

# TEXAS A&M HOOP DREAMS

## SOUTHERN COMFORT Schmidt adapts to Texas life

By KATIE MISH  
Staff writer

When Michael Schmidt started playing basketball in the seventh grade, he was forced to give up another sport to do so — hockey.

"I used to play hockey, but I started to get too tall for hockey, so I decided to switch over to basketball," Schmidt said. Schmidt, a freshman education major hailing from Toronto, was the No. 1-ranked high school player in Canada and was named to the 1997 Canadian Under-22 National Team.

Schmidt said his most memorable moment was signing his letter of intent to Texas A&M after being recruited by Minnesota, DePaul, Syracuse and Southern Cal. But Schmidt signed with Texas A&M before even setting foot in the state of Texas.

"I came to A&M because of the people and the great atmosphere, and it's the college life that I wanted," Schmidt said.

Schmidt credits his mother and his high school coach, Steve Repic, as the biggest influences on his early play. Here at A&M he looks to his recruiter and his friends on campus.

Schmidt said the play at the college level is more physical than play at the high school level.

"Day to day you're

playing against great players," Schmidt said. "Every day you're playing someone who might be going to the NBA or be an All-American candidate. In high school, maybe you have one tough player per team."

Schmidt said he would like to forget his first season at Texas A&M,

## SHARPE SHOOTER Timing perfect for Sharpe in sophomore year

By CHRIS FERRELL  
Staff writer

Being around Prissy Sharpe, you get the feeling that timing is everything. There is her timing on the basketball court, something which, along with her desire, has led her to become one of the nation's top rebounders.

Sharpe has recorded 15 double-doubles for the Texas A&M Women's Basketball Team this season, averaging 15 points and 10 rebounds per game. While her scoring has been big, it is her rebounding that sets the 6-foot-1-inch sophomore apart from other players.

"She is a great rebounder," senior center Kim Linder said. "Her scoring is huge for us, but her rebounding is just unbelievable. She's not tall, she's not a great leaper but she rebounds really well. I think it's her desire for the ball. I don't know anyway else to explain it."

Sharpe said her ability to rebound is something that she works on relentlessly. "That's something that can help my team," she said. "On this team, it might not be my responsibility to lead the team in scoring. I think it's my responsibility to rebound. My team looks to me to rebound and I take pride in doing that."

"I've said this a lot. I think it's just having a

nose for the ball. Rebounding is something that you have to have an instinct for. You have to want the ball. You have to have the I-want-the-ball attitude. You have to say, 'when the ball comes off, I'm going to go get it.' Some people have it and some people don't."

Sharpe's emergence this season has been critical for the Aggies, but not completely unexpected. She was the team's leading returning rebounder and shot blocker and second leading scorer coming into the season. After putting up such impressive numbers as a freshman, Sharpe said that she wanted to become more consistent this season.

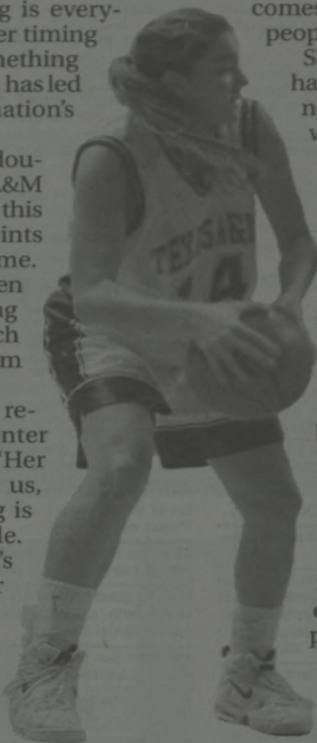
"I just wanted to play good and I definitely wanted to average a double-double. Now I'm actually doing that."

"It was my goal to do as well as I've been doing. You always have confidence in yourself. So, yeah, I expected to do well. I'm very pleased with how I've been playing."

It's a mind-set really. Consistency is something that has come into play.

In the past I wasn't as consistent as I am now. In a game I pretty much know that I'm going to go out and get my double-double or whatever. I've been really consistent and that is the difference between this year and last year."

Last season Sharpe started 23 of 27 games for an A&M team that relied heavily on freshmen. Those freshmen have now been playing together for two



PLEASE SEE SHARPE ON PAGE 8.

## BASKETBALL JONES A&M junior gaining respect

By JEFF SCHMIDT  
Staff writer

Shanne Jones could borrow a line from Rodney Dangerfield, because neither get any respect. During Jones' first season at A&M, his sophomore year, he averaged 12.4 points a game in league play, second among conference newcomers, and nearly five rebounds a game yet was not named to the Big 12 Newcomer team. Despite averaging 19.1 points per conference game this season, good for fifth in the Big 12 Conference, Jones will probably not garner any all-conference notoriety.

"Not with our record. It's a team game," Coach Tony Barone said. "You're a victim of your team in terms of its won-loss record as well as the profile of it. He should've been on the all-newcomers team last year."

This season has been tough on all the players, especially Jones. Jones has attempted to shoulder the offensive burden but the Aggies continue to struggle.

"His only real problem is he gets down on himself too easily. He shouldn't do that because

his effort has been at the top of the line," Barone said.

However, Jones almost never became an Aggie. Jones played his freshman year at Stetson and left when his head coach took the head coaching job at Akron. He was ready to follow his coach to Akron but he was not granted a release by Stetson. Jones felt that his former team would not be successful with a new coach.

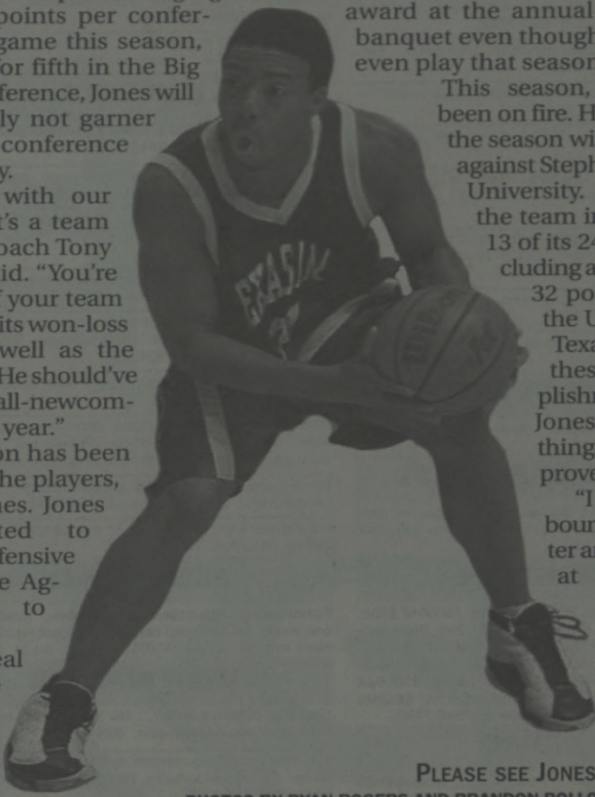
"I thought that there was going to be chaos after he left," Jones said.

Eventually, he obtained the release and became an Aggie instead.

Under NCAA guidelines, Jones was forced to sit out his true sophomore year and redshirt. During that season Jones received the team's "Mr. Hustle" award at the annual basketball banquet even though he did not even play that season.

This season, Jones has been on fire. He started off the season with 27 points against Stephen F Austin University. He has led the team in scoring in 13 of its 24 games, including a career-high 32 points against the University of Texas. Despite these accomplishments, Jones still sees things he can improve upon.

"I could rebound a little better and get better at three-point shooting and perimeter defense," Jones said.

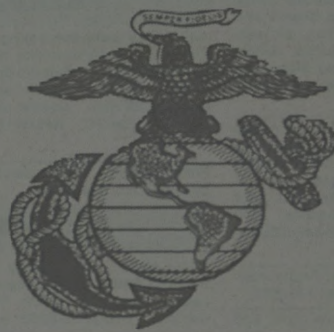


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