

Sutton receives recognition

By WAYNE NELSON
Saturday night, Houston basketball fans saw something unusual. Two teams, Arkansas and Houston, met for the championship game of the Southwest Conference (SWC) tournament. The unusual part was that the matchup paired two teams that were nationally ranked.

One of the teams featured an America while the other held United States Basketball Writers Association (USBWA) coach of the year.

The All-America was the much publicized Otis Birdsong. The coach, however, is not so well known.

He is Eddie Sutton, the head basketball coach at the University of Arkansas.

Sutton, who is in his second year at Arkansas, has turned the program around there, as well as SWC basketball a more respectable name.

Last Saturday night, before a sellout crowd at the Summit, Sutton's Razorbacks proved for the 17th time this season why they were No. 1.

The Hogs handed the Houston Cougars an 80-74 loss to assure an outright SWC championship.

After the game, Coach Sutton looked back on the game and some immediate plans for the Razorbacks.

"It was a great honor to even be a part of this game," said a modest Sutton. "It was really great to see a full house and on top of that to see two of the finest basketball teams play that the SWC has seen in many years."

Coach Sutton was also complimentary of the Houston team and their performance.

"Coach (Guy) Lewis has a lot to be proud of," Sutton said.

"I hope that they will also get the chance to represent our conference in the NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association) playoffs because I know that of the 32 teams that are picked for the tournament around the country, Houston has to be in there."

But when the invitations went out, Houston was left off the prestigious list. They were, however, invited to play in the National Invitational Tournament (NIT) to be held in New York City later this month.

Speaking of the NCAA tournament,

Coach Sutton said that for the first time in many years there is no unanimous choice for the tournament winner.

"We can safely say that we have a good chance to go all the way to the finals if we get a break here and there," he said.

If the Razorbacks do reach the finals, the credit will probably go to the three All-SWC players from Arkansas, Ron Brewer, Sidney Moncrief and Marvin Delph.

"Of the three, Ron Brewer is probably the best all-around player, Sutton said. "All three are very gifted athletes and it is a rare pleasure to have them on one team."

Saturday afternoon the Razorbacks will step into the first round of the tournament when they tip it off

with Wake Forest University in Norman, Okla.

No matter what the outcome of the tournament, Coach Sutton is obviously very proud of his team.

"People bad-mouth SWC basketball, but those two teams that played tonight could go anywhere and not be embarrassed."

Intramurals

INTRAMURAL BASKETBALL... PLAYOFFS

MEN-A DIVISION
Puryear I vs. Fat City, 59-51; Aston vs. Raabes, 34-33

MEN-B DIVISION
Mitchell's Barcelona vs. Wildbunch, 46-42. (B DIVISION-CHAMPS)

INTRAMURAL BASKETBALL... ALL-UNIVERSITY CHAMPIONS
Puryear I vs. Aston I, 42-51. (Puryear I-All-University Champs)

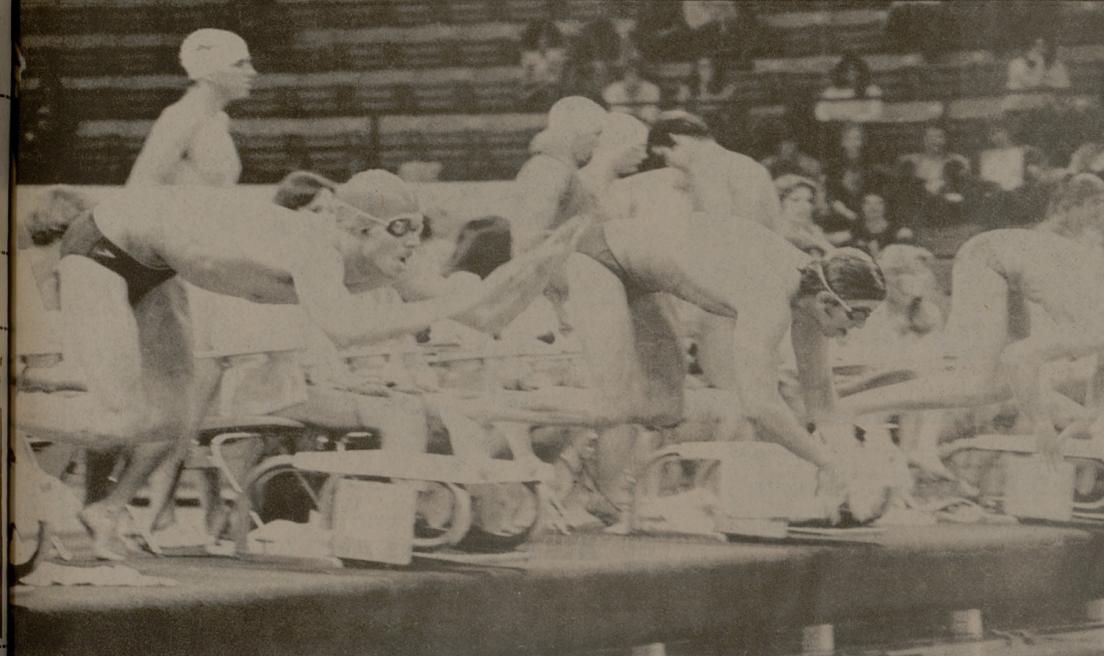
INTRAMURAL SOFTBALL

MEN DORM
A Division: Aston vs. Law, 4-9; Walton vs. Davis Cary, 1-22.

MEN INDEPENDENT
A Division: Sigma Chi vs. Hot Dogs, 10-11; Sausalito vs. Nailers, 0-10.
B Division: Raiders vs. WADS, 20-15; Stallions vs. ABA, 8-5; Czech's vs. P.E. Batters, 17-1; Batters II vs. Beaver, 1-26; Beekeepers vs. Southlanders, 8-19.

C Division: Animal Science vs. Martinez Bro., 7-10; Mexico vs. Fish Gen., 0-10.

WOMEN INDEPENDENT
B Division: Seagulls vs. DZ, 10-0; Castles vs. Do-ly's, 0-10; OPA vs. Monaco, 10-0.



Jim Yates (left) begins the 400-yard relay in the Men's Southwest Conference Championship swim meet in Austin Saturday. The relay went on to place fourth in the finals, and the swimmers took six place overall.

Cougs stop Sycamores 83-82

United Press International
HOUSTON — Larry Bird's short around jumpshot with two seconds remaining failed to fall and the Houston Cougars survived a furious Indiana State rally yesterday to win tense 83-82 victory in the first round of the National Invitational tournament.

Houston, 27-6, advanced to the

quarterfinals in New York City against Illinois State, 22-6. Houston appeared to be coasting to a first round victory with five minutes remaining, but the Cougars slowdown tactic backfired as Bird poured in eight of his 44 points in the final minute to pull the Sycamores into an 82-82 tie with 55 seconds left.

The Cougars' Mike Schultz was fouled 21 seconds later, but he con-

verted the first of his one-in-one free throw.

Indiana State called time out and decided on one final shot. Bird, being guarded by Houston All-American Otis Birdsong, shook free of the tight defense, took a pass four feet to the right of the basket, and fired a shot which was just a little long and bounced off the rim.

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