Sports

The Battalion

Friday, January 24, 1992

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STEVE **O'BRIEN** Sportswriter

Magic poses risks playing in Olympics

embers of the Australian national basketball team said L Thursday that they plan to boycott the U.S. Olympic team during the Summer Olympics in Barcelona, Spain, if Magic Johnson is a member of the squad.

Can you blame them? Johnson is a carrier of HIV, the

virus that causes AIDS. There is no cure for AIDS. AIDS is death. Doctor Jacques Huguet, president of the medical council of the International Basketball Federation, said it would be almost impossible for someone to catch the virus from Johnson during a basketball game. Only an exchange of blood would doom a teammate or opponent, and the chances of

that happening are "one in a million" according to Huguet. But Huguet won't be playing in the Olympics and neither will the many special interests groups that are bound to lead the parade of criticism against the Australians.

Magic will have 10 teammates and will come in contact with about 50 players during the course of the Olympic tournament. These are the people who have to deal with the reality of Johnson's disease

And the reality is that the players for Australia are scared. It's only natural

But this isn't the first time Johnson's opponents have been scared to take the court with him. For years,

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A&M gets back on its feet against Rice

By Steve O'Brien The Battalion

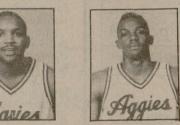
Needing all the help it can get this season, the Texas A&M men's basketball team has endured more than it's share of hardships.

The Aggies tip off against the Rice Owls Saturday night at 7:30 at G. Rollie White Coliseum minus a top player and still reeling from the effects of carbon monoxide being leaked into their locker room before a game against Baylor.

The Aggies are winless in SWC play at 0-3 while the Owls bring a record of 1-1 to College Station. A&M is 3-10 overall and Rice is 11-5. A&M's last game was a 76-73 loss to

the University of Texas on Jan. 14.

Freshman forward Damon Johnson, the team's leading scorer and rebounder,



McInnis

Edwards

fractured a bone in his foot and will be sidelined for up to six weeks.

The carbon monoxide poisoning occured last Saturday at the Ferrell Center in Waco when the exhaust from a heater was pumped into a section of the building which included the Aggies' locker room.

The entire A&M team, coaches and a number A&M officials were sent to area hospitals. The referees scheduled to officiate the game and a small number of Baylor officials also succumbed to the poisonous fumes

A&M head coach Tony Barone said it has been difficult for his team to concentrate on basketball.

"A couple of people who were in the incident have been taken back to Dallas for more treatment," Barone said. "The kids read that, and they get nervous.

"We haven't had any specific physical problems since then. We have had some problems caused by the anxiety of it. But I don't see any other problems right now

Freshman Tony McGinnis said the memory of last Saturday still lingers around the team.

"I think its going to be in the back of our minds because it's been a week since it happened," McGinnis said. "It will be a factor in the game.'

Barone said his team has not been able to prepare for the Rice game like it normally would have. "We've had good practices (since last

Saturday) but we've only been practicing one hour when we normally practice for two hours," Barone said. "We've had a combination of problems, the long (Christmas) layoff and the tough incident

at Baylor we had to go through. "Those two things taken into consider-ation, we probably need to play some

games to get our bodies going again." Sophomore guard David Edwards said the Aggies should be ready Saturday.

"We're going to be able to bounce back," Edwards said. "We're ready to play because we've been off for so long. The only way we have a chance (at the

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Stanley Kerr. The two athletes, Winston Chambers, senior from Kingston, Jamaica, and Richard Murphy, a sophomore from Pittsburg, Tex., are part of Nelson's plan to strengthen the A&M track team.

The A&M track team will kick off their indoor season Saturday in Oklahoma, City, Okla. at the Sooner Relays.

Nelson said both athletes are mature enough to fill the vacated positions left open by Kerr's graduation and Florence's ineligibility.

Nelson said Murphy and Chambers competed well in both indoor and outdoor meets last season.

I was very pleased with their perfor-

mances," Nelson said. "We competed well at the conference meet with a very young team, and I felt that we have matured and will be very competitive in '92.

"Both athletes' attitudes have changed from last year's fall practice. Murphy and Chambers are realizing what kind of contribution they will have to make to the team come next year.

Murphy said he is ready to contribute to the team.

"I am very excited to know that coach has that amount of confidence in me," Murphy said. "I know I have some big shoes to fill.

"Hopefully my feet can fit in them." Chambers said he feels if he is rested and can stay healthy, he will have a good chance to win at the indoor conference meet and also do a good job on the mile relay

At last season's outdoor conference See Track/Page8





Rosa Baker (left) and Christie Goforth work run hurdles at the Anderson Track and Field Complex. The A&M track team will compete in Oklahoma on Saturday. A State

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