



Mike Moss, a junior from Houston, majoring in Business, won both sets against Clemson Tiger's Pender Murphy. Moss won the first set 6-1 and the second at 6-4.

By Mark Patterson

A two team conference

Look at the big, happy family. There's the mother, the father and the seven children following behind them. Aren't they happy?

Look at the Southwest Conference. There's the University of Texas, the University of Arkansas and the other seven schools trailing behind them. Far behind them.

And the distance is getting greater with every passing athletic season.

Now I don't want you to get alarmed, but the Southwest Conference is turning into a two team conference much like the Big 10 has become the past few years.

It became obvious with football this year. The Longhorns and the Razorbacks fought it out for the conference crown with Arkansas coming within five points of taking the championship.

The two teams finished number one and two in the final standings, striding ahead of the rest of the conference.

Little has to be said about basketball and the performance of the two teams.

As it was in football, the two teams ran away from the other seven schools in the chase for the conference crown. It took an end of the season surge by the University of Houston to upset the two teams in the tournament.

And post-season appearances seem to favor the two teams. In

football, Texas was embarrassed in the Cotton Bowl game, but its past post-season record can speak for itself. (16 appearances by Texas in the 41 year history of the Cotton Bowl.)

And even though Arkansas hasn't won the conference football crown since 1976, the Hogs saved the football reputation of the conference last year.

After Texas Tech was beaten in the Tangerine Bowl, the Aggies were destroyed in the Bluebonnet Bowl and Texas was beaten in the Cotton Bowl, the Razorbacks came away with the only post-season victory.

And it came against the hardest opponent the four teams had to face, the University of Oklahoma.

With their advancement into the semi-finals this weekend in St. Louis, the Arkansas Razorbacks have done more for the SWC basketball programs than has ever been seen in the history of the conference. The Hogs have displaced the fact that the SWC is strictly a football conference, something the other seven schools have yet to accept.

The University of Texas has done its share this year to help advance the image of SWC basketball. For the second year in a row a SWC team has advanced into the finals of the National Invitational Tournament in New York City. But unlike Houston last year, the 'Horns won the NIT championship Tuesday

night with a 101-93 victory over North Carolina State.

The two schools have proven that the SWC can do more than play football.

And followers of conference baseball must have been surprised to find Texas not at the top of the final SWC standings last year. In what has been a one team conference the past few years, the Longhorns had to settle for an unaccustomed second place finish in the baseball race.

And a quick look at the conference standings this year has the Arkansas Razorbacks sitting atop the league with a 6-3 record.

Were you surprised?

The only hope the other seven conference schools have in surviving the crush of the two powerhouse schools is in the post-season tournaments. At least going into the tournaments all the teams have an equal shot at the title. It appears that for the next two years the football and basketball races will be fought out between Texas and Arkansas with everyone else being an "also ran".

Then the seven other members of the conference can get back to its accustomed roles as cheerleaders for Texas and Arkansas.

It's a role they must be getting accustomed to.

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Foyt remains winner of Aggieland 250

United Press International
SPEEDWAY, Ind. — Driver Bobby Allison's protest of the finish of the Aggieland 250 stock car race was denied Tuesday by chief steward Billie Saxon, leaving A.J. Foyt as the winner.

Allison, who finished second in the March 12 race at Texas World Speedway, filed an immediate protest charging Foyt had gained a lap of the field during a yellow flag situation.

Saxon informed Allison by telegram and letter of his ruling, which left Foyt as the victor in the opening race of the 1978 season for United States Auto Club stock cars. The decision was announced by USAC headquarters in Indianapolis.

Under USAC rules, Allison may request an appeal of the steward's decision.

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