

Hogs wait in the wings

United Press International
HOUSTON—No Southwest Conference (SWC) team beat nationally ranked Arkansas during the regular season, but four teams who would like one more shot at the Razorbacks pair off tonight at the Summit in the quarterfinals of the conference's postseason tournament.

In the 7 p.m. opener, 18th-ranked University of Houston is favored over Texas A&M University. The second game features the born-again Baylor Bears against the tough Texas Tech Red Raiders.

The two winners face each other Friday night, and then Arkansas takes on that winner Saturday.

The stakes are high. Saturday night's champion will represent the SWC in the NCAA playoffs.

Should Arkansas lose in the finals, the Razorbacks would likely receive an at-large bid to the NCAA playoffs. But the only way one of the other SWC teams will make the playoffs is to win the tournament.

Guy Lewis, the Houston coach, was keenly aware of that.

"There is not one of us who would

not trade places with Eddie Sutton and Arkansas right now," Lewis said before he put his team through a one-hour workout. "They are in the advantageous position."

The Razorbacks have had to remain sharp despite a 10-day layoff, and Lewis was asked if that might hurt.

"I think we all hope so, but I just don't know," he said.

Tech coach Gerald Myers said Houston's depth and strength would be the biggest factors in the tournament.

"Plus they are playing in their hometown. That should help," Myers said.

It was Tech, however, that beat the SWC champion Texas Aggies in the first postseason tournament in Dallas last winter.

"Having played in the tournament last year will probably help us this year," Myers said, "because we may not be as apprehensive."

Baylor coach Jim Haller, who straightened out his team at mid-season, said he considered the tournament to be the equal of a football bowl game.

"The Summit is the best arena I have ever played in," he said. "I'm staying in the finest hotel I've ever been in. And that instant re-run machine is really something."

Trevino overcomes chronic ailment

United Press International
ORLANDO, Fla. — Lee Trevino's back may be hurting, but he's not letting it get him down.

"Where's the nearest massage parlor?" he cracked after shooting a one-under-par 71 in the pro-am on the 6,929-yard Rio Pinar Country Club course as he prepared for today's start of the \$200,000 Florida Citrus Open.

There were better scores. Lee Elder had a six-under 66, best of the day. Arnold Palmer and five others had 69s. But for a man who had a disc removed in November, Trevino was in pretty good form.

"I hit 17 greens," he said. "But I was hitting 3-irons and 1-irons when some of the other pros were hitting 9-irons and 8-irons."

"I don't have any strength," he said, but added that he was satisfied with his recovery from surgery and had used his time off to do some hard thinking about his game.

Defending champion Hale Irwin

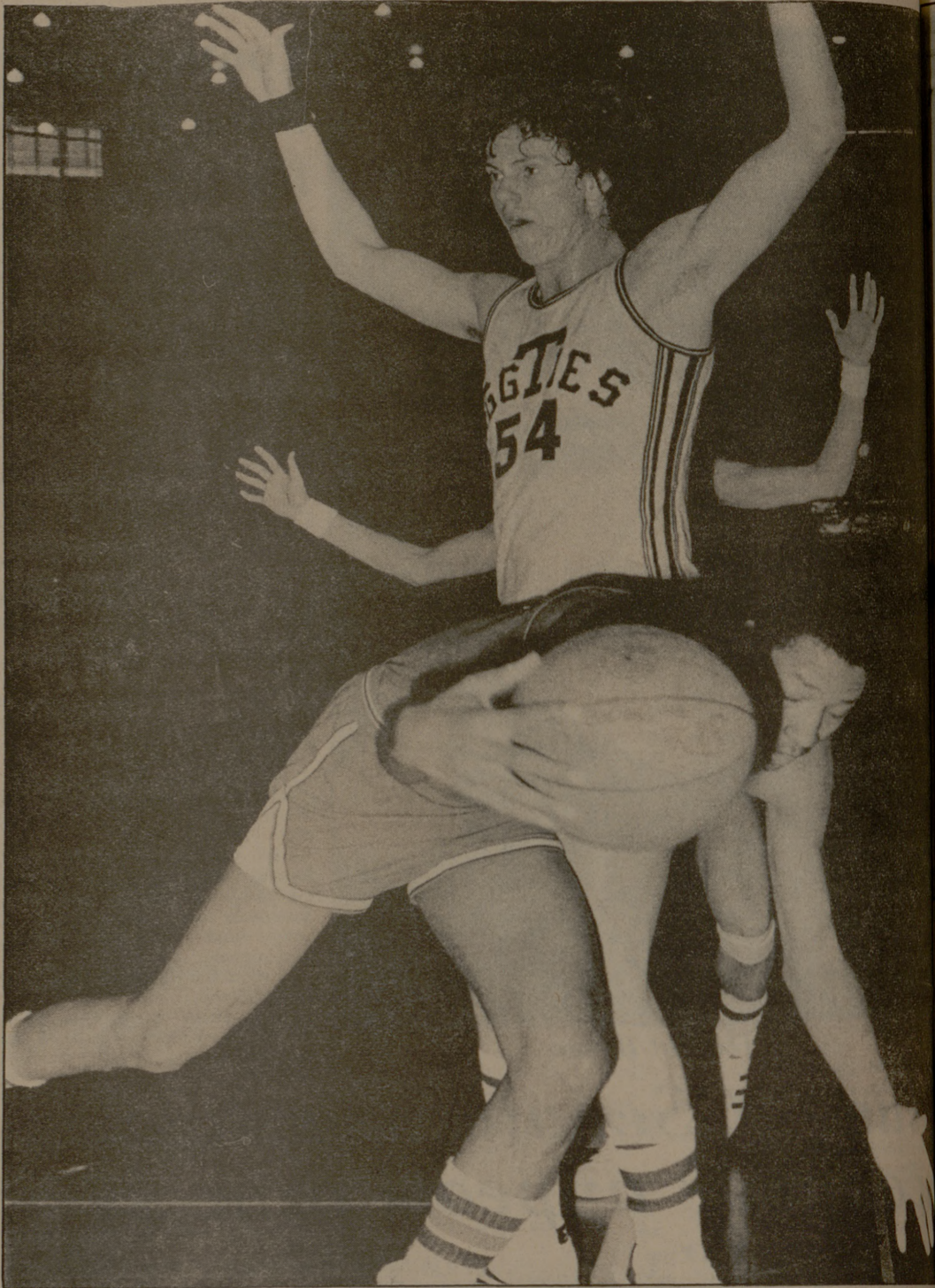
also carded a 71 Wednesday and said having won the Citrus last year didn't give him any special leg up this time around.

"I don't consider it anything at all," said Irwin, whose game lost some of its sharpness because he only played in eight tournaments during the last half of 1976. He took the time off, he said, to spend more time with his family.

Irwin beat Kermit Zarley on the sixth hole of a playoff after they tied at 18-under-par during regulation play last year.

The 156-player field is missing some big names, like Jack Nicklaus and Gary Player, who finished one-two at Inverrary last week, and Tom Weiskopf, Johnny Miller and leading money — winner Bruce Lietzke.

But the golfers who are on hand say the course weathered central Florida's unusually cold winter well and that scores should be low.



Wally Swanson appears to have grown two extra arms. He will have his hands full tonight against the Houston Cougars. Swanson will be guarding Charles Thompson, the Cougs second leading scorer.

Syracuse ready for rematch

By DICK USIAK
United Press International
The last time Syracuse played basketball with St. Bonaventure, the Orangemen got little help from Rosie Bouie.

That was Feb. 12 and Bouie saw limited action before fouling out as Syracuse was upset by the Bonnies, 91-94.

Wednesday night, Bouie played the entire 40 minutes and was the

dominating factor as Syracuse reversed that earlier setback by beating St. Bonaventure, 85-72, in an ECAC upstate New York regional playoff.

Bouie, a 6-11 freshman, scored 24 points, hitting 10 of 14 shots from the floor, grabbed 14 rebounds and was a perfect 4 for 4 from the foul line. The victory by the Orangemen into another playoff game Saturday night at North Va., against ECAC South winner Old Dominion. The winner of the game will advance to the national tournament.

"I was picking my spots instead of just running around and wasting energy," Bouie said. "I wanted to get in the game a little more early in the second half. I did. I really feel I was in there during the first half."

Meanwhile, Old Dominion, stung by taunts about its supposed "patsy" schedule in its first year in Division I team, routed Georgetown, 80-58, in the ECAC South playoff. It was the 22nd victory in a row for the Monarchs, who have a 25-2 record.

Freshman forward Ronnie Vintine scored 36 points — 24 of them in the first half as ODU built a lead — and center Wilson Washburn added 18 despite sitting out minutes to pace Old Dominion.

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