

Houston high school loses to win

By ANGELO RUSSO
A "one in a million chance," brought a Texas high school basketball team to national prominence recently, but their place in the spotlight was short-lived.

Superior ball-handling didn't arouse the interest of NBC news in this team, nor did an air-tight defense, nor even an overpowering offense. The nation's eyes turned to Texas when the 4A Stratford High School Spartans of Houston's Spring Branch School District found themselves in the unusual position of having to lose a basketball game in order to gain a spot in the district playoffs.

Because of the district's "two-half" season rule, which splits the competition into two rounds and brings the winners of each round together to play off for the district title, a victory by Stratford would have excluded them from the playoffs. Stratford tied Westchester High School for first place in the first round of season play.

In the second round, Westchester and Spring Woods were vying for the No. 1 position while Stratford held the third place spot. Westchester would win the second round and the district crown if Stratford beat Spring Woods in the season finale. If Stratford lost, Westchester would tie with Spring Woods for the second

round lead and all three, Westchester, Spring Woods and Stratford, would be forced into a district playoff.

So if Stratford was to gain a spot in the district playoffs, they would have to lose to Spring Woods.

Purposely losing a game contradicts everything that competitive athletics is about," Stratford basketball coach Jerry Kroll said. "But our purpose at the beginning of the season was to win district; that was our primary goal. Winning Tuesday night would have precluded us from advancing to the playoffs."

The marquee in front of Stratford High read, "Watch us lose to Spring Woods tonight, 8:15." And the Spartans did just that. They played their reserves all evening and were soundly defeated by Spring Woods, 72-45.

The game, which was covered by NBC news, was entertaining, Stratford cheerleader Ginger Roush said.



Two can ride cheaper than one.

"We cheered and all, but we never used the word 'win,' just things like 'spirit' and 'fight.' It really was funny, because our fans were cheering every time the other team made a basket."

The referees got the best deal," one student said. "Nobody was against them tonight. Everyone wanted the same team to win. The news cameras came to the school the day of the game and interviewed students. I think they tried to make

it into a controversy, but coach Kroll did what he had to do. That's what competitive sports is all about."

The Spartans' excitement was short-lived however, as they lost to Westchester 53-36 last night in the first game of district playoffs. This one was for real and cost the Spartans the district title.

"I have no second thoughts about our decision to lose," coach Kroll said. "We set out to win district and we gave it our best shot."



Brian Barrett was on his way up for a shot, when Razorback center, Steve Stroud, apparently fouled him. The referee called travel-

Southern Idaho finishes first

United Press International
MUTCHINSON, KAN. — United College of Southern Idaho finished first yesterday in the final basketball poll of the National College Athletic Association. Southern Idaho, 26-0, led the poll season long. Casper Wyo. College finished second, followed by Westchester N.Y., Western Texas College and Independence, Kan.

Others in the top 20: 6, Waukesha County Wis.; 7, East Central Mo.; 8, Rhode Island; 9, Jamestown N.Y.; 10, Lawson State Ala.; 11, Ferrum Va.; 12, tie, Barton County Kan., Henderson County Tex., Palmer Iowa; 15, tie, Baltimore Md., Pensacola Fla., Oakland Mich.; 18, tie, Vincennes Ind., Southeastern Iowa; 20, DuPage Ill.

United Press International
MUTCHINSON, KAN. — United College of Southern Idaho finished first yesterday in the final basketball poll of the National College Athletic Association. Southern Idaho, 26-0, led the poll season long. Casper Wyo. College finished second, followed by Westchester N.Y., Western Texas College and Independence, Kan.

Others in the top 20: 6, Waukesha County Wis.; 7, East Central Mo.; 8, Rhode Island; 9, Jamestown N.Y.; 10, Lawson State Ala.; 11, Ferrum Va.; 12, tie, Barton County Kan., Henderson County Tex., Palmer Iowa; 15, tie, Baltimore Md., Pensacola Fla., Oakland Mich.; 18, tie, Vincennes Ind., Southeastern Iowa; 20, DuPage Ill.

INSTANT PASSPORT AND APPLICATION PHOTOS

barker photography
NORTHGATE 846-2828

The FABRIC Shoppe

Complete Stock of Fashion Fabrics
"In Our 30th Year of Selling Fabrics"

DOWNTOWN BRYAN
822-2433 201 MAIN ST.

CPPC

70 DAYS TO Commencement

TENTH FLOOR

RUDDER TOWER

Ride a bicycle
Help keep our environment clean

DOWNTOWN BRYAN

CORDUROY & COLOR

YOUNG CALIFORNIA SHOES

17.99

Here's a new look and feel that you're going to see a lot of next spring. The news is the colorful, spongy, polyethylene bottom. The tops vary — corduroy, leather, rope — you name it! Fun shoes. Unbelievably comfortable.

LEWIS' Shoe Stores

Colors of Navy, Lt. Blue, Black • Natural, Yellow, Caramel • Dark Brown, Tan, Natural

Can We Show You A Pair?

MANOR EAST 3 THEATRES
MANOR EAST MALL 823-8300

7:00-9:15
MGM presents
NETWORK
Released thru United Artists

6:15-8:00-9:45
THE ENFORCER
THE SHAGGY D.A.

West Screen 7:00 **Skyway Twin** 822-3300 East Screen 7:00

'Bod Squad' & (R) 'Town That Dreaded Sundown'

'When Women Had Tails' Starts Friday
'Small Town in Texas'

'Hollywood High' And 'Two Minute Warning'

Call For Times **Campus** 846-6512 COLLEGE STATION Call For Times

Count The Ways (X)

abc **INTERSTATE Theatres**
UNIVERSITY SQUARE SHOPPING CENTER 846-6714 & 846-1151

10 ACADEMY AWARD NOMINATIONS **BEST Picture!**

ROCKY

"BEST PICTURE OF THE YEAR!" (Co-Winner)
CINEMA 1 700 930 — Los Angeles Film Critics Association

Starts FRIDAY!
★★★★★ (HIGHEST RATING)
— Kathleen Carroll, Daily News

PG TOMORROW! United Artists

CINEMA 1 "THE PINK PANTHER STRIKES AGAIN!"
7 30 935 LAST DAY!

CINEMA 11 **SILVER STREAK**
HELD OVER 7 20 945 PG GENE WILDER

HESS CHEMICAL ENGINEERS

Our representatives will be on The Texas A&M campus to interview Chemical Engineering graduates on **Wednesday, March 2, 1977.**

The Company: Amerada Hess Corporation is a \$4 Billion/year Company with worldwide operations.

The Location: The Island of St. Croix in the U. S. Virgin Islands where the Company operates one of the world's largest refineries with a capacity of 650,000 Barrels/Day.

The Job: First, a 10 month training period where you will be exposed to every aspect of our business including initial assignments at our Woodbridge, New Jersey Central Engineering Office and our domestic refinery at Purvis, Mississippi.

Then, to the St. Croix Refinery to complete your training and assignment as a Process Engineer with responsibilities for providing a broad range of technical services for refinery process units.

The Future: Promotional opportunities in Technical Services, Process Operations and Economics and Planning come quickly for those engineers whose on-the-job performance indicates an ability to meet the demands of greater responsibility.

We want to meet with you and learn more about your background and interests and tell you more about our Company.

For further information and sign-up, contact your Placement Office.

Amerada Hess Corporation
1185 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10036

An Equal Opportunity Employer