

Writers handling Ag basketball with conviction

As the Assistant Sports Editor it's my job to keep track of the Texas A&M basketball teams, in addition to a few other spring sports. With the exception of baseball that is, which the illustrious Mr. Lehmann so eloquently handles.



Douglas Pils
Asst. Sports Editor

As most are aware, watching or having anything to do with the A&M men's team this year has been painful for Aggies everywhere—including those of us who have taken it upon ourselves to cover the team.

As Aggies, Scott Wudel, Craig Wilson and I would love nothing better than for Kermit Davis Jr. and his squad to be found guilt-free of any wrongdoing and for them to win every game. But as sportswriters, we must heed the rule that umpires and officials everywhere follow—"We've got to call 'em like we see 'em."

Oh sure, we could sugarcoat all the details of this and that and make everything sound peachy, but that would infringe on something that once it's lost is hard to get back—our integrity and our professionalism.

I, for one, believe that Davis can rebuild this program from the depths to which it has sunk. When a basketball team gets on a roll there's nothing more exciting to watch. Just try to sit still on press row when Brooks Thompson nails a three-pointer or after one of those Thompson-to-Rashone Lewis alley-oops.

But I also believe if Davis is guilty of a major infraction, then there shouldn't be any reason for him to stick around.

Such is the precarious tightrope that we cautiously navigate. On the one hand we fight within ourselves to be true to our school. On the other, we have to follow our instincts. As being somewhat in charge of Scott and Craig and what they write, I applaud their efforts to bring to the reader an honest approach to a difficult situation.

Ags compete in SWC meet

By Douglas Pils
The Battalion

The Texas A&M men's and women's track and field teams travel to Fort Worth's Will Rogers Coliseum today for the Southwestern Conference Indoor Track meet.

Highlighting this year's meet for the Aggies will be the final SWC performance by All-Americans and fellow Jamaicans Richard Bucknor and Howard Davis.

Bucknor is the only returnee from last year's squad who won a SWC indoor title as he attempts to defend his crown in the 55-meter hurdles. He also will compete in 55-meter dash.

Bucknor doesn't have any outdoor eligibility left, so his last meet will be the NCAA Indoor Championships on March 8-9. He leaves having earned four All-American citations in two years and with three school records. Those records are, the indoor 55-meter hurdles (7.18), the outdoor 110-meter hurdles (13.43) and as a member of the 400-meter relay team (38.53).

Davis, who is also out of outdoor eligibility, will run the 400-meter dash and the 1600-meter relay. Davis has earned five All-American citations in two years and is the school record holder in the indoor 400-meters (45.94) and as a member of the outdoor 1600-meter relay (3:00.91).

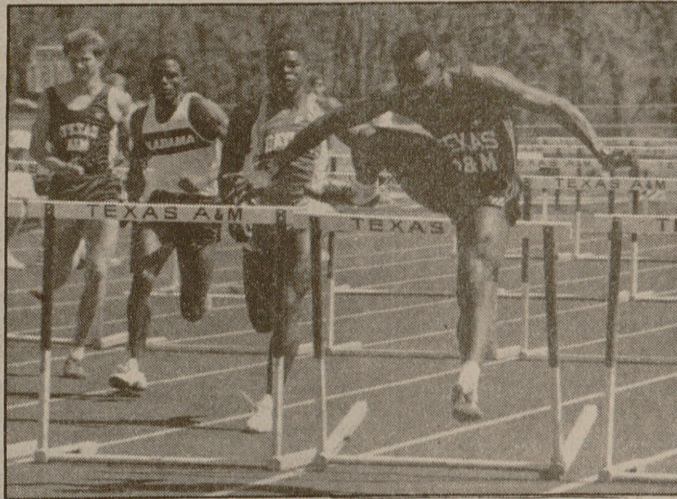
Last year the A&M men's team finished third behind Baylor and Arkansas, who won its 10th straight championship. Arkansas again is favored to win the meet and Aggie head coach Ted Nelson said he hopes to compete for a top finish.

"Arkansas is the odd-on favorite to win the indoor championship, as usual," Nelson



said. "We have a chance to compete for a top three finish with Texas and Baylor. Our best event is probably the high hurdles, with Richard Bucknor, Greg Williams and Nic Pollard.

"Other good events for us should be the 400-meter dash with Howard Davis and the shotput with Steve Collier, Scott Paulsen and Teddy Reynolds."



Photos courtesy of A&M Sports Information

Richard Bucknor, above and bottom left, and first-year head track and field coach Ted Nelson (top left) lead the A&M track squad this weekend in the SWC Indoor Championships in Ft. Worth.

Four Aggies already have met NCAA qualifying marks for the championships in March. Bucknor is joined by shot putter Collier (59-5 3/4), pole vaulter Ricky Barker (17-1 1/2) and high jumper Lee Pool (7-0 1/2).

A&M was the last team besides the Razorbacks to win the SWC title.

Lady Ags try to keep hot streak alive

By Craig Wilson
The Battalion

The Texas A&M Lady Aggie basketball team had a big pill to swallow last weekend.

After learning that junior forward Dena Russo would no longer play due to bad knees, the Ags could have laid down and died. But the Lady Ags did not, and are now riding a two-game winning streak after defeating the SMU Lady Mustangs, 84-77, Tuesday night.

Saturday, A&M (11-11, 6-6) will face the Southeastern Louisiana University Lady Lions (13-8) in a non-conference tilt at 7:30 in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

The pressure was on for junior forward Karey Janak Tuesday, who was forced into the starting lineup due to Russo's injury.

She responded with two key rebounds down the stretch to help secure A&M's victory over SMU.

Senior forward Yvonne Hill continues to lead the Lady Ags in scoring at 15.1 points per game.

Junior guard Sheri Dillard is averaging just under double-figures at 9.9 points a contest.

Dillard has had five consecutive 10-plus point games, and also leads the team in steals (45) and assists (70).

Junior center Vanessa Edwards leads the Lady Ags in rebounding at 5.4 boards per outing.

Against SMU Shawn Medlock was hot. The junior guard scored a career-high 16 points off the bench Tuesday night.

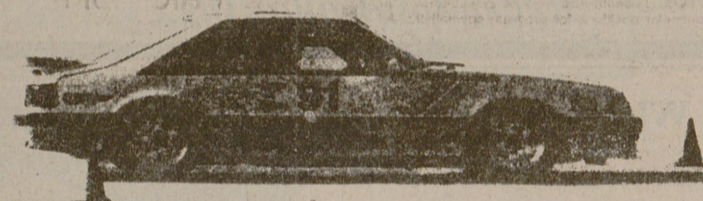
Medlock is also one of the SWC's leading players at the free throw line, shooting 75.4 percent from the charity stripe.

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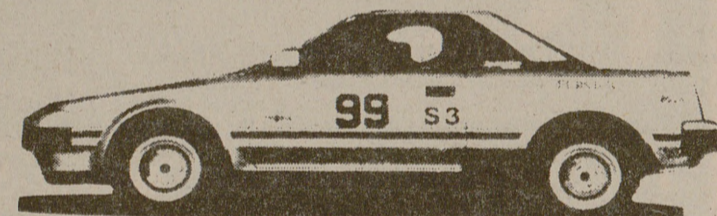
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