

Sports Aplenty

End Of A Myth

By GARY SHERER

It is not proper journalistic etiquette for members of the fifth estate to rib each other, but we will indulge in it just for this subject and then abstain till the next urge hits.

What we refer to is the Houston press. They created a "myth" that came crashing down to reality Friday and Saturday night at the Los Angeles Sports Arena. This "myth" we refer to is the supposed invincibility (at least before last weekend) of the Houston Cougar basketball team.

Now, all Cougar fans will scream indignantly, "the Los Angeles press is just as partial." This might be so, but from Friday night's performance, the LA people are a lot closer to being right than the Houston press corps based their whole "myth" in last January 20 at the Astrodome. What happened that night, in case you were out of the country, or underground, was that Houston beat the UCLA Bruins 71-69.

There are many of those always present 'what-ifs' about that game. For instance, what if UCLA hadn't shot 36 percent from the floor, what if Lew Alcindor didn't have double-vision, and a list of many more. We don't want to dwell on these things because the game is history and you can't change it.

What is important, is the things that a meager two-point victory led the Houston press to put in print.

From the writings, they would have had you to believe that the Cougars could have beaten two teams on one night, playing at the same time, and blindfolded. Again, the LA writers were claiming the same things about UCLA.

But, didn't the California people have a little more to base their thinking on than one two-point win.

After all, the Bruins were playing in the tough Pacific Eight conference and had to get up for every game. Houston on the other hand, was playing some opposition, that was to say the least, not top college talent. Granted, a lot of teams didn't want to schedule the Cougars, but we don't think Coach Guy Lewis lost any sleep about this fact.

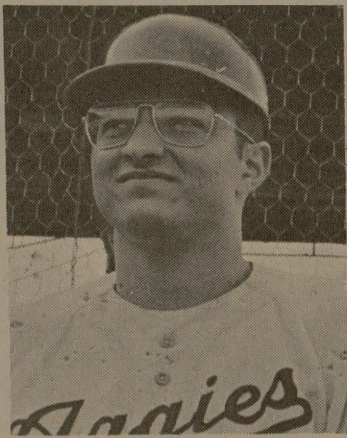
So, while Houston was annihilating these outclassed teams, the Houston writers were getting wilder and wilder in their "myth" building.

Then, when the NCAA Tournament came on the horizon, the Houston press said, "aha, the final moment of ruth is here." How could UCLA beat Houston? Hadn't the Cougars topped the Bruins by two points on January 20. Yes, they had really cut UCLA down to size with the sizeable margin.

The Cougars marched through three straight wins from Salt Lake City to Wichita, and then, the semi-finals were ready to be played. Houston would join North Carolina, Ohio State and "oh boy" UCLA in the wrapup games in Los Angeles.

Now, the battle of LA and Houston papers became fierce. Our team is better than your team took the place of analytical and factual reporting. Then, North Carolina topped Ohio State and the big moment was at hand.

Nearly 16,000 fans had jammed the sports arena for (See Sports Aplenty, Page 6)



PETE MAIDA  
Hits second home run of season.

Archer Takes Pensy Open With 268 Total

PENSACOLA, Fla. (AP) — Charging George Archer birdied the last three holes Monday and won the Pensacola Open Golf Tournament with a blazing 65.

The lanky Californian, tallest player on the pro tour at 6-foot-6, turned in a 72-hole total of 268, 20 strokes under par and one shot in front of veteran Dave Marr and England's Tony Jacklin.

Archer's total was four shots lower than the winning score in any tournament on the tour this year and earned \$16,000 in prize money.

The 28-year-old Archer trailed Jacklin most of the day, but the English youngster fell back when he overshot the 17th green and missed a 10-foot putt, bogeying the hole.

Jacklin's finish was the best of his career. He and Marr both collected \$7,800 for their second-place tie.

Marr closed with a 65 and Jacklin shot a 66 for totals of 269. South Africa's Gary Player, who finished with a 66, took fourth at 271.

Ray Floyd, who started the final round with a one-shot lead, dropped out of contention when he bogeyed the third hole and took a double bogey seven on the sixth en route to a 70, which left him at 272.

Defending champion Gay Brewer was back in the crowd at 279 after finishing 70.

Ag Nine Wins Four Straight

By GARY SHERER

The Texas Aggie baseball team will welcome a few days rest this week after playing four games over the weekend.

It will be a happy rest period as the Aggies came away with victories in the games. The Maroon and White nine followed up a two-game Friday doubleheader sweep of the Minnesota Gophers with a pair of victories Saturday over the Oklahoma State Cowboys.

THE FRIDAY twinbill with Minnesota was rescheduled as a result of the rained out Thursday game between the two teams.

It was a fine hour for Aggie pitching Friday as Johnny Walker and Dave Larson (with help from Walter Varvel) teamed up to shutout the Gophers. Walker

twirled a four-hitter in the opener while Larson, with last inning assistance from Varvel, blanked Minnesota on an equal number of base hits.

The two losses were the first of Minnesota's annual Texas tour. The northerners finished their tour last weekend with a two-game set with Sam Houston State at Huntsville.

AGGIE PITCHING continued its tightness with a run, as Fish hurler Doug Rau tossed another four-hit shutout at Oklahoma State in Saturday's 4-0 first game.

With the three straight blankings, Aggie pitchers had not given up a run in 24 straight innings before the Cowboys scored a single tally in the third inning of Saturday's second game.

In the first game of the Oklahoma State twinbill, Rau got all the runs he needed in the first inning. Aggie second-sacker Joey Robins reached first on an error, took second on a wild pitch and came home when leftfielder Bob Arnold singled sharply to right.

Rau was in command the rest of the way, but infielder Pete Maida gave the first-year pitcher from Columbus all the insurance he (Rau) needed. Maida, junior utility man from Beaumont, socked his second home run of the season in the sixth inning. The blow came with two teammates aboard to complete the scoring for the first game.

THE SECOND game went 13 innings before Boyd Hadaway's single plated two Aggie runners and gave the Maroon and White a 3-2 victory.

Rocky Thompson picked up the second game win in relief of Rick Schwartz. Schwartz went 10 innings and gave up one run and six hits. He walked none while striking out seven Cowboy hitters.

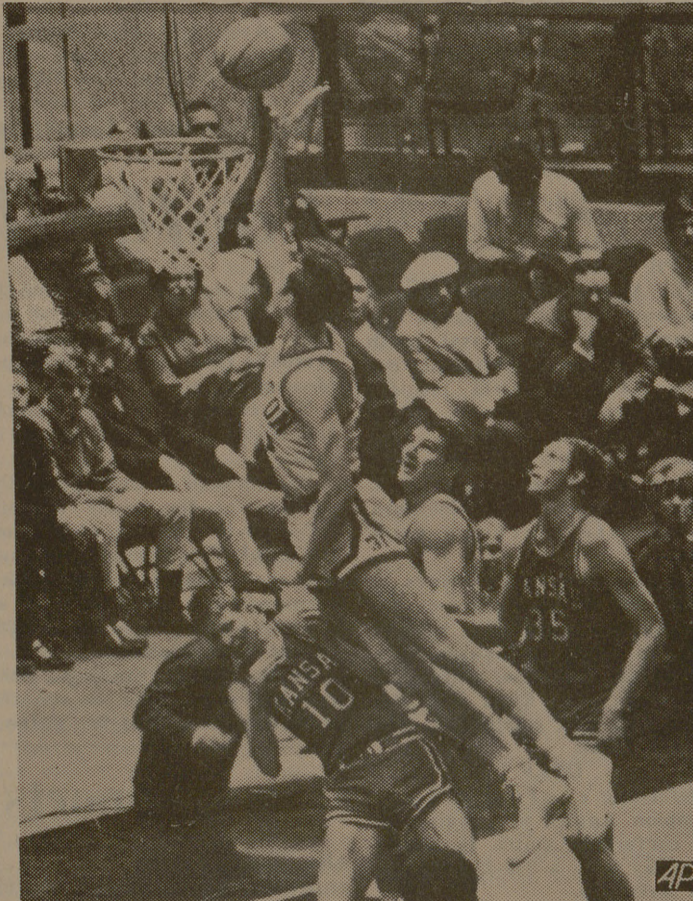
Schwartz had been in a pitching duel with two Oklahoma State hurlers, Bill Dobbs and Bill Maxwell, as both teams had scored early. The Oklahomans tallied

once in the third inning and first-baseman Eddie Vaughn put the Aggies on the scoreboard in the fourth with a solo home run.

BOTH COACH Tom Chandler and the Cowboy coach had agreed that the thirteenth inning would be the last inning, and both teams responded with runs. Oklahoma State scored once in the top of the inning and Hadaway ended the game with his game-winning single.

The Aggies next action will be here Friday and Saturday as they get back into Southwest Conference action hosting league-leading Texas Christian. The Horned Frogs are currently 5-2 in SWC play and 7-4 overall.

With the four-game win streak, the Aggies now possess the best season mark in the SWC at 8-4. They are 2-2 in conference play which puts them in a tie for fourth place with Southern Methodist.



TRYING FOR THE BASKET

Dan Obrovac (31) of Dayton University, tries to score on a rebound during the final 4 minutes of play in the National Invitation Tournament finale in New York. Kansas players in on the action are Phil Harmon (10) and Rodger Bohenskiel (35). In foreground is Dan Sadler (33) of Dayton. Dayton won 61-48. It is the school's second NIT crown. (AP Wirephoto)

Grapefruit League

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

- Atlanta 5, Detroit 1
- Baltimore 2, Chicago, (A) 1
- Los Angeles 4, New York, (A) 1
- Chicago, (N) 7, Cleveland 2
- Oakland 4, Pittsburg 3
- St. Louis 7, Cincinnati 6—10 innings
- Philadelphia 10, Houston 2
- Minnesota 4, Boston 3
- Washington 2, New York (N) 0

- Billards
- Jointed Cue Sticks
- Pinball
- Wildwest Ray Gun
- Shocker Machine
- Gripper Machine
- Magazines
- Magic Supplies
- Bumper Stickers
- Decals
- Novelties
- Comic Cards
- Sundries

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MARCH 28

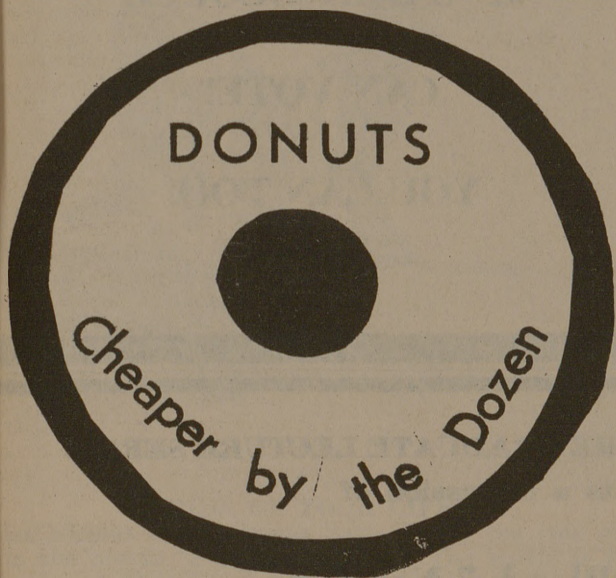


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