20 against Mercer. Thompson was named to the all-tournament team in the Marshall Memorial Classic at Marshall University on Dec. 1.

Junior transfer Darrin Terry, who

played for Carl Albert Junior College before coming to A&M, is a great athlete but has been hampered by injuries. Tendonitis in his left knee slowed him all through fall workouts and a hip pointer limited his time in the Marshall Classic to 10 minutes.

Forward Rashone Lewis, a junior transfer from Fullerton (Calif.) Junior College, leads the team in field goal percentage, shooting 52.9 percent from the floor. Averaging 9.6 points per game, Lewis scored his season-high 13 points against Sam Houston State.

Cowboys eye playoffs; former Ag Cheek cut

From Staff and Wire Reports

IRVING — Jimmy Johnson said Tuesday the playoff-contending Dallas Cowboys will play their most important game of his two-year regime on Sunday against the Phoenix Cardinals.

"As far as I'm concerned it's as important a game as I've had as coach of the Cowboys," Johnson said. "I told the team if we win out we're in the playoffs. The success we've had has pushed this game high in importance."

The Cowboys, who were 1-15 a year ago, have won three straight games to jump into the NFC playoff picture with a 6-7 record. Phoenix, which thrashed the Cowboys 20-3 on Oct. 14, still has an outside shot at 5-8.

In 20 seasons since the NFL-AFL merger, only the 1975 Baltimore Colts qualified for the playoffs just one year after logging the league's worst record.

"We've got to be successful against Phoenix to be in the playoffs," said Johnson who has road games against Philadelphia and Atlanta remaining on the schedule.

"We have an outside shot if we don't win, but we don't want to get caught up in all the different scenarios."

Among the wild-card hopefuls in the NFC Washington is 8-5, Philadelphia 7-6, and Green Bay, Minnesota and New Orleans are tied with Dallas at 6-7.

Asked if he had heard Coach of the Year talk coming his way, Johnson replied, "If we get beat by Phoenix on Sunday I can become a dumb coach in a hurry."

Johnson, who had predicted the team would have a winning record before the season started, said he couldn't take any consolation in a big year of improvement if the Cowboys didn't make the playoffs.

"I'd be severely disappointed,"

Johnson said. "I'd not be happy." Johnson said he didn't buy the too much too soon theories.

"We'd have high expectations next year regardless," he said. "High expectations next year are a given and it's ridiculous to say we had won too many too fast. I'll deal with next year next year."

Dallas had a bye week of rest to get ready for the Cardinals.

"There's a lot of enthusiasm around town about the Cowboys," Johnson said. "Everybody is hungry for a winning team and this is just a taste of it."

Johnson said he didn't expect the team to have a letdown after defeating the Los Angeles Rams, Washington and New Orleans in successive games.

"The importance of this game will offset any letdown," Johnson said. "I would be concerned if we were on the road."

Dallas hasn't defeated Phoenix since 1988. The last time Dallas beat the Cardinals in Texas Stadium was 1987.

"We played as poorly as what I've seen in our first game against them," Johnson said. "I don't rate 'em but that game was a major disappointment. We underestimated the talent Phoenix has."

In other Cowboys' news, offensive tackle Louis Cheek, who played in only four games, was released by the Dallas Cowboys on Monday.

Cheek, a third year player from Texas A&M, was obtained by the Cowboys from Miami via Plan B.

Cheek was suspended for the first three games then suffered a knee sprain.

The Cowboys activated Mitch Willis, defensive tackle, who played earlier in the season and Michael Brooks, a defensive back from North Carolina State, who had been on the Dallas practice squad.

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