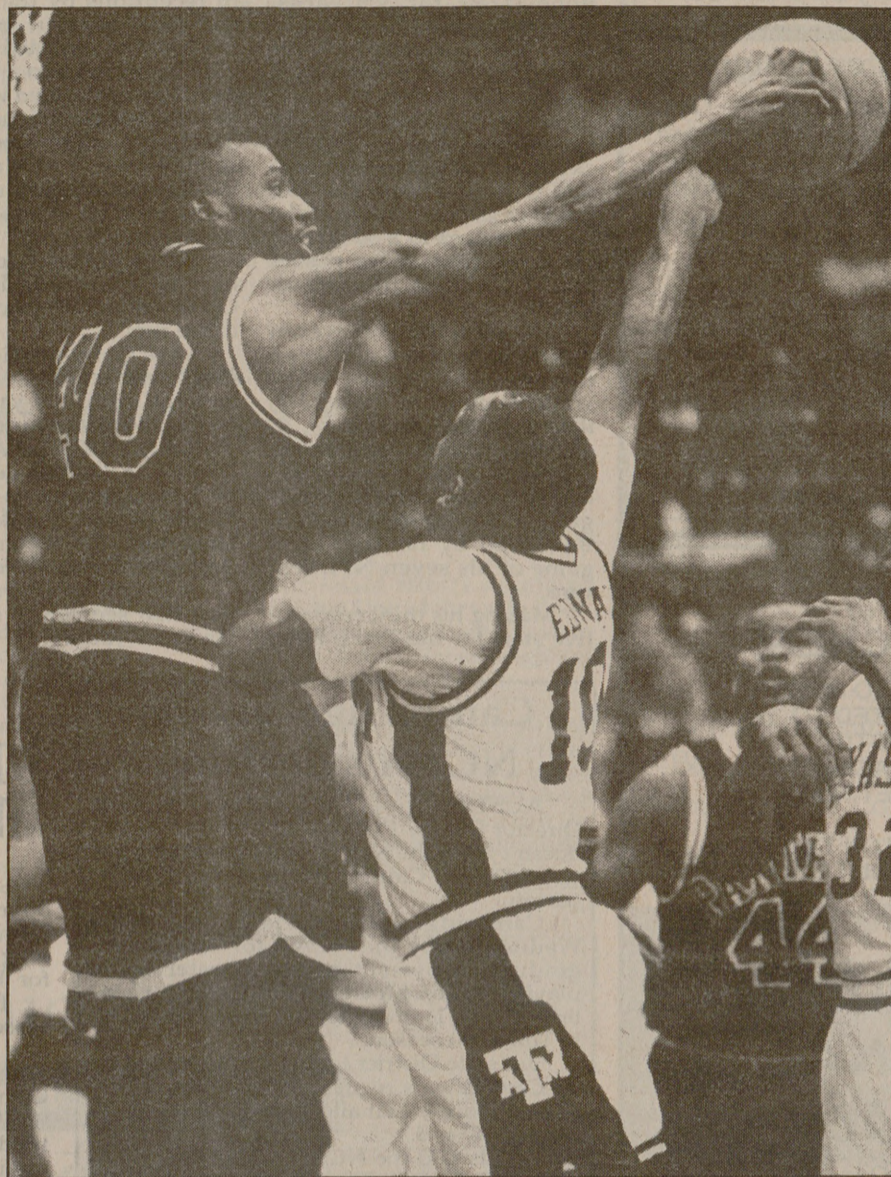


Aggies win opener, 83-56

Barone wins first game as Aggie's coach

By Anthony Andro
The Battalion



KARL STOLLEIS/The Battalion

Texas A&M point guard David Edwards has his shot blocked by Prairie View A&M's Daryl Pope Monday night in the Aggies 83-56 season-opening victory. Pope was called for a foul on the play.

sophomore point guard David Edwards. Edwards tied a school record for steals in a game with nine. Former A&M basketball player Darryl McDonald set the record against Southern Methodist University in 1988.

Edwards led the Aggies with 16 points, eight assists and seven rebounds. "Our first two games were good because they were competitive," Edwards said. "It made us ready for a team like Prairie View with their run and gun offense."

Barone was impressed by the play of A&M's point guard.

"The key stat tonight were the number of steals he had compared to the number of fouls he had," Barone said. "I think that's a big issue."

"I thought he got us going in terms of finishing the break. When he plays within himself, I think he's as fine of point guard I have seen in a long time."

The muscle came in the rebounding department. The Aggies were out-rebounded in their two preseason losses but controlled the boards against the Panthers, winning the battle of the boards, 40-32.

The Aggies ended any chance of a Panther comeback early in the second half.

A 21-5 run gave A&M a 60-28 lead. Prairie View did not score its first points of the second half until more than four minutes had gone by.

After the run, the teams battled back and forth with neither team controlling the tempo.

The Aggies shot 48 percent from the field and held the Panthers to 36 percent. Eleven A&M players scored in the game. Damon Johnson and David Martin each scored 13 points. Chuck Henderson and Matt Haralson each contributed 10.

Johnson said he had something to prove last night.

"After the exhibition season, I wasn't nervous at all," Johnson said. "I came out and wanted to show everybody why I was recruited by Texas A&M."

"The first two games were a testing

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Steve O'Brien
Asst. Sports Editor

Texas presents little challenge to SWC champs

If the Aggies are true champions, they'll kick the Texas Longhorns all the way back Austin.

This is the time of the year when cellar-dwellers try to make their seasons by beating a top gun. A&M is the top gun and the Longhorns, for all practical purposes, are the cellar dwellers.

And Texas isn't carrying a 5-5 record by accident. They're a bad excuse for a football team. The Longhorn defense is good — one of the best — and they have the potential of keeping the Aggies and quarterback Bucky Richardson in check.

But don't count on it. Much like Oklahoma, Michigan and Washington, the Longhorn defense relies on size to control opposing offenses. Size is good, but speed will win out every time.

If you can't catch me, you don't scare me.

The Longhorn defense is good, though. It's just that they aren't good enough. They can't overcome a Texas offense that would have trouble scoring in Las Vegas.

I'm not saying Longhorn quarterback Peter Gardere isn't a good quarterback. That's much easier said. Peter Gardere is not a good quarterback.

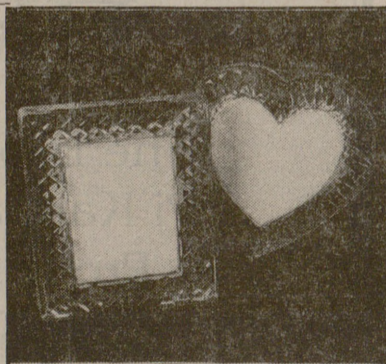
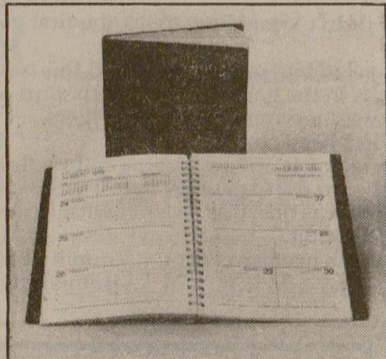
And what about Butch Hadnot? If he's the next Earl Campbell, I'm the next Ernest Hemingway. Move

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