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COLLEGE STATION

Rice's coach says prospects not good

By DAVID WALKER

When the Southwest Conference basketball coaches met in Dallas last month for their annual pre-season press conference every team in the conference was given at least a chance to win the league champion-

ship, except one — Rice.

But it wasn't the kind of slap that would make the Rice coach mad —

he even agreed.

Coach Bob Polk enters his second year as the head basketball man on the Rice campus and is doing it with one senior, six freshmen and six sophomores. "We may be the youngest team in America," Polk told the newsmen.

youngest team in America, Polk told the newsmen.

"I feel that we've got a better team this year because we're quicker. But to be frank, we're rebuilding," Polk added.

The only senior in the Rice camp is guard Charles Daniels, who finished second in the SWC in scoring last year.

Daniels, a 6-2 two-year letterman from Chicago, averaged 16.8 points per game for the Owls last year even though he didn't become a starter

until the fifth game of the season.

"He started slow last year but he came on strong in the conference race," Polk said. Daniels is getting off to another slow start this season because he missed over a week of workouts because of a death in the

"He isn't in the best of shape yet, but he'll get there. All he needs is a

Daniels isn't the only Owl who needs playing time though, with six freshmen and six sophomores.

"We're going to play some tough opponents to get the kids ready in Pan American, Missouri and Southern Mississippi," Polk added.
Polk's two big recruits are just that — big. Doug Ekeroth and Paul Fichtinger are both seven-footers.
Polk feels that even though he has two seven-footers, one of the Owls'

two seven-footers, one of the Owls' weak spots will be on the boards. "The two big kids are coming along real well, but I don't know if they

real well, but I don't know it they are going to adjust in time."

To balance out the lack of rebounding strength Polk hopes to have a good enough offense that will be able to work for the percentage

Other than Daniels, the Owls will have two starters back from last

year's 5-21 team. Dave Louwerse and James Simmons return for their sophomore year and hope to be starting again. Polk says that each will start.

Simmons averaged 6.3 points per game for the Owls while Louwerse

hit 5.7 per game.

In addition to Daniels and Simmons the Owls should get help from Houston Kashmere freshman Madi-

Polk is hoping that one of the 7-0 freshmen will come through, but if not, either Louwerse or sophomore Frank Jackson will start at the post.

With so much youth on the Owl squad and so much experience around the conference it can only be termed as a rebuilding year at the Institute — and no one knows that better than Bob Polk.

Houston orphans prove worth against Dolphins

Associated Press HOUSTON — O. A. "Bum" Phillips, the Houston Oilers' realistic head coach, recognizes National

Football League officiating as a two-sided coin — even if he occasionally loses the flip.

"One thing nobody ever points out are the calls that go their way," Phillips said. "You can take any NFL game film and find calls that officials didn't make against a particular team. ticular team.

"That means to me the officials are at least being equal. I have great faith in our officials. They are doing the best they can and they are trying to improve.

A major controversy erupted Nov. 9 when Pittsburgh defeated the Oilers in Pittsburgh. Billy Johnson lost a tug-o-war for the ball in the end zone with Steeler defen-der Mel Blount. The Oilers thought it was a touchdown but the official

ruled it an interception.

While the Oilers didn't agree

while the Ollers didn't agree with that call, Phillips said Houston got a break on another key play in the Pittsburgh game.

"When Dan Pastorini quick-kicked 68 yards it drastically changed Pittsburgh's field position," Phillips said. "But we had a tight end downfield on the kick and the official didn't call it. That could have

been a very crucial play.

Phillips said he opposed any plan
to use instant replay cameras in deciding controversial decisions.

"I'd hate like the devil to take the

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"I'm going to play the young kids a lot, not because I want to, but be-cause I have to," Polk said.

human factor out of pro football and

have to go look at a TV screen after every play," Phillips said.

Phillips said the instant replay would seriously slow down games and possibly would make officials hesitant to make a close call with the instant replay camera looking over his shoulder.

his shoulder.

"I just definitely wouldn't want it," Phillips said. "I don't think we should ever get that mechanical."

Briefs

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — Rangy Onny Padun of New Zealand, seeded sixth, overcame South Africa's Billy Freer to advance to the second round of the South African Open Tennis Championships Tues-

day.

Parun, who won 6-4, 6-4, was one of the two players to enter the second round. The other was another New Zealander, Brian Fairlie, who had a comfortable 6-3, 6-2 victory over Graham Notman of Scotland.

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — Colorado College will meet California-Fullerton and San Francisco will play UCLA in the far west National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I soccer playoffs, it was announced Tuesday.

The location and date for the playoffs have not been set, but the games must be played by Nov. 26 to select entries from the four regions to meet in the championship

NEW YORK — Sandra Palmer remained No. 1 on the Ladies' PGA money list with a 1975 purse of \$75,884 while Jo Anne Carner held on to second with \$64,352, according to the weekly statistics released Tuesday.

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