

sports

second guesses

tony gallucci



By TONY GALLUCCI
Sports Editor

Last night, the 'Dean' of Southwest Conference coaches, Dr. Shelby Metcalf, got his 150th SWC win. It was a particularly sweet win. It came against a new found nemesis, Arkansas' Eddie Sutton.

In the short time since the SWC has been lifted from the dark ages by Mr. Sutton, too many people have turned to his often lead-lined golden throat for the low down on basketball in the Southwest.

It is time that people recognize the class of SWC coaching. In these days of importing "outstanding young coaches with marvelous track records" it is fitting that the coaches who were winning in those dark ages are winning now, too.

Let us briefly look at the top teams in the SWC. Texas A&M, coached by Metcalf, has taken on each of the other two leading contenders and won, albeit on the home court. Arkansas' only loss is to A&M as is Texas Tech's, coached by the medieval Gerald Myers.

Granted, the likes of Sutton, Texas' Abe Lemons, SMU's Sonny Allen and now TCU's Jim Killingsworth have had their moments. I can't make excuses for either Baylor or Rice, but, if A&M wins the title this year it will be the third in six years. That's a remarkable track record for a man who's coaching is supposedly out of date. He is also the first to put a SWC player on the pro-trading block and have him go in the first round in over forty years.

Myers, the only other SWC coach left from before the Renaissance, also has a winning record at Lubbock. Houston's Guy Lewis, having coached there since pre-Sutton days, has only been in the conference a few years. His record has dipped slightly since, dispelling the rampant speculation that Houston would win ten SWC trophies in a row.

Meanwhile, Metcalf keeps winning, and Lemons and Sutton keep their mouths open, keep inserting their feet and keep sportswriters full of, well, quotes.

I'll match my collection of Metcalf humor against Sutton's or Lemons' best anyday. We'll laugh all the way to Indianapolis. Now that Arkansas has lost one, the pressure is on them. Sutton had said before last night's game the pressure was on A&M to win at home and thus now turns the gun on himself.

Metcalf took a very young team last year and, coupled with the already developing hunger of the 'you know' kids, marched to 24 wins, including whitewashes of Kentucky, Indiana, Nevada-Las Vegas and San Francisco.

Virtually the same team has already picked up 14 wins (plus an exhibition win over Australia) this year and appear headed for more of the same. Because of pre-season ratings that may have been unrealistic (No. 3 by one magazine, No. 8 by Sports Illustrated, etc.) some folks were disappointed by the five early season losses the team suffered. Three games, perhaps, should not have been lost. All should have been won if you ask the players, but two teams did show well against them — Iona and Minnesota. Those two teams currently have a combined record of 23-8. Neither team is ranked but on paper they might look as good as the Ags to a pollster.

But then neither has had to rise above the dark ages or Sutton's mouth to get where it is.



Time waits for no one. Arkansas head coach Eddie Sutton gazes forlornly at the Coliseum clock as time runs out on his Razorback squad in their match last night against A&M's ferocious defense and "The Wall". Staff photo by Lee Roy Leschper

Swimmers will host meets here

Texas A&M's swimming teams, both men's and women's, have meets this weekend.

The men will face Southwest Texas State, and the women will swim against Southwest Texas State and Lamar in a triangular meet, at P. L. Downs Natatorium beginning at 7 p.m.

Both squads are coming off losses to UT in Austin last Friday. The men lost 56-39 and the women went down by a score of 64-31. The teams now have identical season records of 1-2. Tracy Johnston, a sophomore from San Jose, Calif., broke two A&M women's school records during the Texas meet and qualified for the AIAW Nationals.

Her time of 1:07.8 in the 100-meter breaststroke broke the old mark of 1:09.6. In the 200-meter individual medley, Johnston swam a 2:09.8 to break the old mark of 2:11.3.

— Mike Burrichter



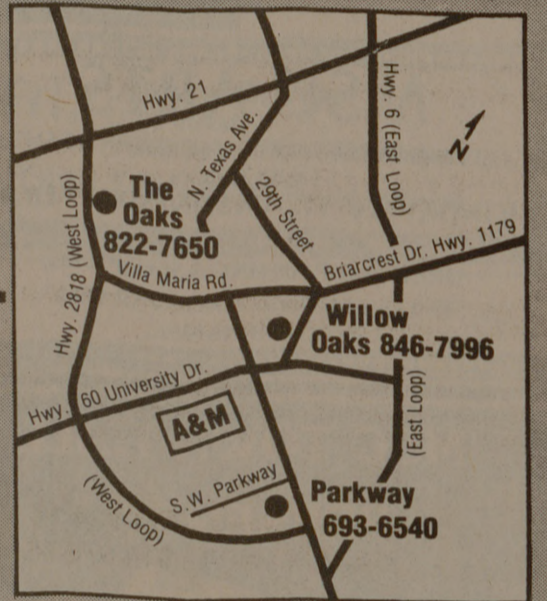
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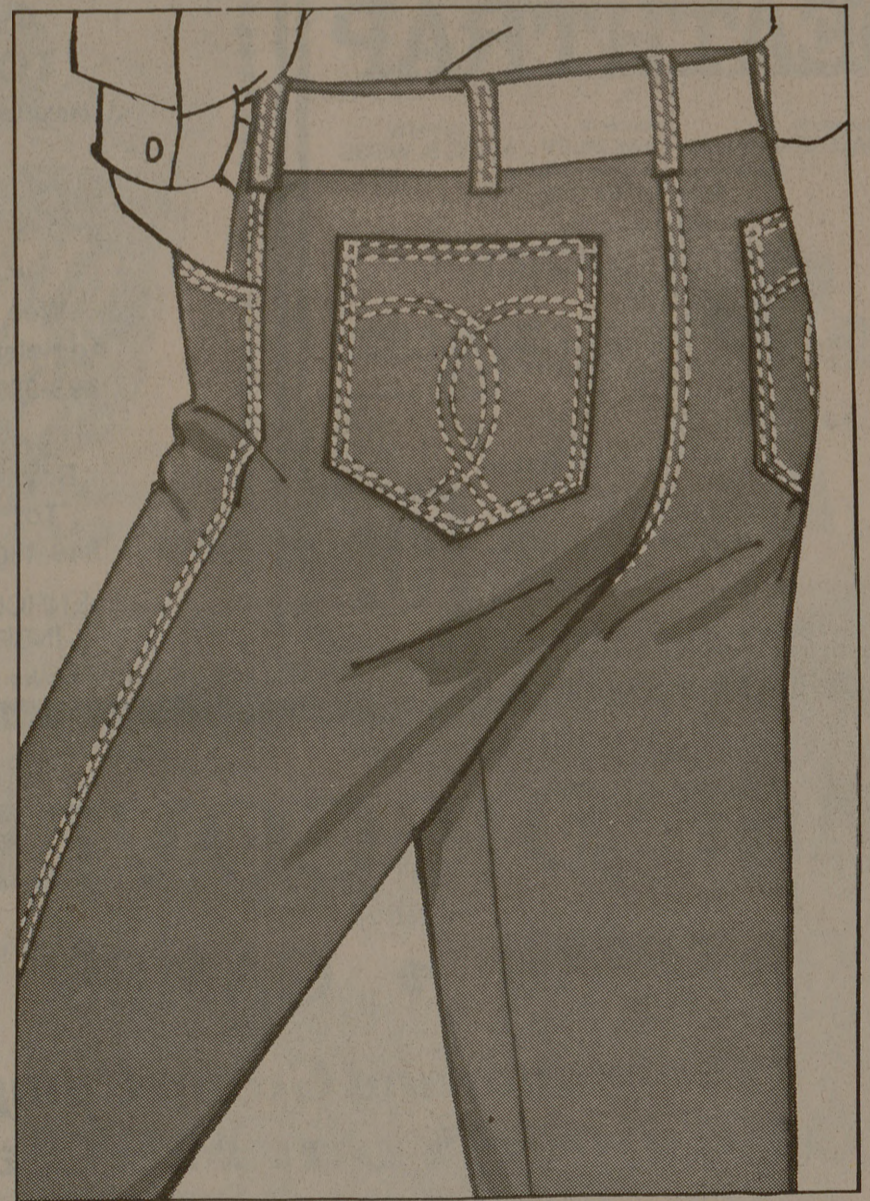
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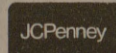
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DePaul wins another — Meyer confused

United Press International
Top-ranked DePaul plays only as well as necessary and they are driving Coach Ray Meyer crazy.

The way they're playing, winning by one and two points, I'll be in the nut house before the season is over" Meyer said Tuesday night after DePaul scored a 57-54 victory over Alabama-Birmingham.

The Blue Demons overcame late second-half jitters to increase their perfect record to 16-0 and remain the only undefeated major college team in the nation.

"We played our usual game — get up on somebody and then die" said Meyer. "When we had to play we played, but we're still not a great team."

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