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INTERVIEWS
 Thursday, March 16
 MSC Room 3-D
 6:00 p. m.

John Curylo

Longhorns' win over Houston good for SWC

The Southwest Conference is a very lucky league.

Saturday night's University of Texas victory over the Houston Cougars showed that the tight race for the SWC title was a show of strength and not a display of weakness.

The conference is lucky, too, that Houston is not a competing member of the league yet. The examples of lack of discipline and sportsmanship put on by the Cougars would have smudged the name of all the schools in the SWC had they been our representatives in the playoffs.

When Dwight Davis, Houston's super post man, refused to accept the handshake offered by Longhorn Harry Larrabee, his televised obscenities served to indicate his maturity level.

But, when the game was over, his attempt to assault one of the officials made several points clear.

First, the talent of the Cougars is surpassed only by their lack of discipline. This is directly related to their character, a definite reflection on the Houston coach, Guy Lewis.

Second, the SWC isn't upgrading its program with the addition of Houston to the league. It'll be a while before the Cougars will help the conference. Sure, their athletes rank with the best in the nation, but their recruiting methods are known to be shady.

Finally, the SWC, especially

the University of Texas basketball team, received quite a boost. The Longhorns, pre-season favorites, won the playoff berth by beating the Southern Methodist Mustangs in an overtime game which decided who would represent the conference.

The upset of the Cougars by Texas made teams that came close, such as the Aggies, look very good. With a few more good breaks, that could have been any one of five teams out there in Las Cruces showing up the Cougars for what they really are — a bunch of prima donnas.

A&M fans were treated to many fine basketball moments this year. Coach Shelby Metcalf, whose squad was picked last, said before the season started that the Aggies may not win the title, but games would be exciting. What an understatement.

Anyone who was in the crowd for the Texas Tech game here or the Texas Christian or Tech games there, can testify that Aggie basketball was far from dull this time around.

Next year's unit promises to be higher ranked, but they will have to go a long way before they can match this year's team for excitement, suspense and desire.

But Aggie basketball teams not only put on a good show, they also do an excellent job of representing the school. There was not a time this past season that

students, former students or residents of the community could complain about the conduct of A&M players on a road trip.

You'll never see an Aggie player curse an opponent on television or attack an official. And battles are fought on the court. Texas players can appreciate the treatment they received after defeating the Aggies in G. Rollie White Coliseum this year. After Saturday's game, they were pelted with trash by Houston players and fans on their way to the locker room.

Getting back to Davis, it seems a shame that a player with so much talent uses it so foolishly. In December, the Aggies played in a two-day tournament in the Astrodome with Houston, Michigan State and Louisiana State. The Cougars won both contests handily, but Davis fouled out of one and was thrown out of the other for fighting.

Such an exhibition of immaturity, coupled with his selection to the all-tournament team, caused some observers to hope for many Houston defeats. Yet,

the Cougars decided to play together as a team instead of as five individuals, and they won a place in the playoffs.

While Aggie fortunes shine brighter on the horizon, the same cannot be said for the Cougars. At the beginning of the season, Lewis proclaimed that his freshmen could whip any varsity squad in the conference.

Well, it looks like Lewis had better find some new hosses, because his varsity didn't make the cut, and his freshmen were less than fantastic. It seems their leadership was poor and their character and discipline were lacking.

Yes, the Southwest Conference is lucky. Not because the Houston Cougars have blessed us with their presence, but because our representative showed that SWC basketball can compete on the national level.

The fact that the Cougars humiliated themselves along the way was more of a sidelight, serving as proof that Houston is not what it's said to be. Anybody can go to pieces under pres-

sure, but it doesn't take a national ranking to be a good conference champion.

Hughes argues for compensation

NEW YORK (AP)—Commissioner Pete Rozelle of the National Football League heard arguments Tuesday on Ed Hughes' request for monetary compensation for his ouster as head coach of the Houston Oilers.

Hughes, fired last December by owner Bud Adams in a disagreement over personnel changes, contends he still has five years remaining on a five-year contract.

Adams dismissed Hughes after the coach refused to release trainer Warren Arial and release Johnny Gonzalez as equipment manager.

Attending the closed door hearing in Rozelle's office were Hughes, Adams and General Manager John Breen.

Rozelle will make his ruling at a later date, an NFL spokesman said.

Diamond Darlings will work during all Aggie home games

The Diamond Darlings, A&M's group of batgirl coeds, will perform at the remainder of the Aggies' home games this season, it was announced yesterday.

The girls were originally scheduled to work four doubleheaders on a trial basis, but the decision was made to allow them to appear at all the games.

The batgirls are in their first year at A&M as a group, having been chosen earlier this month to serve during doubleheaders with St. Mary's, Lamar, Minnesota

and Houston. Their successful debut Monday in the twinbill with St. Mary's led to the extension of their schedule.

They will work the Southwest Conference series with Texas Christian this weekend and both doubleheaders against Minnesota Monday and Tuesday. Their next home appearance after that will be April 7-8 for the Baylor series.

The girls have been helping retrieve foul balls, assisting with keeping the equipment in order, and serving as public address announcers during the games. Sponsor for the group is Mrs. Willadene Chandler, wife of Aggie Coach Tom Chandler.

Overhouse lands first team berth

Jeff Overhouse, who made only second team on the All-Southwest Conference unit, took first team honors in the NCAA All-District VI basketball team.

Overhouse was paired with SWC scoring champion from Texas Tech, Greg Lowery; SWC Player of the Year from Texas, Larry Robinson; Dwight Davis of Houston and Simpson DeGrate, Texas Christian.

Rice head coach Don Knodel, the National Association of Basketball Coaches District VI representative, made the announcement.

The first team All-SWC list was made up of Lowery, DeGrate, Terry, Triplett and Robinson.

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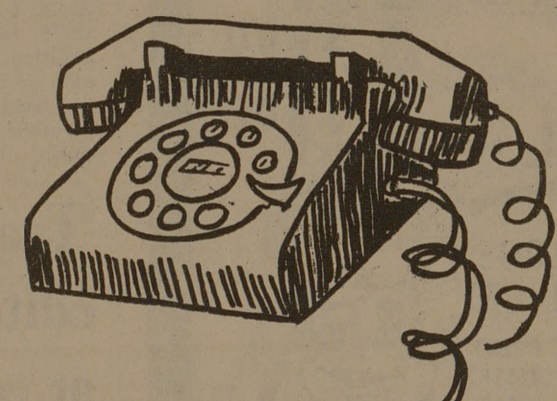
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