

Watch out for patterns in Aggie linebacker spot

With the dominant sports story of the this young semester (there are still 14 weeks left) focusing on the perils and hardships of Kermit Davis Jr. and the Texas A&M basketball team, I feel it's time to give it a rest.



Douglas Pils
Asst. Sports Editor

Should the program come out of the investigation smelling like a rose, Davis will undoubtedly turn things around.

Basketball will rise again, but in the midst of all this confusion a very interesting situation is developing on the horizon. A situation that bears an eerie resemblance to something that this campus has seen twice before. One can only wonder if it will happen again.

But first, in case anyone's forgotten, football makes a brief return to the limelight next Wednesday, Feb. 6. That's the day that talented high school seniors across the nation officially decide on which college campus they will display their wares for the next four to five years.

Last year, on the national signing date, A&M fished with one of the top five freshman classes in the land.

Defensive linemen Kefa Chatham, Eric England, wide receiver Tony Harrison and tight end Greg Schorp all made valuable contributions to the team as true freshmen last year. In addition, some of the bigger names like quarterbacks Jeff Granger, Steve Emerson and running back Greg Hill were redshirted.

This year the Aggies once again are battling with the University of Texas for the state's top recruits. As with many recruiting seasons, controversy swirls around those attempting to decide between the two schools.

Someone claiming to be Sam Adams, one of the state's best defensive linemen from Cypress Creek, called A&M head coach R.C. Slocum early one morning and various stories about members of the media steering players to one university or the other are making the rounds.

The Aggies have already gathered up some verbal commitments from some top players, the most interesting, and the one already alluded to, is a quarterback named Tommy Preston.

The situation that Preston, the all-state quarterback who led A&M Consolidated to a 28-2 record over the last two years, finds himself in can be likened to that of two other quarterbacks who once decided to come to Aggieland.

However, those two didn't make their mark as Aggies by heaving the pigskin into the arms of a receiver speeding

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Medlock adjusts to new role

By STEVE O'BRIEN
Of The Battalion Staff

Shawn Medlock's basketball career is in a state of transition.

But you could never tell from the way she plays.

Medlock, a junior transfer from McLennan Community College in Waco, is A&M's main gun when the Lady Aggies go to the running game.



Shawn Medlock

Aggie head coach Lynn Hickey primarily uses Medlock as the point guard but Medlock played off-guard at McLennan where she developed into a scoring threat.

"She's still in a transition phase, from playing shooting guard in junior college," Hickey said. "What we're asking her to do now is a little difficult."

Medlock's quickness and ball handling ability are what forced coach Hickey to make a point guard out of her.

Once a scorer in junior college, Medlock now contributes to her ballclub with assists and court leadership.

And the leadership she gives is quiet, for now.

"You have to remember that she's going through the same things a freshman does because she's a transfer," Hickey said.

"The kids know she's a dedicated player and a hard worker, and next year, after some more experience, she'll be able to give us the verbal leadership we need."

But Medlock takes it all in stride.

"I can handle it anywhere they put me," she said.

Medlock learned how to be adjustable way back in the fifth grade when she played on an all girls team in an all boys league.

"We never won a game," Medlock said. "It was so much fun. I was the first time I played organized basketball."

"All I ever wanted to play against was the guys. I never wanted to play with the girls."

Medlock's 5-foot-5-inch frame also creates a challenge, but she works around it.

"My quickness makes up for a whole lot,

because now I'm having to guard (opposing) guards that are two or three inches up on me and 10 or 15 pounds heavier," Medlock said.

Hickey knew from the beginning that Medlock would be a star at A&M.

"I think Shawn was one of the best junior college guards we had seen all year," Hickey said.

Medlock, however, is looking to start playing even better this season, she said.

"I haven't played as well as I can play," Medlock said. "I've just been playing about average. I haven't been playing much but I've been doing the other things just about as well as I can."

Medlock is averaging 6.8 points per game and 3.3 assists a game. She also has 25 steals for the season.

For the Lady Aggies so far this season, success has been sporadic, but the team remains positive.

"We have spurts in a game where for five or six minutes, we don't play well, but overall I think we're playing pretty well," Medlock said.

Davis denies NCAA rules violations

By SCOTT WUDEL
Of The Battalion Staff

Kermit Davis Jr. said Thursday that he has not violated any University policies or NCAA regulations in his first year as Texas A&M basketball coach.

Davis told reporters during a press conference that published reports by various media have been inaccurate, and the university investigation will prove those accusations are false.

"Specifically, concerning allegations that I have in the past paid sums of money to Rob Johnson for the purpose of securing basketball players to Texas A&M — I absolutely deny this activity," Davis said.

"It simply just didn't happen and I'm certain this will be brought out in the investigation."

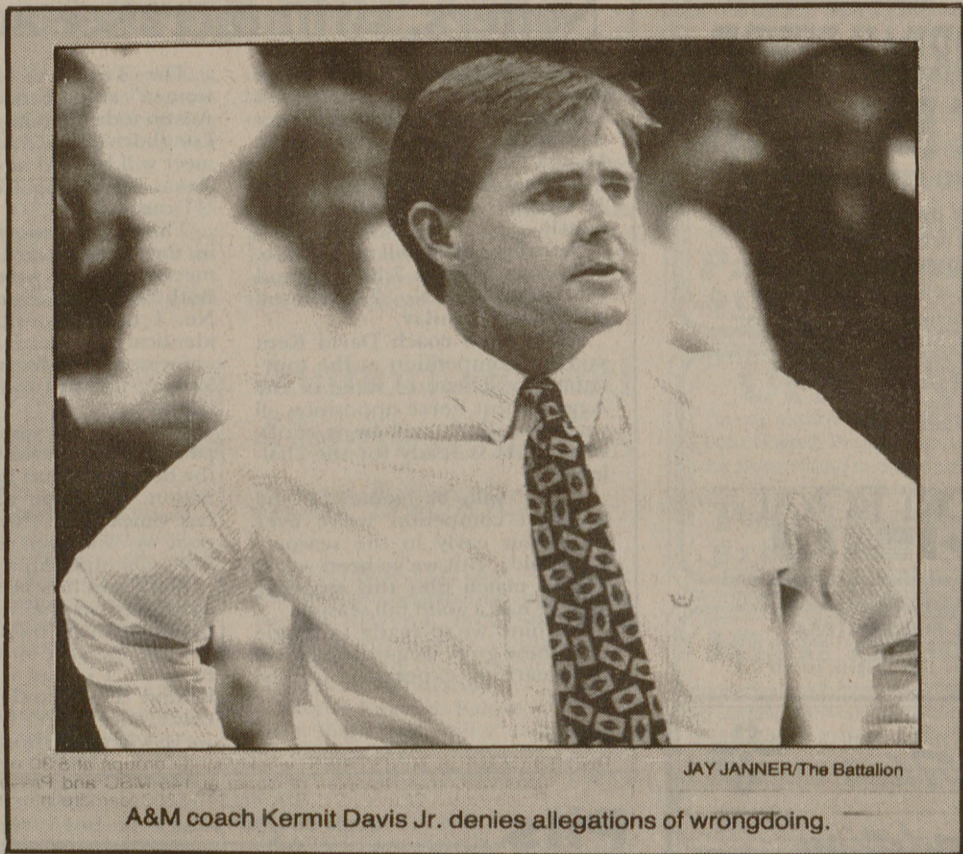
The University began an intensive investigation into the A&M basketball program after reports surfaced Dec. 20 in a Syracuse newspaper alleging possible violations of NCAA rules.

The controversy centers around former University of Syracuse basketball player Tony Scott.

Scott, who transferred to A&M last fall, accused the A&M program of twice paying talent scout Rob Johnson's travel expenses to College Station, and paying for more than \$1,400 in long distance phone calls.

Davis is also accused of paying Johnson \$2,400 to be a counselor at one of his basketball camps last summer.

An in-house investigation conducted by Vice President for Finance and Administration Robert Smith is reportedly in the final stages, Davis said.



A&M coach Kermit Davis Jr. denies allegations of wrongdoing.

Smith did not return phone calls Thursday.

Davis said A&M President William Mobley will study the results of the investigation once it has been completed.

The coach said he called the news conference to clear the air of the speculation surrounding the ongoing investigation.

Davis revealed that Johnson was a legitimate candidate for a graduate assistant position.

"After what I considered at the time a

thorough evaluation of his qualifications," Davis said.

"After visiting with him on the phone, and our staff visiting with him, it was mutually determined after he came to College Station that he would not be my graduate assistant and I would fill it with Barry Sanderson."

Davis said he also wanted to quell rumors that Johnson accompanied Scott on his recruiting trip to A&M last summer.

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Hill bright spot for Ags

By MICHELLE BERGERON
Of The Battalion Staff

Yvonne Hill is a colorful performer both on and off the court.

The senior community health major brings a vibrant personality as well as talent to the Texas A&M women's basketball team. In addition to leading the team with 38 steals, she averages 15.8 points and 5.1 rebounds per game.

To get focused before each game Hill goes through some rather unorthodox rituals.

Yvonne admits with a sheepish grin, that to become totally intent on what she is going to do, that she colors in coloring books.

"It relaxes me and gets my mind clear," said Hill. "When I color I think about the goals I want to achieve and what the team needs to do, and I write these things down."

She also said right before the game she listens to a couple of gospel and christian tapes on her Walkman to relax.

Hill's colorful personality helps her to be a leader on the court. That's nothing new for Hill, the lone senior starter for the Lady Aggies.

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Aggies host hot Horns

From Staff and Wire Reports

The Texas A&M men's basketball team begins the second half of its Southwest Conference schedule Sunday when it meets the University of Texas in G. Rolie White Coliseum.

Tipoff is slated for 1:06 p.m., which is a change from the original 2 p.m. starting time. The game will be televised by Raycom-TV.

The Aggies made the rounds in the conference without winning a game and now stand at 5-14 overall and 0-8 in the SWC. Included in those eight losses is a 93-67 loss at the hands of the Longhorns on Jan. 2 in Austin.

A&M is coming off a hard-fought 77-64 loss to Houston on Tuesday, while Texas easily took care of Southern Methodist on Wednesday 96-80.

Aggie head coach Kermit Davis Jr. said that guard Isaac Brown is still on indefinite suspension, but that center Shedrick Anderson will return to the starting lineup. Both players were suspended before the Houston game.

The Longhorns are on a hot streak with a 13-5 overall record and a 7-1 SWC mark. Davis said he's wary of how well Texas is playing.

"Texas is coming on strong and may be playing as well as Arkansas," Davis said. "Whenever A&M and Texas play, it's a big game, one that both teams look forward to."

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