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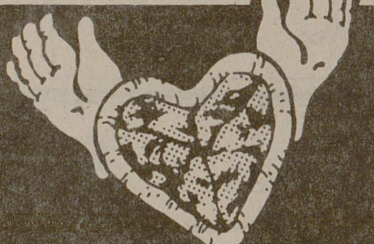
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**Wilson called it right**

EDITOR:

My (extended) family has been going to Aggie basketball games since the late 1960s and has held season tickets since the late 1970s.

I agree wholeheartedly with Craig Wilson's Jan. 31 assessment of the current team and the new arena. This school has never put emphasis (read money) on its basketball program.

During the early 1980s, we watched 17 current NBA players come through the Southwest Conference — three on the All-Star team this year — and not one of them is from A&M. Oh, we had a sole and a shared SWC championship and played all but Houston of the Drexler/Akeem era well — but no NBA-quality players.

From the Regents to the Athletic Director — especially John David Crow — there has been little interest shown in basketball and it has shown.

I think it might take a death penalty for us to be able to improve the program. At the end of the penalty, we'd have the arena and I bet we'd spend money to get a coach of some proven ability.

Kay Woodley  
Class of 78

The Battalion is interested in hearing from its readers and welcomes all letters to the editor. Please include name, classification, address and phone number on all letters. The editor reserves the right to edit letters for style and length. Because of limited space, shorter letters have a better chance of appearing. There is, however, no guarantee letters will appear. Letters may be brought to 216 Reed McDonald or sent to Campus Mail Stop 1111.

**Williams**

Continued from page 7

"The only time it gets hard is when we start playing Tuesday and Friday games," Williams said. "Especially if they are out of town and it's a test week."

"But, I always find the time to get my studying in."

Although Williams is a stellar third baseman, he worked out at catcher in the fall. He had never really played catcher before, but he and head coach Mark Johnson decided to give a try.

"It was a new experience for me. It is like a totally different ballgame back there," Williams said. "It was almost like taking up a new sport because I had never played it before."

The only problem Williams said he had with catching was that his knees got tired.

"It's a position my body has never been in," Williams said. "But other than that I enjoyed it."

Still, Williams will not be hankering to be behind the plate this spring.

"Oh, its hard to beat third base," he said with a big smile. "I've always played that and shortstop, and (third) is my favorite position."

"I was just looking toward the future that maybe catcher might be my

position later on down the road, so I decided to give it a try."

Taking a step toward his future, Williams has set many goals for this season.

"I really need to start dedicating myself to my defense," Williams said. "I feel like that's going to be a big part of me, being consistent on third base."

Another one of his goals is to try to keep the team offense together.

"I also need to contribute at the bat," he said. "(And) try to be consistent the whole year, instead of streaky like I was last year."

Another area he feels is important is fulfilling the role as a leader.

"It's going to be real important to keep the team pumped up during the games," Williams said. "But also to keep the young guys' confidence up."

Confidence is a key factor that Williams was able to build early here at A&M.

"My best moment had to be my freshman year, when I was MVP of the Aggie Invitational," said Williams. "We had such a great team that year, and just being able to have a series like that really did boost my confidence."

**TANK McNAMARA**

by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds



**Rebs unanimous again**

STARKVILLE, Miss. (AP) — UNLV was a unanimous choice as the top team in the poll for the fourth time in five weeks. The Runnin' Rebels, who whipped Arkansas, last week's runner-up, 112-105 on Sunday to improve to 20-0. UNLV was picked No. 1 by all 63 votes in the nationwide panel of sports writers and broadcasters.

Ohio State (19-1), which blasted Northwestern in its only game last week, climbed over Arkansas into the No. 2 spot. Arkansas (23-2) dropped back to third place, followed by Indiana (22-2) and Duke (21-4), which climbed from sixth to fifth after whipping two top-25 teams, Virginia and LSU, as well as Maryland.

**Lady Ags**

from page 7

in the win over TCU. The Lady Mustangs are led by sophomore forward Shanell Thomas, averaging 14 points and 4.9 rebounds per game.

Thomas scored 20 points on the Lady Aggies in their previous meeting this season.

Lady Aggie starting guard Sheri Dillard (9.8 ppg) has been playing with more confidence and leads the starters in field goal percentage, at 44.7 percent.

**Wilson**

Continued from page 7

So, I decided to use that method whenever I saw somebody doing poorly, and I knew they could do just a little better.

It just so happened that the Texas A&M basketball team was winless in Southwest Conference play and was playing sloppily this season and I got fed up with it.

So, as a motivational tool, I criticized every aspect of that team, and hoped for improvement.

Later, I was approached by an angry team member who argued the point I had brought up concerning the suspensions and walk-ons.

I attempted to explain that I was trying to motivate through criticism, but I don't think he understood.

I decided, with some basketball buddies of mine, to go watch practice a couple of weeks ago.

One friend said, "I don't know why they're practicing when we could be in there shooting some real ball."

That did not make me feel good at all, which is contrary to what I think most of the team thinks.

Upon entering the coliseum I felt like E.F. Hutton because a lot of people looked and listened, but I had nothing to say.

So I just watched as players glared, whispered to one another, and looked at me like THE ENEMY.

But I didn't mind, the column was supposed to make them angry at me.

I wanted them, though, to realize that I'm not the only one who feels this way about the program.

Several students and alumni I know seemed willing to let me marry their daughters as a result of that opinion column, so I assumed it served its purpose: to let the athletic department know that more money and time should be spent improving the A&M basketball program.

I think my column, and school opinion, eventually will serve its purpose: to improve the team.

I, as well as other Ags that sat in the senior section at the t.u. game, were hurt by the loss the team suffered.

Although many of us agree that the program is lacking, we bleed maroon just as much as the next Aggie and it should be noted that most of us are behind the team just as much as most of us are behind the troops coming home safely from foreign soil.

This team, despite its drawbacks and personnel problems, has proven

that it can stay in ball games, and even win a few.

Although turnovers and clutch shots missed down the stretch have been a major problem this year, the effort seems to be there.

Brooks Thompson already gave my vote as the Aggies most valuable player.

His shooting percentage is good and his court awareness is great.

But his ability to pump this team up when it's down and to get an already yell-leader-led crowd to get even louder is uncanny.

All it takes is a fist in the air, or look into the stands to get Aggies to roar with even more pride.

And Thompson knows that. All it takes is the simple will to compete in order to compete.

And the crowd indeed makes difference (HINT!). Just ask Duke UNLV, or Indiana students.

I would love to think my opinion helped more than it hurt, just like my dad's explosion years ago.

And after seeing the anger in the Aggie team's eyes directed toward me, and rightfully so, I'm ready to see that same anger taken out on SMU and the rest of the Southwest Conference.

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