

SPORTS

Thursday, December 10, 1992

The Battalion

Page 3

Aggies look for first win at home against Jaguars

By DON NORWOOD
Sports Writer of THE BATTALION

Texas A&M gets a chance to face the other end of the spectrum tonight when they host the 2-0 University of South Alabama at 7 p.m. in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

Five days after falling 81-55 to a physical Missouri team in their home opener, A&M will tip off against a small, hustling squad in the Jaguars that specializes in defense and running the floor.

Despite the similarities to his own team, A&M head coach Tony Barone said the athleticism of South Alabama, much like Missouri's bruising style, can present opponents a few problems.

"South Alabama is an extremely athletic team," Barone said. "Of the three teams we have played so far, they're probably the most athletic."

The centerpiece of head coach Ronnie Arrow's Jaguar squad is point guard Cedric Yelding, a former Sophomore of the Year in the Sun Belt Conference who specializes in dishing out assists and opening up scoring opportunities.

Yelding, who led the Sun Belt a year ago in assists by averaging 7.1 per game, has picked up other aspects of his game this season. He logged a career-high 20 points in USA's 107-100 win over West

Virginia, and had three steals in a 68-66 defeat of St. Louis.

Barone said stopping Yelding will be a high priority for the Aggies, who will be focusing on preventing turnovers that South Alabama loves to take advantage of on their way to opening up leads.

"He's a kid that we have to be concerned with and be aggressive against," Barone said.

The Jaguars have shown a recent affinity for crashing the boards in spite of the fact that their tallest player, like A&M, is only 6-foot-8. As a result, the Aggies will be looking to heat up their rebounding.

"It (the key defensively) has got to be rebounding," freshman forward Lance Broderson said. "From our scouting report I know that they've already got 42 offensive rebounds in two games."

"They're a quick team, so we've got to get back on defense."

Barone remained extremely pleased about A&M's season-opening crowd of 6,498, the largest home crowd for an Aggie game in almost four years.

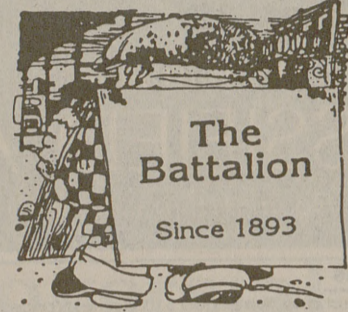
"It was an incredible turnout," Barone said. "We, as a staff, were very appreciative of that."

"We've turned the corner from the standpoint of fixing up G. Rollie White, which we needed desperately. Now we want to continue to get the students in here."



KARL A. STOLLEIS/The Battalion

A&M point guard David Edwards goes up for a layup in last weekend's 81-55 loss to the University of Missouri. The Aggies will try to get their first win of the season tonight as they host the University of South Alabama Jaguars at 7 p.m.



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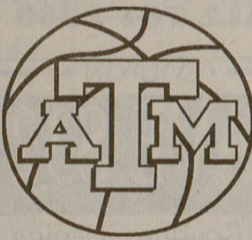
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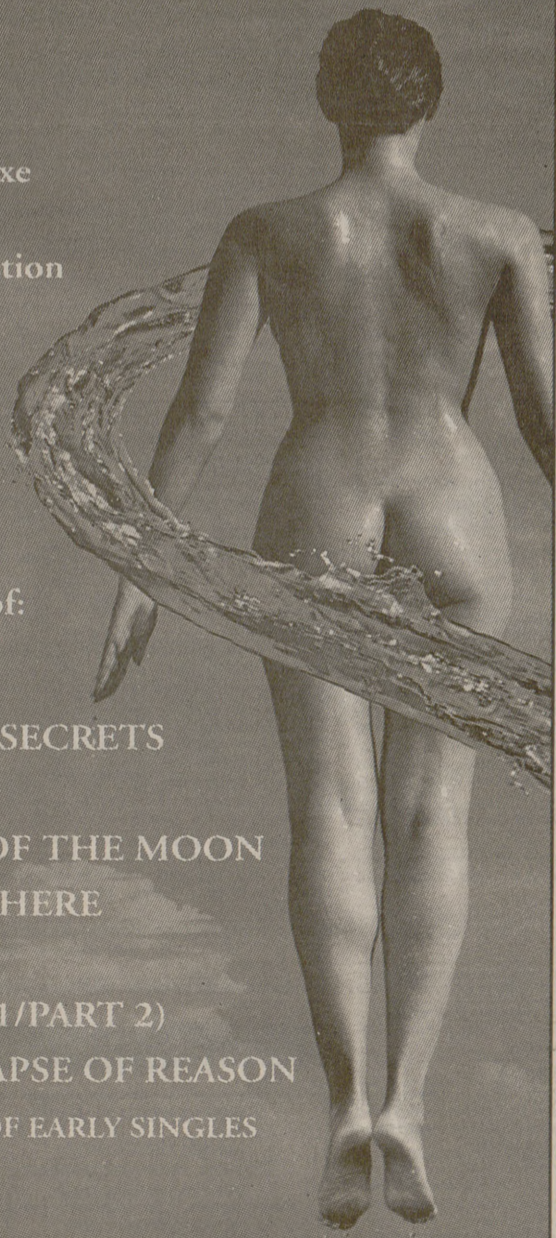
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