

Horns meet Bears in Heart O' Texas

United Press International
For the Longhorns, it will be just another step in what they hope will be a second consecutive Southwest Conference championship.
But for the Baylor Bears, it is their biggest game in years.
The 16th-ranked Longhorns, who have played almost perfect basketball for the past two weeks, and the Bears, winners of three straight and victors over Arkansas in Fayetteville on Monday night, meet in venerable Heart O' Texas Coliseum this evening.

The game has ignited basketball fever in Waco. A record crowd of 9,200 is expected in the old coliseum and if the Bears win they will move into a share of the Southwest Conference lead.
Baylor, 10-6 for the season, is certainly unaccustomed to such a lofty position. The Bears have not won a SWC championship in 29 years.
But Bears coach Jim Haller is doing his best to keep his team from placing too much importance on Wednesday night's game.
"I'm not looking at this game as

one that will put us into championship contention," Haller said. "I don't mention that to our squad. All we talk about is playing as hard as we can and improving game by game."
"We are in a position where we are probably in the spotlight more than at any time since I've been coaching at Baylor (five years as an assistant and head coach).
"But I thought our victory against Texas last year was a good one and we beat Houston at home when they were rolling last year. It's not like this will be our first sellout crowd

(although an expansion of the arena will make it the biggest home crowd in Baylor history). We've had excitement around here before.
"But, I'll admit, it is exciting for us. The main reason being our players are working so hard. They are probably playing up their potential right now.
Texas, 12-4 for the year, comes into the game with a 5-1 conference record while Baylor is 4-2. The Bears are currently tied for second in league play with Texas A&M, which will host TCU (0-5) tonight.

The other conference action has Arkansas (3-3), losers of four of its last five games, meeting SMU (2-3) in Dallas and Houston (3-4) facing Texas Tech (3-3) in Lubbock. The Rice Owls have the night off.
Texas and Baylor match up well and last year the teams played two exciting games, the Longhorns winning by two in Austin and Baylor winning by two in Waco.
Tyrone Branyan and Jim Krivacs have been carrying the offensive load for Texas of late and last year the Bears' Pat Nunley held Krivacs to 13

and 16 points in the two meetings. Branyan scored 16 in both games. But it was Ron Baxter who hurt Baylor last year, scoring 29 points in Texas' victory.
"We've been fortunate against Texas and have played them well since Abe (Texas coach Abe Lemons) has been there. I think we played them the closest game they have had in the Super Drum.
The key to Texas is to defense them right.
"And when you have the ball you

have to take the shot and take. Not the one they take."
Southwest Conference Standings:
Texas
Baylor
Texas A&M
Texas Tech
Arkansas
Houston
Rice
SMU
TCU

Phillips' contract renewed

United Press International
HOUSTON — With only one week remaining on his current contract, Houston Oilers head coach and general manager Bum Phillips has signed a three-year pact.
The rehiring, which will have Phillips continue in a dual role, was announced by an Oilers spokesman Tuesday afternoon while the coach was out of town.
Phillips, 55, is credited with turning the Oilers into a contending NFL team after he was named head coach before the 1975 season. In four regular seasons his record is 33-25. His



1978 team advanced to the AFC championship game.
But he has experienced serious problems in dealing with Oilers executives, and that friction caused speculation in November that his success might not be enough to get him rehired.
"I guess I'm coaching out my option. I don't want to be, but I am," he said on Nov. 22. After much publicity was given his situation, he said he wanted to drop the matter and, in mid-December, he said he would sign a five-year contract within two weeks.
A major problem area reportedly was Phillips' lack of freedom to make acquisitions for the team without having to have them approved by Senior Vice President Ladd Herzog.
An Oilers spokesman said Phillips' assistant coaches have been offered contracts and "if they have not signed they probably will soon."

Mays honored

United Press International
NEW YORK — Willie Mays, the most electrifying performer of his era, was the only player elected to the Hall of Fame Tuesday in a landslide vote by the Baseball Writers Association, although he was not a unanimous choice.
During a 22-year career spent with the New York and San Francisco Giants and New York Mets, Mays compiled a .302 lifetime batting average, hit 670 home runs, had 3,283 hits, drove in 1,903 runs and won two National League Most Valuable Player Awards.
But mere statistics only told part of the story of the man many called "the most exciting player ever to play the game."
"Willie Mays combined the skills of fielding, throwing, running, hitting for distance and hitting for average better than anyone else in baseball history," said Leo Durocher, whose career spanned a half century and who was Willie's first major league manager. "For my money, he was the best."
On the all-time list, Mays ranked third in homers and total bases, fourth in at bats and runs scored and seventh in hits and runs batted in. Ty Cobb and Hank Aaron were the only other players in the game's history to rank in the top six in seven key categories — the other being batting average.
During the nine-year span from 1958 through 1966, Mays batted more than .300 seven times, hit between .29 and .52 homers in every season, drove in more than 100 runs in eight seasons, led the league in slugging percentage three times, in stolen bases three times and in total bases twice.
Although Mays was a great hitter — he batted .300 or more in 10 seasons, hit four homers in one game April 30, 1961, hit 40 or more homers in 10 seasons and enjoyed 10 100-RBI seasons — he is best remembered for his dazzling defensive plays in the outfield.
Mays made hundreds of astounding defensive plays, among them the famous catch off Cleveland's Vic Wertz in the 1954 World Series which is recognized as one of the greatest catches in baseball history.

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