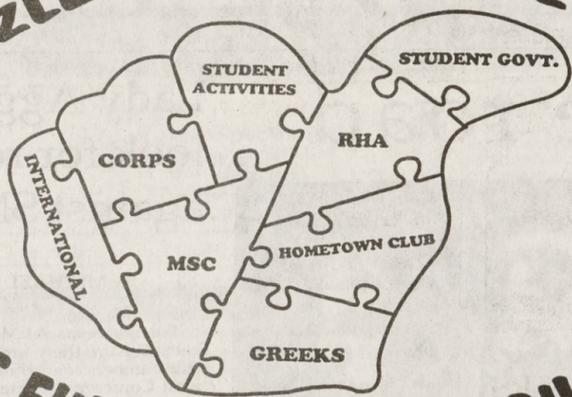


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SMU

Continued from Page 5

"They love to shoot." Barone said that A&M will not be as susceptible as other teams are to SMU's capitalizing on turnovers and defensively trying to force mistakes and rush their opponent's shots. "For us, a good shot is a lot different than other people's," Barone said. "We try to create certain overloads in what we do offensively to get us good looks at the basket." He also said that SMU's long shots would create long rebounds, and the guards would have to work hard for those rebounds. In their last road game, A&M defeated Texas Christian by hang-

ing on to a close win as TCU missed a last second shot. Barone said that the win relieved a lot of the frustration the team felt after playing well in other road games, only to lose in the final seconds. "It was a conference win, it was on the road and I was getting tired of hearing, 'Why aren't you winning on the road?'" he said. "I told them (the team), 'When you play and win a road game, you don't concern yourself with the score, you concern yourself with the 'W,'" Barone said. "We didn't shoot our free throws down at the end well, we made a couple of technical mistakes probably, a couple of fouls we committed that we shouldn't have committed, but overall we played well." "The win on the road just kind of gets you over the insecurity of

"Gee we played well but we haven't won" - that mentality." National media are beginning to notice the changes in A&M's program, especially after A&M came close to breaking UNLV's 55-game home court winning streak in a 98-96 overtime loss. "Positive recognition of effort is what I look for," Barone said. "We didn't get the nail in the coffin, but we produced from the standpoint of competing, handling adversity in terms of crowds and travel, so that's another step toward moving in the right direction." Broderson said that although their record doesn't show it, with their successes and experience A&M is in a position to win more road games. "We're able to bring it down to the wire, and hopefully we'll get a couple more breaks," he said.

Lady Ags

Continued from Page 5

Hickey said the Mustangs play an aggressive, scrappy style of basketball that presents a problem because of the way SMU likes to fast break. She said the Mustangs have the perfect sparkplug to ignite their run-and-gun style. "SMU's point guard (Missy) Parker does an excellent job of running that offense and making the right decision," she said. "Both of their guards have a size advantage over our guards, which could present a problem.

"But I think (Aggie guards) Lisa (Branch) and Donyale (Canada) will handle themselves without a problem." While A&M might be at a size disadvantage at the guards, there is one area where the Aggies stand tall. "With our centers, we are taller than them so that will help with the rebounding," Hickey said. "We also have a quickness advantage which plays to our benefit." A&M also has an intangible edge. "We are looking for revenge," sophomore forward Twylana Harrison said. "They beat us twice last year, so we need to prove something to everybody." Last season, the Mustangs beat

the Aggies by a 62-49 score at G. Rollie White. The 49 points scored by A&M were a season low. A&M did beat SMU in Dallas, but the Mustangs nipped the Aggies by an 85-77 count in the first round of the 1992 SWC tournament. "I am going to be overanxious because we are playing SMU and, as a team, we want to show that last season's results were kind of a fluke," Brown said. "I hope my being excited will be a positive rather than a negative." Harrison summed up the general feeling of the team concerning tonight's contest. "We have to beat SMU."

Norwood

Continued from Page 5

might proud these days. He has one of the top two lefty pitching prospects in the country in Jeff Granger, who turned down a contract with the then-defending world champion Minnesota Twins last summer. He's also got Kelly Wunsch, another tall lefty with a curveball that makes pro scouts drool. The Aggies have Rob Trimble back at catcher to handle their talented staff, along with .300-hitter Billy Harlan to anchor the lineup at designated hitter.

The freshest face at A&M might be the biggest headline-maker, though. True freshman Chad Alexander, a center fielder from Lufkin, chose to come to A&M despite being drafted in the second round by the Cincinnati Reds. His choice appears to be paying off so far, as he enters his first season here as the fifth-best freshman in the country, something Johnson doubts will hinder his prize recruit. "He can handle it (the attention)," Johnson said. "He's got a lot of poise." "He has a good chance to start." If a weakness can be found in the Aggies, it is the infield. Start-

ing shortstop Paul Barber is out for the year after a recent auto accident, forcing second baseman Rob Harris to make the move to short, with outfielder Eric Gonzalez replacing Harris. "That's our problem area," Johnson said. "We're very young in the infield, and Paul's injury didn't help much." Infield inexperience notwithstanding, the typical Olsen Field buzz should be a bit louder this year. That can be nothing but exciting for Johnson, who has flirted with the College World Series ever since taking over the head job at A&M in 1985. Maybe the flirting's over. It sure feels like it's time for that first date.

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VPs	2/2/93	2/9/93	2/10/93	2/11, 12, 13/93	2/15/93
Chairs-Entertainment and Education	2/9/93	2/16/93	2/17/93	2/18, 19, 20/93	2/22/93
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