

NCAA finals begin

Associated Press
So far, the buildup for Saturday's NCAA basketball tournament semifinals has centered on the four teams plus Indiana's dynamic All-Americans, Scott May and Kent Benson. Meanwhile, dependably, consistent Richard Washington of UCLA, the Most Outstanding Player in last year's NCAA tourney, has been quietly psyching himself up for a repeat performance.

The 6-foot-10 junior forward, also an All-American and the MVP winner in this year's West Regionals, is trying to become only the sixth player in NCAA history to win the Outstanding Player Award at least twice in a row.

"If I look relaxed on the court, it's because I am," said the Bruins' high scorer with a 20.6 average. "I try to keep it in my mind that the game basically is supposed to be fun."

Washington said that he gets

psyched up in his own way, and when he does, it doesn't show. "I had total concentration against Kentucky and Louisville in the NCAA tournament last year," he said. "In that state of mind, you don't feel pressure, you don't hear the crowd and you're only aware of what's happening there and then. It's really a good feeling."

Despite his size, Washington is an excellent outside shooter and is expected to carry the brunt of the fifth-ranked Bruins' offense against unbeaten, top-rated and favored Indiana in the second half of the semifinal doubleheader at the Philadelphia Spectrum. In the opening game, it will be fourth-ranked, undefeated Rutgers against No. 9 Michigan. The winners meet for the title Monday night.

If Rutgers, 31-0, and Indiana, 30-0, reach the final, it will be the first time in the 38-year history of the NCAA tournament that two unbeaten teams will meet for the title.

Although UCLA suffered a humiliating 20-point loss to Indiana in the season's opening game, Bruins' Coach Gene Bartow is anxiously looking forward to the rematch.

"Losing the game was awful," said Bartow. "But things are never as bad as they seem. I'm looking forward to playing them again, and so is the whole team. I know they're a super team and Bobby Knight is a super coach, but we've got a good team, too."

Knight agreed that it was not fair to judge the teams on the season opener.

Briefs

Star swimmers Svante Rasmusson and Bob Leland represented Texas A&M Thursday in the NCAA national swim meet. The meet is being held at Brown University in Providence, R.I.

Rasmusson competes in middle distance events and Leland is a breaststroker.

★★★

AUSTIN, Tex. — Marc "Skip" Adams, an assistant and chief recruiter under former Texas basketball Coach Leon Black, will become an assistant under the new coach, Abe Lemons, the school announced Thursday.

Earlier, it was announced that Lemons' chief assistant would be Barry Dowd, former head coach at UT-Arlington.

Adams, 27, joined the Texas staff as chief scout and recruiter in 1974. He played his college ball at Dallas Baptist after attending Antelope Valley Junior College and the University of Nevada.

Club sports

SOCCER

The women's soccer team will play their first extramural game this Sunday against East Texas State in Nacogdoches. They also have games against the Austin City League, April 3-4, and games in the University of Texas Tournament, April 24-25.

The men's soccer team will participate in the Southwest Conference Soccer Tournament, April 10-11, in Austin. The men's team has a fall record of 9-1-1.

SKEET AND TRAP

The Skeet and Trap Club at A&M will sponsor a shoot this Sunday at 10:30 a.m. at the Bryan-College Station Club range on Highway 6. Door prizes will be given away at the shoot. Tickets can be bought from any member of the club.

JUDO

Third place at the recent Texas State Collegiate Judo Championship went to the Texas A&M Judo Team. The championship took place Mar. 13 in Ft. Worth. Texas and TCU placed first and second respectively.

Three individuals from the A&M squad placed in the championship. Carolyn Carlisle took first place in the women's 165-pound class, Kim Freeman placed second in men's 205 and under division, and Paul Nattel took first place in men's heavyweight classification.

RACKETBALL

A first, second and third place was won by members of the Racketball Club in the recent tournament in McAllen.

Two members of the A&M team, Connie Karcher and Neysa Buckley, won first place in women's open doubles. In the men's B doubles class, John Carver and Steve Taber took second. Karcher also placed third in the women's B singles division.

— Dana McNabb

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"Opening games often are not a reliable yardstick for comparison," he said. "UCLA has improved greatly over the season. I'm sure we've improved too. But I can't see that first game having any great bearing on this game."

Since that meeting, UCLA's starting lineup has undergone some shuffling. Dave Greenwood, a 6-10 freshman, has replaced 7-2 Ralph Drollinger at center and Ray Townsend has taken over for Jim Spillane at one guard.

UCLA, the defending national champion, goes into the game with a 26-4 record, equalling its worst mark in the past 10 years. Michigan will take a 24-6 record, including two losses against Indiana, against Rutgers.

A&M women golf squad hosts tourney

Being on home ground should prove an advantage for the Texas A&M women's golf team, Coach Kitty Holley said. They are hosting eight other teams in the first Women's Intercollegiate Golf Tournament here Mar. 29-30.

The tournament will be a 36-hole event with play beginning at 9 a.m. each day. Each school will enter five players with the best four counting toward team totals.

"This is the first time this season that all of our players are healthy and able to compete," Coach Holley said.

"I look for Houston Baptist and the University of Texas to be our toughest competitors because they have been winning most of the tournaments," she said.

Other teams entered are Southern Methodist University, Stephen F. Austin, Temple Junior College, Lamar, Midland College and Sam Houston State.

Play is expected to end about 2:30 p.m. Tuesday, and awards will be presented for both team and individual honors.

A&M team members are involved in qualifying rounds through today to determine who will represent the team in the competition.

"All seven of our girls will play — five as a team and two for individual honors only," Coach Holley said.

— Debby Krenke

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Lawsuit by cagers thrown out of court

Karl Godine and Jarvis Williams have lost what may be their final bid to regain basketball eligibility for next season at Texas A&M. The two freshman basketball stars filed suit in the U.S. District court of Judge Patrick Higginbotham. Higginbotham had earlier granted the players an injunction, ruling that the players had been denied due process when first ruled ineligible by the South-west Conference.

Higginbotham had ruled that the SWC must give the players a hearing with a chance to present testimony and witnesses. The hearing was held and the players were reaffirmed ineligible.

This latest suit filed sought to reverse the Conferences decision to

prohibit the players participation on the 1976-77 basketball team. Higginbotham ruled, however, that the Constitution does not guarantee a person the right to play basketball and disallowed the \$2 million lawsuit.

The players were not available for comment. It is not known whether the players will remain at A&M, although in an earlier interview both said they had not considered leaving.

— Tony Gallucci



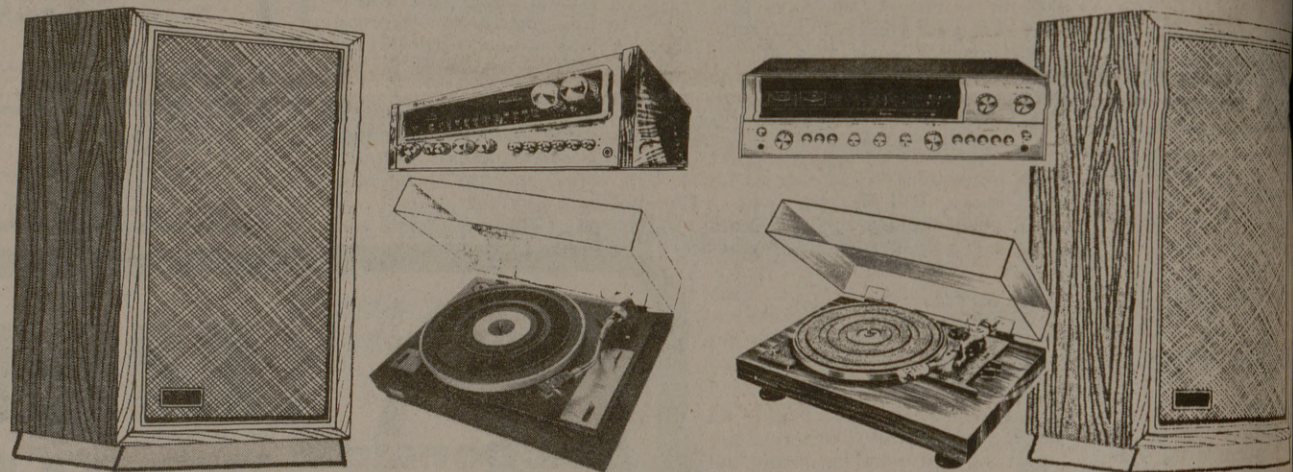
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