

Barone bolts for Marquette

Texas A&M point guard announces transfer after much thought and brief meeting with new basketball coach



By JEFF WEBB
Sports editor

Texas A&M point guard Brian Barone finally got his 15 minutes. However, instead of being the 15 minutes of fame referred to by Andy Warhol, it was the length of time it took for Barone to meet with Coach Melvin Watkins to decide staying at A&M was not for him. "I had a chance to talk to Coach Watkins finally after about a month," Barone said. "I went in there and talked to him and after that conversation, I pretty much knew it would be in my best interests and other people's best interests if I went elsewhere. "He didn't say anything to try to have me stay. He said he's not trying to run me off, and I have no ill feelings toward him at all." Barone will transfer to Marquette University and play his first season under MU coach Mike Deane in the 1999-2000 season after he sits out one year due to NCAA transfer-eligibility rules. "I am thrilled that Brian is coming to Marquette," Deane said. "He comes with proven experience at the top level of col-

legiate basketball. He is a floor leader who will have a steady influence. Brian is a very good passer and is solid defensively." Barone took a visit to Milwaukee to see the Marquette campus and said he felt it

since the athletic department and his father, Tony Barone, and the University of North Carolina coach Melvin Watkins to resign as basketball coach after a 7-20 season.

"Once I saw Marquette, I loved it. The guys were great."

Brian Barone
Former A&M basketball player

was the right place for him to continue his basketball career. "Once I saw Marquette, I loved it," he said. "The guys were great. We were playing once and I dove for a loose ball and didn't get it. There were two other big guys diving too I wasn't used to that." Barone had been considering a transfer

from the University of North Carolina. "My initial reaction was that I should leave, but I did not make a decision to leave until recently," Barone was on the fence the whole time. "I was excited about my decision, but I will be hard leaving this place." "A&M is a class act, and I've had feelings toward any of the people of the support has been just great." Barone played the majority of his college career in College Station at the solidated High School and Texas State father became coach for the Aggies. Barone appeared in 55 games during his career and made 13 starts during the 1998-99 season. He received honorable mention Big 12 honors after last season's performance. He has a career record of 17 third in assists among Big 12 players.

Big 12 Commissioner ruled out as Olympic candidate

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — Big 12 Commissioner Steve Hatchell has been ruled out as a candidate for a key position in the organizing committee of the 2002 Winter Olympics, Salt Lake City officials said Wednesday.



Hatchell was recently interviewed for the post of sports director of the Salt Lake Organizing Committee (SLOC) amid reports he was the subject of an investigation into allegations of workplace harassment, according to the *Deseret News*. "It was unfortunate that certain things came out in the media which we weren't aware of," SLOC president Frank Joklik said. "The issue is pretty well closed." Asked whether Hatchell was no longer a candidate, Joklik said, "I don't think we are going to pursue that one." "There are other attractive candidates and we are confident the position will be filled in the near future," he said. Joklik spoke after making a progress report to the executive board of the International Olympic Committee. The IOC has urged SLOC to fill several important staff positions, particularly that of sports director. The sports director would be in charge of organizing the competitions of the 68 medal events in the games. "There are some good candidates," Joklik said. "We've got to find someone with the right combination of experience, energy and contacts in the sporting community. We hope to reach finality on that soon." Dave Johnson, a SLOC senior vice president, said he hopes the

position will be filled before the IOC coordination commission visits Salt Lake on June 26-27. The commission is the IOC panel which has oversight over the games.

"Now is the time," Johnson said. "June is a good milestone." Marc Hodler, president of the International Ski Federation and head of the IOC coordination commission, confirmed the IOC was pushing for a sports director to be appointed quickly.

"We have found out various possibilities are under scrutiny and we have been assured some proposals will be made in June," he said. Joklik said SLOC expects to hire three or four other key staff members this year, including in the fields of games services and human resources.

"We have the core of the management team now with our senior vice presidents," he said. "With the exception of human resources, the new personnel will fill the places beneath them."

On other issues, Joklik told the IOC that SLOC expects to complete its revised budget in September. The budget is expected to total around \$1 billion.

Joklik said SLOC hopes to unveil the games mascot in June, possibly during the next IOC executive board meeting in Seville, Spain.

Johnson said SLOC plans to submit its competition schedule to the IOC in December and start ticket sales in October 2000.

The SLOC officials said they were consulting with international federations on the possibility of adding the sport of skeleton, as well as women's events in bobsled.

IOC sports director Gilbert Felli said the biathlon federation had requested including men's and women's relay events.

Aggies lay waste to Bearkats for 13-0 victory to break SHSU losing streak

Junior Craig Kuzmic hits two home runs to help pace Aggie offensive

By CHRIS FERRELL
Staff writer

If at first you do not succeed, try, try again. The Texas A&M Baseball Team (38-15, 19-8) finally found a way to get past the Sam Houston State Bearkats with a 13-5 win Tuesday night at Olsen Field.



After dropping the first two games of the season to Sam Houston 10-7 and 5-4, Coach Mark Johnson said his team was motivated to pick up a win. "I didn't give them a big fiery speech on them (SHSU)," Johnson said. "I just said this is the first team that's had a chance to sweep us. The important thing was we needed to get ourselves. We wanted to get on a roll going into the weekend." The Bearkats jumped out to a 3-0 lead in the top of the second when a Sam Houston designated hitter took A&M junior starter Shane King deep for a three-run blast.

The Aggies answered in the bottom half of the inning, scoring two runs on a bases-



First baseman John Scheschuk was unable to tag out this Sam Houston State runner, but the Aggies made up for recent shortcomings with the Bearkats by putting 13 runs on the board Tuesday night.

Bearkat pitchers walked four of the first seven batters in the inning and allowed a run on a bases-loaded walk.

Junior third baseman Craig Kuzmic, who raised his team-leading home run total to 18 with two on the night, said the Aggie bats are heating up at the right part of the season.

"It's the end of the year and we know that we're starting to play for something," Kuzmic said. "We're also trying to get to our 40 wins and we're getting excited about that. I'm just starting to hit the ball now. I'm glad I'm doing it now."

Johnson said he was pleased that he was able to look at some pitchers he does normally get to see.

"We got to see Shane King," he said. "He got out there and had some confidence, and we got to see (freshman pitcher) Chris Scarcella who was the other guy we wanted to see."

"Then we got the bonus of getting (junior

pitcher Kyle) Holle in the game, and we didn't have to use (senior pitcher Eric) Feltner. We haven't been able to get a lot of pitching going in the Tuesday games so that was a big encouragement."

Most importantly the victory gave the Aggies who have scored 52 runs in their past three games even more confidence as they head their weekend showdown with Baylor in the series which will determine the Big 12 regular season champion.

"That was really key because this weekend we have Baylor, and we're kind of nervous now," Kuzmic said. "We just came out and played hard."

The series with Baylor will be the last of the 12 series for the Aggies this season. The game will begin at 7 p.m. at Olsen Field.

The series shifts back to Ferrell Field in Waco for the remaining games on Saturday and Sunday.

Baseball Update

Record: 38-15, 19-8 Big 12
Next Game: vs. Baylor
Time: 7 p.m.
Scheduled Starters:
Ryan Rupe (8-4, 3.07 ERA)
vs. Baylor TBA

loaded single by sophomore second baseman Sean Heaney. Sam Houston extended their lead to 4-2 in the third on a solo home run by Jesse Griminger. The Bearkat lead stayed in tact until the Aggie half of the seventh when A&M exploded for seven runs on four hits.

Golden Key National Honor Society

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7:00 p.m. Rudder 410

Guest Speaker: Representative from the Office of Professional School Advising

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