

Lady Aggie to play in U.S. Olympic Festival

Canada selected to South Team; tournament held July 24-28 in San Antonio

By MARK SMITH
The Battalion

Texas A&M Lady Aggie basketball player Donyale Canada will be participating at the 1993 Olympic Festival. Canada,

a sophomore guard, was selected to play for the South Team at the festival to be held in San Antonio. Canada said she was excited about being named to the team. "It lets me know where I stand," she said. "It's a good con-

fidence builder."

Lady Aggie head basketball coach Lynn Hickey said in a press release, "We are very proud and excited that Donyale did such a good job at the tryouts. This will be a great experience for her, and it is a good reflection on our basketball program."

Canada was selected to the South Team, one of four regional teams that will compete in the festival July 24-28.

Canada said she was plagued by a lack of confidence before the tryouts began.

"I didn't feel very confident at first, but when I got there the competitive spirit in me came out," Canada said.

Hickey said Donyale's confidence will increase with more experience on the court.

"She is a great natural athlete," Hickey said. "She can run and jump and do all of that. All she needs is to play some basketball this summer."

Canada said she managed to stay relaxed until the end. "For me it wasn't tense until that final cut," Canada said.

Canada said it was nice to talk to some of the other athletes from around the country.

"There were a lot of girls that you had heard of at the tryouts, but then you get to talk with them on their level," Canada said.

Hickey said the South Region was the toughest to qualify for because of the large number of quality basketball programs in the south.

A panel of coaches makes the final decision on who makes the regional teams. "I guess I caught their (the coaches') eyes," Canada said.

Hickey was pleased that Canada would have the chance to play with the other Festival participants.

"To be able to play with this caliber of players for three weeks will do her good," Hickey said.

As a Lady Aggie freshman, Canada played in all 27 games, starting 11. A 5-foot-4-inches product of Austin's Reagan High School, Canada averaged 4.5 points per game and 1.6 rebounds per game for the 1992-93 season.

The tournament at the Festival will be a round-robin format. The two teams with the least amount of losses will play in the gold medal game.



BATTALION FILE PHOTO

A&M's Donyale Canada drives past Rice's Yolanda Stinter in the Lady Aggies 73-61 victory in February. Canada has been selected to play in the 1993 U.S. Olympic Festival.

Multi-sports complex construction

Student response varies

By MATTHEW J. RUSH

The Battalion

The new recreational sports complex had its beginnings in 1987. The designers saw a need to either improve the existing facilities, Deware Field House and Downs Natatorium, or as it came to be, construct a new one.

According to the legislation that was not passed in 1991 - four years after its introduction into the Student Senate - the idea of constructing such a multi-purpose facility was to have an increase in participation among the students.

The plan was then opened to student body voting, which was successful in its first vote in April 1992. The vote approved a student fee of about \$50 that would appear on the tuition slip each semester, like that of a computer usage fee, Aggie Bucks or a meal plan.

The \$36.4 million complex is scheduled to be completed in January 1995, but these fees are scheduled to be implemented within the next year.

The attitude of the student body is somewhat mixed in their opinions about the new complex.

Melissa Gressett, a freshman from Midland, said that she would probably use the facility, but worries that the demolition of Deware and Downs may be unjust.

"I'll probably use it and the indoor rock climbing structure will lure me in," Gressett said. "It doesn't matter to me if they tear the old one down, but to alumni it might mean something."

The two structures, currently some of the oldest buildings on campus, are to be demolished upon completion of the new sports complex.

The cleared area is scheduled to become additional parking, and to some students this is more of a necessity than keeping old buildings.

Tyler Herbst, a senior from Dallas, said that parking and a new facility are needed; however, he sees problems with the assessed fee and the location of the new complex.

"Personally, I think that people living on campus won't want to trek all

the way over there," Herbst said. "I'm sure it will be done first-class, but unless they build new dorms over on west campus, there is a problem with the location. Not only that, but I won't even be here to use it."

Some students, like senior Jeramy Sturgis, said the new complex will help the recreational sports program. However, they question the demolition of

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- Jeramy Sturgis
Class of '94

the old buildings.

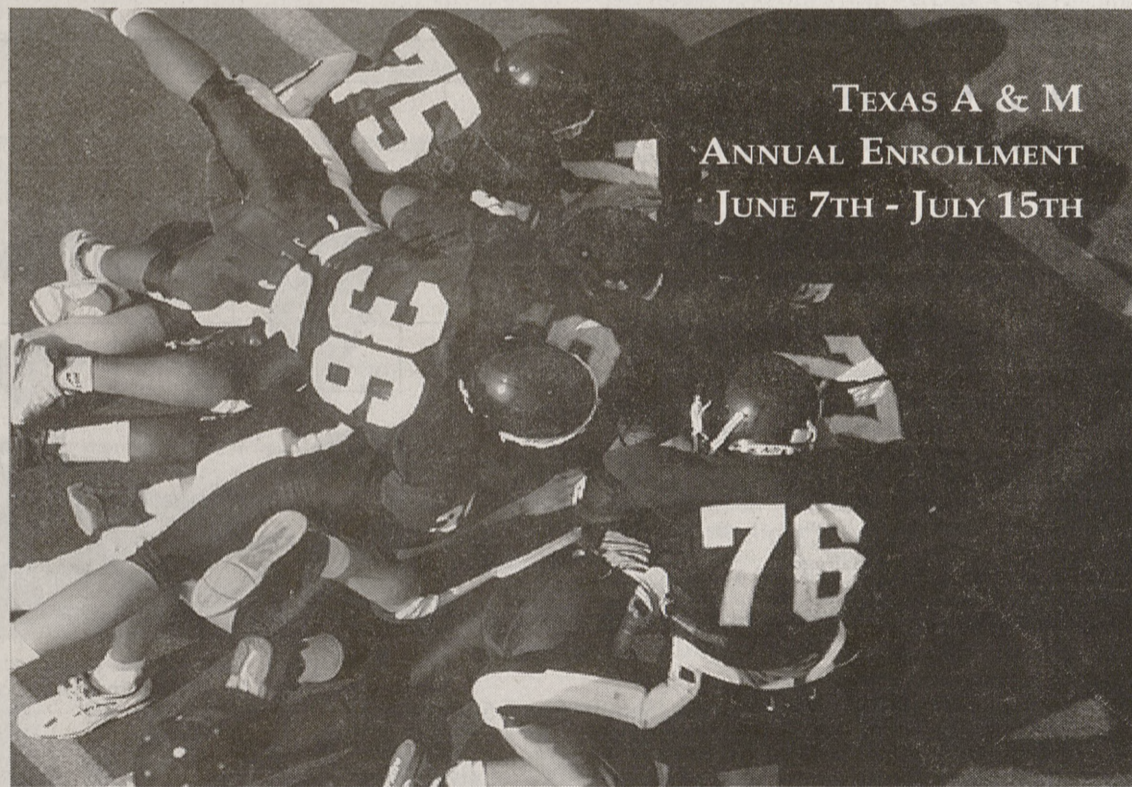
"The new sports center is a good thing," Sturgis said. "I don't know about the tearing down of Deware, except that it will be good for additional parking."

Other students said the fee is necessary and do not mind the \$50 fee that comes with it each semester. Jeff Summers, a junior from Fort Worth, agrees that the price tag is somewhat expensive, but sees it as necessary.

"I'm for it," Summers said. "I shouldn't be selfish and not want to pay for it. I'm sports minded and I think it'll be more convenient, even though I'll only be able to use it for one semester."

Sheri Fossler, a sophomore from Zionsville, Indiana, agrees with Summers in her assessment of the fee.

"I think most would be willing to tuck on the fee to their statement," Fossler said. "The complex is a great idea and A&M needs more athletic recreational facilities. Right now there is not a whole lot of variety and I think most students will use the new facility. Overall, I think it's a great idea."



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