

SWC basketball roundup

United Press International
SOUTH BEND, Ind. — Senior center Bruce Flowers scored 17 points and third-ranked Notre Dame shut out Rice 14-0 to open the second half and run away with a 105-61 victory Monday night.

The Fighting Irish led by five to seven points through most of the first half, but came alive when, with 4:48 to play, Orlando Woolridge scored on a dunk, was called for charging and drew a technical foul for hanging on the rim. The Irish opened up a 10-point lead with his basket and never again were threatened, leading 50-36 at intermission.

Junior guard Rich Branning added 14 points and sophomore forward Kelly Tripucka 13 for the Irish, who upped their record to 2-0.

Senior forward Elbert Darden led the Owls and took game scoring honors with 18 points. Rice dropped to 1-2.

DENTON — Pat Nunley made two free throws midway through the overtime period Monday night and Baylor limited North Texas to just two points during the extra period to down the Eagles 109-102.

The overtime was anticlimactic to a thrilling regulation 40 minutes, which ended at 100-100. North Texas' Jon Manning, who scored a career high 41 points, hit a bucket with 14 seconds left to put the game into overtime.

Baylor's Vinnie Johnson missed a long range shot with one second left that would have given the Bears a win in regulation play. Johnson, however, scored 22 points in the first half and finished with 28.

Baylor led by as many as 13 points early in the second half, but the Eagles scored 11 in a row and eventually went ahead by as many as five points.

In addition to Manning, who scored a coliseum record 26 points

in the second half, the Eagles' Waymond Lister, also scored a career high 27 points.

Wendell Mays added 23 for Baylor, which evened its season record at 2-2. North Texas is 1-3 for the year.

HOUSTON — Victor Ewing scored 20 points to lead eight Houston players in double figures and send the Cougars to an easy 120-60 victory over St. Mary's.

The Cougars scored the game's first six points and never allowed St. Mary's to come close, rolling to a 61-30 halftime lead.

Ken Williams had 19 points for the Cougars and George Walker added 18. Cedric Fears provided 14 while Ken Ciolli, Or Goren and Byron Gibson had 10 each.

Houston, now 1-2, shot 62.1 percent from the field while the Rattlers, 3-2, hit only 41.7 percent.

Meyer still holds reins for Ponies

United Press International
DALLAS — With football coach Ron Meyer interviewing for a job at the University of Florida Monday, Southern Methodist Athletic Director Russ Potts was understandably nervous.

Potts' concern was eased Monday when Florida hired Charles Pell of Clemson.

Before Pell was announced as the Florida coach, however, SMU athletic director Russ Potts admitted his concern about losing Meyer to another school.

"Sure, I'm concerned," said Potts. "But we have to be up front about these things. Ron has communicated with me right down the line on this thing."

"It's something that you are going to have to put up with when you have got a good, young football coach," Potts said. "I'd rather have a person people were interested in than a person that nobody is calling. Florida is an excellent job. But SMU is an excellent job, too."

"Even if he gets a job offer it doesn't mean he will leave. But it is making an old man out of me in a hurry."

Oilers still ailing

United Press International
HOUSTON — Houston Oilers Coach Bum Phillips called the Oilers-Pittsburgh game the best defensive matches he's seen in his career. His team's injury report Monday confirmed it also was one of the most brutal.

The status of Earl Campbell's ribs still was unknown after a second set of X-rays was taken Monday. A more definitive report on the rookie running back and several other injured Oilers was expected today or Wednesday.

Campbell, the NFL's leading rusher with 1,306 yards, took a clean helmet shot to his lower right ribs late in the first quarter after gaining 41 yards on seven carries. During the game, there were conflicting reports whether Campbell could return.

Other Oilers sustaining possibly debilitating injuries were wide receiver Mike Benfro (twisted knee), tight end Mike Barber (dislocated shoulder), linebacker Robert Brazile (groin muscle pull) and cornerback Willie Alexander (lost tooth and possible broken jaw).

"I want to go on record as saying Dan Pastorini (the Oilers' quarterback) has got to be the toughest man alive. He hurt that thing (two cracked ribs) not when we called time out in the third quarter, but in the first half sometime. He was

hurting at halftime," Phillips said. Pastorini finished the game but was hospitalized after the game and also spent Monday night in the hospital.

Houston plays at New Orleans Sunday and against San Diego in two weeks. Phillips refused to speculate whether Pastorini, Campbell or the other injured Oilers would be able to play the Saints,

The loss left Houston with a record and still leading the AFC wild card playoff berth.

"If we win our final two games we're in," Phillips said. Phillips complained about a 5-yard touchdown pass to Stallworth, saying it was an "pick" play.

"If it wouldn't have been a pick play they never would have scored," he said. "It was a play, that one touchdown, that not going to make any excuses, coach ended his pre-news conference remarks. 'Are there any questions?'"

"Describe the pick play," reporter asked.

"One receiver runs over a defender and keeps him from seeing another receiver. It's used a lot, but the officials are usually giving for it because when a receiver goes down to a third-and-four (near the goal line) it's a real call," Phillips said.

The coach added that the play is in the Oilers' playbook.

"You say to yourself and team, let's call it, run the play. Most teams call it that. They call it, then they give you 5 yards and you will call field goal anyway," Phillips said.



Earl Campbell

but the coach did not rule any of them out of that game.

The coach praised his players' effort in the 13-3 loss to the Steelers — a game he described as the "best defensive game I've seen in 31 years of coaching."

"They played as well as they were capable of playing. And I know without a doubt that they played as hard as any football team I've ever seen. I've never seen a team commit more to a ballgame than we did," he said.

Allen's son, recruits aid SMU

United Press International
This is the third in a series of articles profiling Texas A&M's 1979 Southwest Conference basketball opponents.

DALLAS — It obviously must be proven on the basketball floor, but

there are those who think that Sonny Allen may have had the best overall recruiting year of any Southwest Conference basketball coach.

And to help make it that way all he had to do was go into the living room and have his son put his name on a scholarship.

Allen came to SMU four seasons ago with a fast-breaking style that drew the fans and won 16 games. But since then the SMU coach has not had that much luck recruiting.

This year, however, he lured junior college transfer Brad Branson, a 6-10 powerhouse from Florida, 6-6 freshman Larry Easley from Charleston, W.Va., and a youngster who just happens to be his son — Billy Allen.

The younger Allen was felt by some recruiters to be one of the best shooting guards to come out of high school last year. But few teams recruited the youngster because they knew he was wrapped up by his father.

"I'm pleased with the people we have recruited," said Allen. "But we need some help. We were 10-18 last year and we have two returnees from our starting team and they averaged less than 20 points between them."

Allen's son has drawn most of the attention. "Billy played well in our scrimmage game (against the Finnish national team). You want your point guard to generate offense and he scored 21 points and had seven assists."

With his son to run the fast break and Branson to help muscle in on the boards and jumping jack center Reggie Franklin in the middle, Allen thinks his attack will be more successful than it has been in recent seasons.

"We will have the same offense, but we hope it will be effective," said Allen. "We've got some players who can create problems for the opponent, year we were really just a poor shooting team and we did not have problems for the other team."

"But if you penetrate and foul and go for the basket create problems. And when you that the other team is less confident on offense. And I think we've better defensively because we're quicker."

Last year SMU played the four teams who were in NCAA semifinals and generally a brutal schedule. This year should be a little easier.

"I think a few years ago teams did not have that much confidence in themselves and did not get good teams to come here play," Meyer said. "There are teams like Notre Dame and UT that won't schedule you on home court, but I think most others will."

The idea, of course, is that you do get good teams to come play that you have the talent to beat them. And Allen hopes that the year he has enough.

The Mustangs take a 1-3 lead into Wednesday night's game at North Texas State.



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