

Home is where the wins are for Aggies

□ A&M on the road to nowhere with away-game losses.

By David Winder
THE BATTALION

"On the road again, just can't wait to get on the road again."

That is, unless you are the Texas A&M men's basketball team who have won only one game away from the friendly confines of G. Rollie White Coliseum. The Aggies are currently 7-1 at home while 1-7 on the road.

"We've played pretty well at home," coach Tony Barone said. "But our problems on the road have been in minutes. At Clemson, we were only down two with ten minutes left, then we came unraveled."

Although Barone has been pleased with the team's performance he would like to see more effort.

"I'm not disappointed in our play as much as I'd like to see us play at a higher level," Barone said. "Anyone that saw this team play last year knows that we haven't lost points, rebounds or assists from last year, we lost a specific heart from last year."

"We are slowly getting it back. (Southwest) Conference (play) should speed that process up."

The conference race should be wide open with A&M, Texas, Texas Christian and Texas Tech all battling for the SWC crown. Freshman point guard Kyle Kessel said that he believes the Aggies will get their road woes cured in time for conference play.

"We've played some real tough road games, the guys never stopped playing hard," Kessel said. "We've just got to keep playing that way and we'll win on the road as well as home."

A lack of experienced players has hurt A&M this season. Kessel along with fellow freshman guards Waseem Ali and Chris Oney have all seen playing time. Freshman Dario Quesada and junior college transfer John Stevens have also seen action.

"We've had to play a lot of young kids in the line-up," Barone said. "Last year (Joe) Wilbert and (Tony) McGinnis were the only ones who saw a lot of minutes. (Damon) Johnson and Corey (Henderson) just didn't see much time last year."

The biggest problem for the Aggies has been turnovers, they are currently averaging over 20 a game.

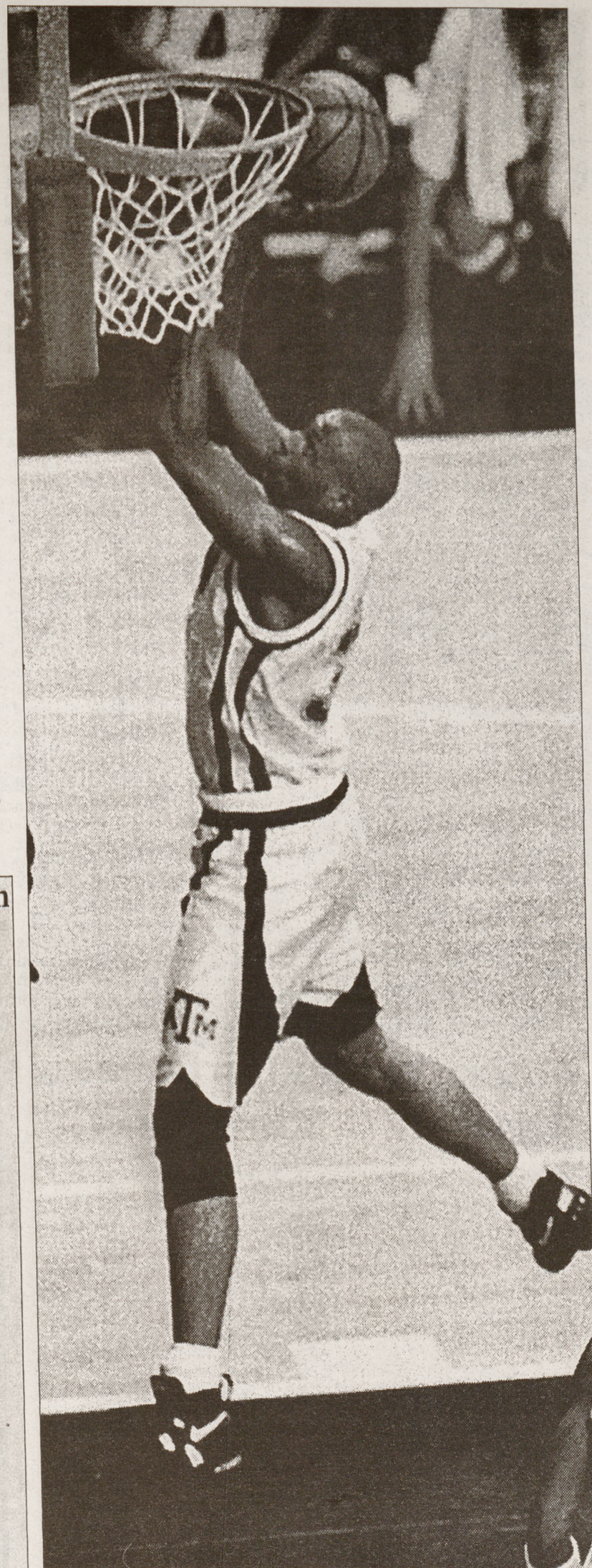
"We have to maintain a level of consistency with the ball," Barone said. "We always have to maintain turnovers. The more possessions we have, the better chance we have to score and win."

Barone has been pleased with play of Wilbert and McGinnis. An All-SWC selection last year, Wilbert is currently averaging 24 points a game in SWC play.

"Wilbert has been outstanding, he has defense has really picked up," Barone said. "He has also improved on his rebounding."

McGinnis has become the Aggies defensive stopper covering and shutting down the opponent's top scorer.

"Defensively, he's the best in the league," Barone said. "This year he also improved on his offensive intensity."



Stew Milne/THE BATTALION

Forward Damon Johnson in the clear for a layup.

Player	Position	Classification
John Stevens	F	Junior
Quinton James	G	Freshman
Chris Oney	G	Freshman
Tony McGinnis	G	Senior
Kyle Kessel	G	Freshman
Max Schleder	G	Freshman
Roy Wills	F	Senior
Jimmy Smith	G	Sophomore
Joe Wilbert	F	Senior
Chris LeBlanc	F	Sophomore
Corey Henderson	G	Senior
Chris Pulliams	G	Sophomore
Damon Johnson	F	Senior
Sean Clarke	F	Freshman
John Jungers	F	Senior
Waseem Ali	G	Freshman
Dario Quesada	F	Freshman