

the sports

Aggies tied for first place

Troubled Cougars come to town

By MARK PATTERSON
Battalion Staff

The entire Southwest Conference is wondering what has happened to the Houston Cougar basketball team.

Last year's post-season tournament champion is stumbling through this season with a 11-11 mark, 3-7 in conference play.

The obvious problems the team is having came into focus Wednesday night when Houston traveled to Fort Worth to face TCU. The Cougars dropped a 67-61 game to the Horned Frogs, to date the lone conference win for TCU. The loss dropped the Cougars into seventh place in SWC play.

"We just got out-shot against TCU," Houston Coach Guy Lewis said of the game Wednesday night. "We weren't out-played, but if you can't score you can't win."

"Needless to say, we weren't too high at practice today. All we tried to do was regroup from last night."

"We won't even think about the A&M game until tomorrow (Friday). But that's not to discount the

importance of the game. The way A&M's been playing you can't take them lightly. But all our guys are trying to forget TCU today."

The Cougars are also trying to forget the last time they faced the Aggies this season, back in early January in Hofheinz Pavilion. The Cougars managed five second-half points in losing 69-43.

"The last time we played was just one of those things," Texas A&M Coach Shelby Metcalf said. "It wasn't all us. They had to contribute something. When you hit only 2-of-27 shots (from the field) it's not all the defense."

"Talent wise, they're very capable of playing good basketball. They had

Arkansas down by 21 at the half before they lost to them (scoring only 12 points in the second half). But Houston can be explosive on offense."

Their explosiveness hasn't been too evident this season. But Coach Lewis is clear on what the Cougars' problem is.

"It's easy to see what our problem's been this season," Lewis explained. "We've had too many injuries at our center position and haven't been getting any inside play."

"We're not a big club and not a big rebounding club, so when we don't shoot well we don't do well."

One player that has supplied a consistent offensive punch to the

Cougar attack is junior Ken "Juice" Williams. Williams is currently ranked fifth in the conference in scoring, carrying a 18.8 per-game scoring average. Williams is joined in the Cougar starting line-up by Victor Ewing (averaging 15.8 point per game), George Walker (13.7), Ken Ciolli (6.6) and Leonard Mitchell (5.2). Mitchell draws the task of guarding Rudy Woods in Saturday's televised game.

"Realistically, we don't have anybody that can stop Woods," Lewis admitted. "If we try, we're just whistling Dixie. But we can't concentrate all our effort on Woods. If we do, they'll come at us from somewhere else."

"They have shooters that can score from anywhere on the court. Their guards will hit from the outside or their forwards will take the ball inside and score. They just come at you from everywhere."

The Aggies have been showing off their power in their last few ball games. Yet Metcalf still thinks the Aggies haven't return to the form they exhibited earlier in the season.

"We are playing well, but we played very good ball back in December," Metcalf said. "But right now we're playing as well as we've played in conference."

Because of the television coverage, tip-off Saturday is scheduled for 2:40 p.m.

Horns fall to Porkers

United Press International
AUSTIN — Texas Coach Abe Lemons and Arkansas' Eddie Sutton ended the game in a little more gentlemanly fashion — shaking hands — than they did the first half but the Longhorns coach had harsh words for his counterparts.

Arkansas handed Texas its first defeat in the Special Events Center Thursday night, a 68-58 decision, after the coaches engaged in a shouting-scolding scene as the teams were going to the dressing rooms at halftime.

Lemons took a long puff on his cigar and spoke of Sutton and their encounter.

"He's a chickens—," Lemons said.

"If he tries to talk to any of my players again I'll knock his a— off."

"He called Moore a dirty player and shoved him."

Sutton denied touching the Texas player.

The incident started just after time ran out in the first half — with Arkansas leading 25-17 — when Texas guard John Moore tried to draw a charging foul and was ran over by an Arkansas player.

Sutton approached Moore sternly and Lemons entered the conflict. The coaches began pushing each other and continued with a verbal assault as players and uniformed guards separated them.

The Razorbacks held on in the second half to take the win and drop Texas into a first place tie with Texas A&M. After the game Lemons and Sutton shook hands and walked off side by side.

In the Arkansas dressing room Sutton was asked if the incident would ruin his relationship with Lemons.

"I hope not," he said. "I hope he cools down and we can be good friends."

"I told John he was too good a player to take a cheap shot like that. I should not have said anything to him. It was uncalled for, but Abe completely lost his poise and grabbed me by the coat."

"In the second half, I knew it was my responsibility not to incite anything, and I told my players to just sit on the bench and be calm. I did not even question any of the officials' calls."

Sidney Moncrief led the Razorbacks' win with 26 points.

Texas and Texas A&M now are 8-2 in SWC games and the Longhorns are 15-5 for the season. Arkansas moved to 6-3 in conference and 14-4 overall.

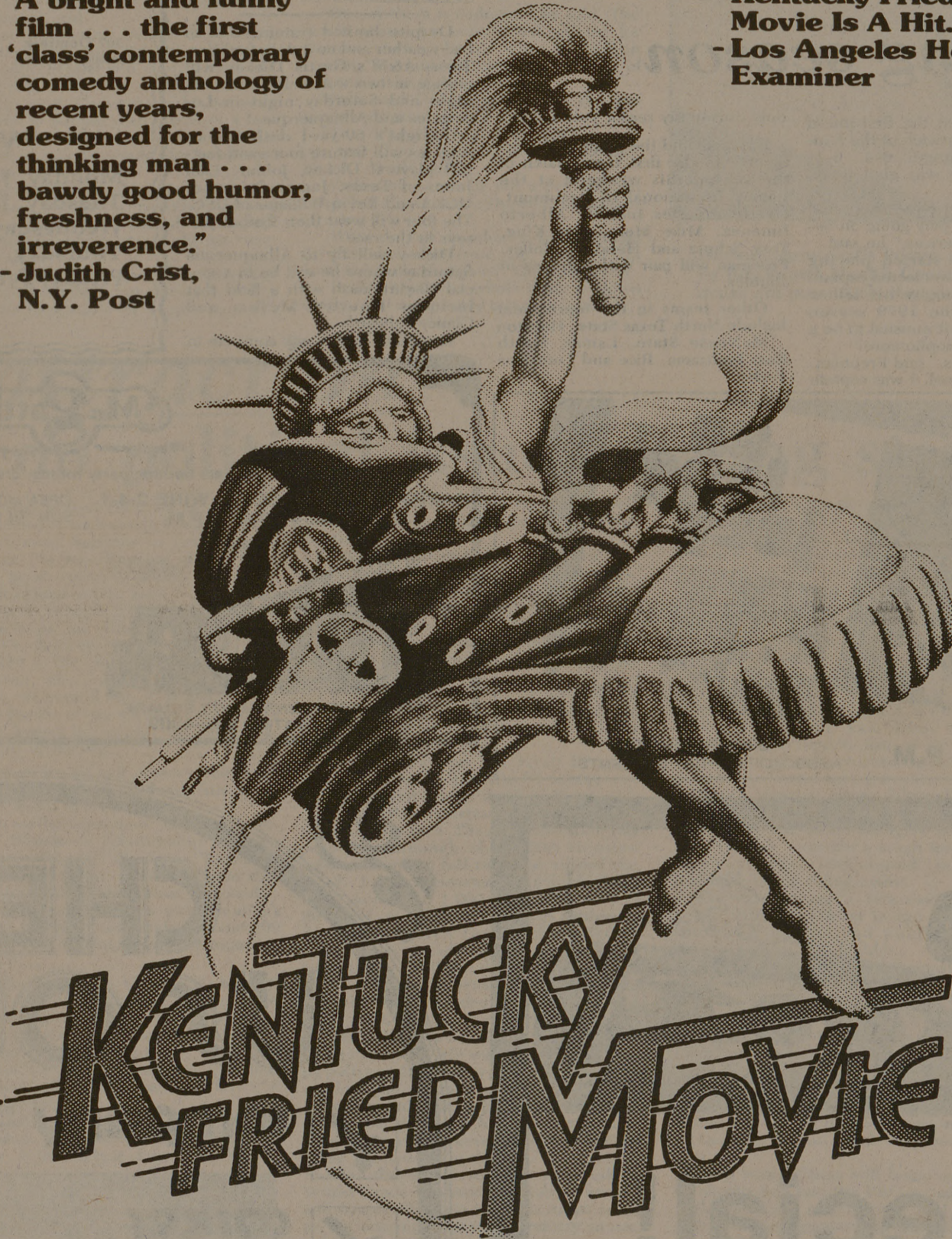
Thursday night's upset brings about several critical games in the remainder of the SWC schedule. Among them will Texas A&M's trip to Arkansas Feb. 6 and Texas' trip to Texas A&M Feb. 12.

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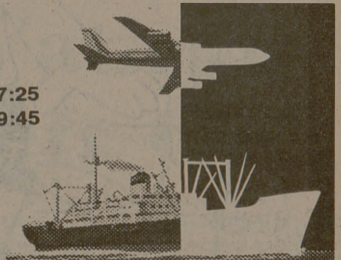
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