

Hakeem "The Dream" can't win for winning

Is everybody asleep when they watch the Dream play? Over a nine-season NBA career, Hakeem Olajuwon has unleashed a quiet uproar of individual accomplishments around the league, only to be left out of post-season individual recognition by the big market media's agents of hype.



WILLIAM HARRISON
Sports Writer

So who's the NBA's best defensive player? Who's the best center in the league? Who's up for MVP? Whenever someone asks these questions, Olajuwon has been repeatedly left out of consideration, for increasingly cheesy excuses. Back when Detroit's Dennis Rodman won back-to-back Defensive Player of the Year Awards in 1990-91, Olajuwon was snubbed after being ranked in the top five in steals, a league-leading 14.0 average for rebounds and another league-leading 4.59 average of blocked shots. Detroit Coach Chuck Daly politicked and the East Coast Media Bloc rewarded Rodman for his "overall" game and his "intangibles."

Yet, come 1992, San Antonio's David Robinson and his Nike shoe contract, accomplished the same feats as Hakeem in the three categories, leading the league with a 4.49 average in blocked shots. Rodman's selection over Olajuwon was a lesson in intangible intelligence. With a career average of 3.6

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Aggies working to fill some holes

By MICHAEL PLUMER

The Battalion

There are sure signs that spring has arrived. Flowers are blooming, the NCAA has almost decided its basketball champion and Florida and Arizona are playing host to major league baseball.

But there is one sure sound that signals the season has begun. The shrill sound of a whistle, signifying spring football drills have gotten underway.

The Texas A&M football team opened practice Tuesday at Kyle Field in preparation for the 1993 football season. The Aggies will attempt to win their third straight Southwest Conference championship.

A&M coach R.C. Slocum said he was ecstatic about returning to the field.

"I am always anxious to start spring training," Slocum said. "It is fun to come back and the players have demonstrated an eagerness to return to action. This spring, I am looking for improved execution and I think we will have that because we have experience at the quarterback position.

"With Corey (Pullig) back there, we hopefully will get better at doing the little things."

Slocum also said he plans to implement a change in offensive philosophy.

"We are going to put emphasis on first down passes," Slocum said. "We need to complete passes on first down because if we don't teams are able to stack up against us."

"Teams load up on third down when we are forced to pass. I want to eliminate that possibility. To do that, we need to throw more on first down and complete those passes."

The quarterback spot is filled, but there are other vacancies on both the offensive and defensive sides of the ball. On offense, A&M lost three starters. Guard John Ellis and fullback Doug

RELOAD!!



BILLY MORAN/The Battalion

Texas A&M coach R.C. Slocum oversees a blocking drill during spring practice yesterday at Kyle Field. The Aggies will continue practices through the 12th of April.

Carter graduated.

The third spot, also depleted by graduation, might be the most important and difficult one to replace on the whole team, Slocum said.

"My biggest concern is actually replacing our punter, David Davis," Slocum said. "He was extremely consistent and his loss leaves us with a big hole to fill."

Defensively, A&M lost two All-Americans in outside linebacker Marcus Buckley and free safety Patrick Bates and a All-

Southwest Conference performer, cornerback Derrick Frazier. Buckley and Frazier graduated while Bates gave up his final year of eligibility to enter the National Football League draft.

"We lost Buckley and his skills will not be easy to replace," A&M defensive coordinator and assistant head coach Bob Davie said. "We have a lot of quantity to try and replace him with. We have several good players who could fit the bill."

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Heptathlete's parents kept her on right track

By DAVID WINDER

The Battalion

When Kalleen Madden's parents wanted to punish her they forbade her to go to track practice. So after winning two straight Southwest Conference titles in the Heptathlon she must have been as perfect at home as she has been on the track.

"I always got really bored during the summer so my Dad signed me up for the local AAU summer track program," Madden said. "I loved it because it was so much fun and I got to get away from everything, especially my brothers."

Her time alone paid off with three straight national AAU junior heptathlon championships and a national junior TAC 600-meter hurdles championship. In 1987 she was named the outstanding junior track and field athlete by the AAU.

"Even though the heptathlon is not an event in high school my track coach encouraged me to take it up," Madden said. "So I would run regular track in high school then concentrate on the heptathlon during the summer."

After having a successful high school career Madden said she had no choice but to attend Texas A&M.

"Both my parents graduated from here so I never thought about going anywhere but here," Madden said. "A lot of people think Texas is the track school to go to but I'm really happy about coming here."

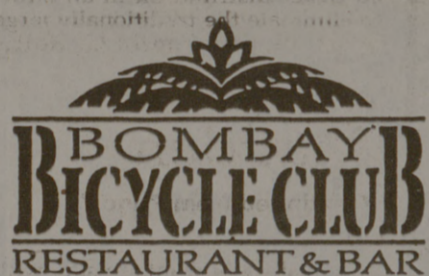
Since coming to A&M, Madden has competed in six events while setting a SWC record in the heptathlon with 5,408 points. This year she was the high point performer at the SWC indoor meet with 24 points and won the heptathlon at the College Station Relays.

"Kalleen has a lot of talent and is a real hard worker and that combination ends up making a champion," Assistant Coach Francisco Olivares said. "She does the extra stuff to help her win."

Even though Madden will compete in high hurdles and the high jump this sea-

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The New Aggieland



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696-1427 Sheri Thomson GM

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