

Ram Cagers Streak To The Head Of The Class

By Joe Rojas
Staff Writer

With a steady beat and a constant pounding, Fresno City College's men basketball team, coached by John Tomasian, are racing straight toward another successful season.

The Rams are 7-0 in the Central Valley Conference and 18-9 overall. If the Rams win three of their last remaining five conference games they will be a shoe-in to take the championship trophy.

Tomasian is not surprised with his team's winning percentage record so far this season, saying, "We're pleasantly surprised, but we stress smart basketball to our players."

"With last year's returning freshmen, we can coach more in-depth." With the help of assistant coaches, Chuck Stark and Ernie Shelton, the Rams have used three differ-

ent defenses and two offenses to keep their opponents second guessing themselves.

Last year Merced College won the CVC championship and tonight the Rams will try to keep their winning streak alive when they host Porterville College at 7:00 p.m.

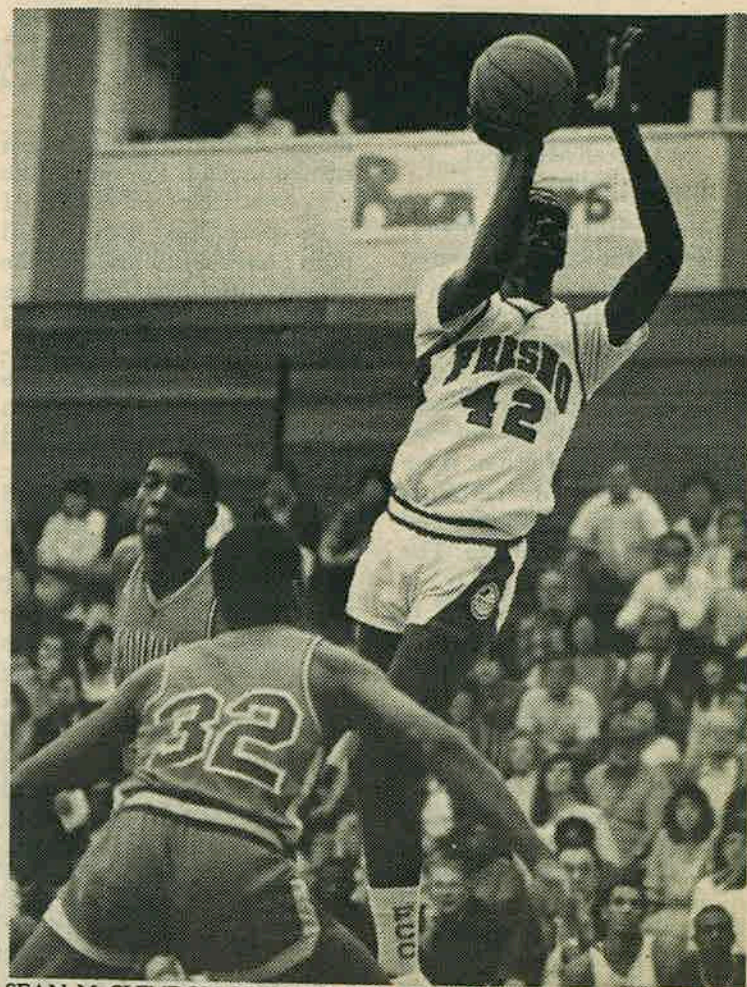
This year the Rams average height is 6'2", which is the shortest in the league. Tomasian and company rely on full-court pressure defense and a fast breaking offense. The offense has provided the fans with exciting basketball--last week against Colombia the Rams were providing some 1,300 fans with the usual nail biting basketball when the lights went out in the gym for 34 minutes. All but few of the fans left the game. In return the Rams gave their best and won.

Tomasian has the knack of getting the most from his players, "I'm a motivator--I'm a strong champion of winning--winning isn't everything, it's the only thing." Tomasian doesn't rule with an entirely "iron fist". He believes in team unity, team spirit, and high enthusiasm.

He doesn't publicly shame his players for making an occasional mistake, "I'm not going to admonish a player for throwing a bad pass--did he do it on purpose?--I put my hand on their shoulder and let them know I have confidence in them," he said.

Showing confidence and providing team leadership are guards Darren Matsubara and Duane Crupper, along with utility man Michael Townsel. Sean McClendon, at 6'8" and the only player over 6'3". Anthony White and Ken Young are providing the rebounding muscle.

The only thing lacking at FCC basketball games though is more student and faculty support. If the students and faculty have any reservations about the entertainment value the basketball games can provide--let the winning record coupled with the "fire-house" style of basketball provide the incentive. Coach Tomasian, "What a better way for anyone to get involved than to come to an FCC basketball game for excitement!"



SEAN MCCLENDON REACHES FOR THE SKY TO HELP SCORE FOR THE RAMS.
Rampage/Julie Shinkawa



Rampage

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fifties fun found at fat Jack's

by Kevin Sheehe
Staff Writer

*"Put your glad rags on and join me hon,
We'll have some fun 'til the clock strikes one
We're gonna rock around the clock tonight"*

Bill Haley and
The Comets

The King is on his throne, Fats Domino is finding his thrill, and it's about time to do a new dance called "the Twist."

Yes, the '50s are back again. At least that's the Haps at a local burger joint called Fat Jack's.

Fat Jack's is a Drive-In in the spirit of Arnold's on the long-running TV series Happy Days. Fat Jack's has no indoor dining room. Instead, your food is brought to your car by cute young car hops all decked out in short shorts and pearly smiles . . . or, in cooler weather, the more appropriate jeans and t-shirt.

"When I was a teen-ager and in my twenties the thing to do for entertainment was 'drag the Main' and go to the different drive-ins like Stan's, Mars, Port George, and the Royal," says the owner, "Fat Jack" O'Day. "So when I heard that this (the building) was available, I thought that it would be a good idea--People would like it."

The place is becoming a hang-out for students and others just like it would have been back in the '50s. In describing his clientele, Fat Jack says, "Really, it's a cross section. It's the young kids about twenty to one of my friends, Pappy, that owns his own roadster and is 67 years old."

In fact, a lot of classic cars and other interesting cars hang out at Fat Jack's. "In the summer season there's a lot of open cars like roadsters. Right

now it's a lot of classics like '30s, '40s, and '50s Chevys," among others.

As for how the customers like it, one said, "A friend of mine owns a classic and knows Fat Jack. He told me to come down and see how I liked it and I've been coming back ever since." Another patron said, "We can sit in the car. It's an interesting place."

But is the food authentic? Fat Jack says that although the food might take a little bit

longer than the average fast-food order, "the burgers are how I remember them, and the sandwiches are how I remember them. And when someone buys my product I want them to like it. Everything that goes out of the order window is just like it would be if I was to eat it. That's the way it's got to be."

Even working at Fat Jack's is fun. The waitresses say that the best part of the job is meeting all the people.

Fat Jack is not without ex-

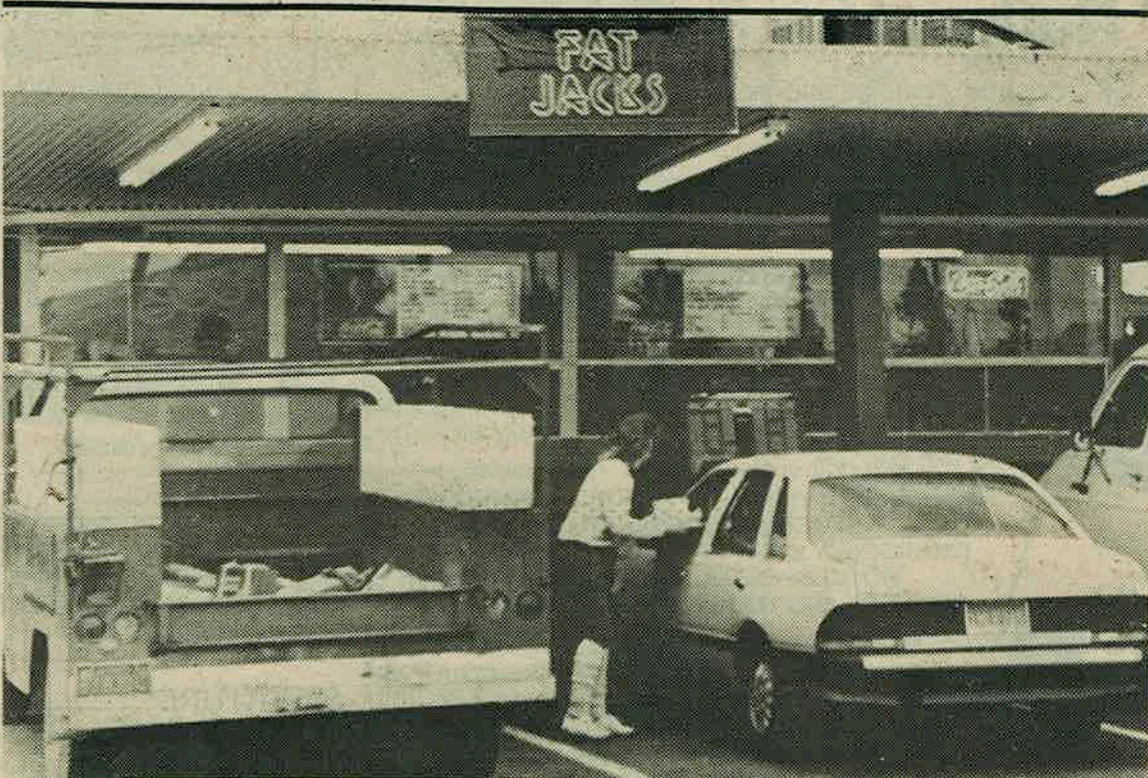
perience in the restaurant business. "I did manage a franchise . . . but then it's a franchise and you're working for the company; They took their money and the bank took their money and I was the last guy in line. You're the last person to be paid anyway when you're in business for yourself but I like it this way. It's easier."

The entire establishment is, of course, decorated in a '50s motif. Neon signs and a huge vintage jukebox are part of the decorations, and music from that era is piped outside to make the customer's experience complete.

The combination of atmosphere and good, authentic food makes eating at Fat Jack's a nostalgic glimpse back to a time when life was simpler.

"I like it," said one customer. "I wish they had more drive-ins like it." So when you go to Fat Jack's, be sure to bring both a big appetite and your blue suede shoes, 'cause the music's cool and you'd better be, too.

*"When the clock strikes five,
six and seven,
We'll be right in seventh
heaven.
We're gonna rock around the
clock tonight
We're gonna rock, rock, rock
'til broad daylight
Gonna rock, gonna rock
around the clock tonight."*



WENDY, ONE OF THE CARHOPS AT FAT JACK'S KEEPS BUSY DURING LUNCH HOUR.

Rampage/Bob McNeece

RAMPAGE PROPOSES CAMPUS SHUTTLE MEMORIAL

by Darrell McCulley
Editor

Shock. Horror. Disbelief. These are the same three tired adjectives that everyone will use in the coming months and years to describe the reaction of the people of the United States to the disaster aboard the Space Shuttle on Jan. 28, 1986. As appropriate as these words are, we are certainly going to hear them time and time again in the future. The various media have a tendency, right or wrong, to overkill. But the constant repetition of events does have its value. When I woke up that morning and turned on what I thought would be Good Morning America, I was surprised to see Peter Jennings, the evening news anchorman. He was talking about some explosion on the Space Shuttle. I thought, "That must mean it was on the Launching Pad. Thank God no one was hurt." Then they showed the film of the accident. Again I thought, "I hope no one on the Launch Pad was hurt." When I saw that the film was of the Chal-

enger in flight, my stomach turned to lead. For one of the very few times in my life I was speechless. But I still didn't have a full grasp of the events unfolding before me until Jennings read again the first news bulletin of the accident. I'm sure by that time the viewers who had been watching it at first were tired of hearing the general announcement and wanted more details. But if it weren't for that repetition the ones "who are just joining us for the first time" would have only half an idea of what was going on. Sure, it gets boring and even irritating after a while, but it does serve a purpose.

The first temptation was to feel pity for the crew who died such violent deaths. But

after watching the film a few times it became apparent that it was so quick and powerful they must not even have known what hit them, much less have suffered any. This was the smallest of all small consolations in a disaster like this. But there was a dark side even to this little mercy; there are no remains left to honor. It might have been easier on the families if there could have been at least a grave. But they, as have the families of many of our other heroes slain in battle, will have to settle for a memorial of some kind.

The last congressmen to fly in the shuttle is from the district that includes the Kennedy Space Center and Cape Canaveral, and he came up with an idea that I

believe is the perfect memorial. He suggested that the seven new moons of Uranus discovered by the Voyager 2 spacecraft *on the same day* as the accident should be named after the seven astronauts.

As one who enjoys keeping up with current events, it

struck me that there was continuous coverage from the time of the accident up to past the hour of the evening news. There wasn't this much time devoted to the assassination attempt of President Reagan. Not even that much time was spent on the first launch of



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the Shuttle. That surely reflects the sudden sense of shock and disbelief that grabbed the watching American public, and even much of the rest of the world. We've never had anyone die in space before. As a matter of fact, we've only had one space mission endangered by a serious accident, the one Apollo mission that was orbiting the moon and had to return.

From all over the world have come messages of condolence. I do not often respect the actions of the Soviet Union, but it was a very touching and thoughtful of them to send one of the first such messages. They know what it feels like to have cosmonauts die in space. In fact, in what is one of the most horrifying scenarios that can be imagined, a Cosmonaut named Vladimir Komorov was aboard his space capsule when a malfunction in the parachute made it impossible for him to slow enough to land safely. Unfortunately, he had already begun his re-entry. Both he and the mission controllers knew that he was about to die a fiery death, for many minutes, however, he kept in communication with those on the ground, talking and waiting. Waiting to burn up in the atmosphere as he accelerated toward the earth. The Soviet people were horrified at the event, just as we felt. But at least our heroes (and heroes they were) apparently didn't suffer.

But for the present, we on earth are left with the problem of how to deal with the disaster in our own minds. Therefore, let the Rampage propose the building of a memorial to not only the seven Challenger crew members, but Gus Grissom, Ed White, and Roger Chaffee, and room for the names of any other members of the space program who might in the future give their lives in the search for knowledge. Something narrow and tall, perhaps, like the vapor trail the Challenger left as a finger pointing to the end of its journey.

What it will look like doesn't really matter. What matters is that we remember them, and that we make sure future generations remember them. If we cannot raise enough on campus, we can appeal to the community at large. And perhaps that is as it should be. Christa McAuliffe gave her life performing her job. Those of us who are her beneficiaries should take the lead in her memory. Besides, the Free Speech area looks too empty, anyway.

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Fresno City College SCCCD Chancellor Visits Campus

Page 4

by Cindy Collins
Staff Writer

Dr. Joshua Smith, chancellor of the California Community College System, visited Fresno City College three weeks ago.

This visit coincided with proposals from the Commission for the Review of the Master Plan that would consolidate the SCCC, which includes Fresno City College and Kings River Community College, with a single-college district from Bakersfield to Modesto.

Other suggestions from the

Commission for the Review of the Master Plan include:

- * A new two-year associate degree for occupations that have no baccalaureate (bachelor's degree).
- * An "upside down" bachelor's degree which would in effect reverse the current procedure of fulfilling the general educational requirements at the community college level and then transferring to a four-year university.
- * Limiting the number of remedial courses a community college student can take.
- * Establishing new require-

ments for hiring and firing community college faculty members.

Dr. Smith commented at a press conference that although he had once used the word "region" in a speech, the idea of the regional district concept has wrongly been credited to him. In fact he opposes the idea.

One of the issues that Dr. Smith specifically addressed was the current state standard of allowing a community college student to remain in school with a minimum grade

point average of 1.75 (C-). A 2.0 (C) grade point average is required to obtain a degree. Dr. Smith said that a student should be required to maintain a minimum of a 2.0 GPA.

He was particularly concerned with remedial education courses. He feels that these courses are necessary at all levels, and that there should be more emphasis on assessment of skills and counseling to retain current students.

"I think the first step in retaining them as students, comes when you assess their skill levels. Give them the opportunity . . . to build those skill levels and then move

them into college level work." The Chancellor has acknowledged that the assessment of skill levels through placement tests would help in retention, but also in transferring students to four-year universities.

Smith has mentioned in the past that there is a problem with too much "red tape" or bureaucracy and too little money in the college system.

In a speech at the Claremont Graduate School, Dr. Smith said, "In many respects I am encouraged by the Governor's budget . . . however, the proposed budget falls short of providing money to implement needed educational reform in the 106 colleges. It is a stabilizing budget; not a reform budget."

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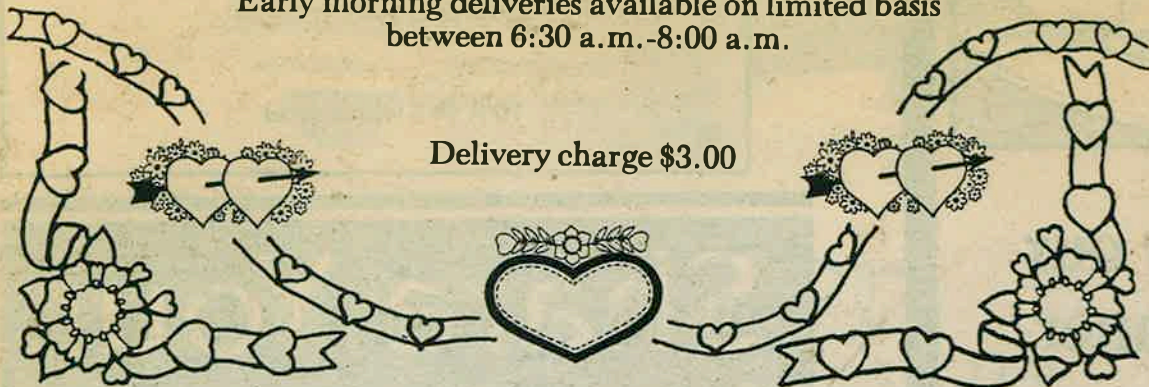
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