

sports

# DePaul ready for showdown

United Press International  
MISSION, Kan. — Ray Meyer took DePaul to the Final Four of the NCAA basketball tournament last March for the first time in his 37-year tenure as head coach of the Blue Demons.

But the venerable Meyer will probably have a tougher time reaching the Final Four in 1980 even though DePaul is a better team this year than last. That's because the Blue Demons are again plotted in the West Regional and face a possible rematch with UCLA in their opening round game.

DePaul has a 26-1 record, a No. 1 national ranking and a forward the NBA would love to have — 6-foot-7 sophomore Mark Aguirre.

But the Blue Demons have incurred the wrath of mighty UCLA in two straight meetings. DePaul whipped UCLA in the title game of the West Regional last March, 95-91, and then beat up on the Bruins in a rematch last December in the in UCLA's own Pauley Pavilion, 99-94.

DePaul and UCLA were two of 25 teams awarded at-large berths Sunday for the 42nd annual tournament, which will have its largest field ever at 48 teams. Play begins Thursday night with subregional games at Greensboro, N.C. (East); West Lafayette, Ind. (Midwest); Lincoln, Neb. (Midwest) and Ogden, Utah (West).

The only snag in a possible DePaul-UCLA rematch is Old Dominion, the ECAC South representative. The Bruins meet the Monarchs in a subregional game at Tempe, Ariz., Friday night with the winner advancing against DePaul, the top-seeded team in the West, Sunday.

"It is, of course, difficult to beat the same team twice in a single season," Meyer said. "Your players have

confidence that they can win on a neutral court after beating the same team on the road earlier in the year. Of course, UCLA has to beat a fine Old Dominion team.

"We beat Marquette in the regular season and had to beat them again in the playoffs. One thing, you can count on UCLA being sky-high for us. If you can get over that first round game, then it sometimes gets easier. We'll be ready."

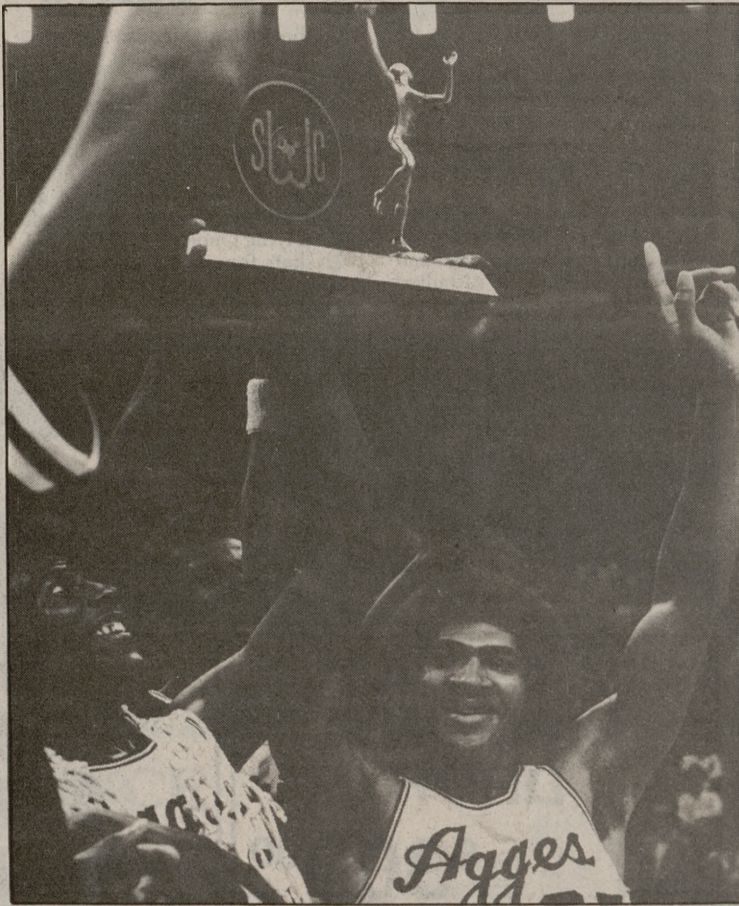
Other teams awarded the top seeds were Syracuse in the East, Kentucky in the Midwest and LSU in the Midwest.

The Midwest appears to be the blockbuster regional this year with four teams ranked in the Top 10: No. 4 Louisville, No. 6 LSU and No. 9 co-holders North Carolina and Missouri as well as No. 15 Notre Dame, No. 18 Texas A&M and Missouri Valley champion Bradley.

The expanded field, up from the 40 teams of last year and the 32 of two years ago, allowed the NCAA to lift the lid on the number of representatives each conference could send. The previous ceiling had been two.

The chief beneficiary this year was the ACC with five teams: Duke, North Carolina, North Carolina State, Maryland and Clemson. The Big Ten and Pac-10 had four teams apiece and the Southeast and Metro conferences two apiece.

At-large invitations were extended to Syracuse, Marquette, Iowa, North Carolina State, Georgetown, Tennessee and Maryland in the East; Florida State, Washington State, Purdue, Virginia Tech, St. John's and Kentucky in the Midwest; Alcorn State, South Alabama, Notre Dame, North Carolina, Arkansas and Missouri in the Midwest; and DePaul, UCLA, Arizona State, Clemson, Utah State and Ohio State in the West.



Vernon Smith, Rudy Woods and Rynn Wright hold up the first-place trophy they earned in San Antonio Saturday night after defeating Arkansas 52-50 for the championship game in the SWC Tournament.  
Staff photo by Lynn Blanco.

## All-tourney team picked

United Press International  
DALLAS — Texas A&M's David Britton was named the most valuable player of the Southwest Conference basketball tournament, but Arkansas' U.S. Reed received the most votes for the all-tourney team announced Monday.

Reed was named on 47 of the 65 ballots submitted by sports writers and broadcasters who covered the tournament. Texas A&M captured the tourney title with a 52-50 decision over Arkansas Saturday night.

Joining Reed on the first team were Texas' Ron Baxter (42 votes), Britton (41½), Texas A&M's Rynn Wright (38), Arkansas' Keith Hilliard (14) and Texas A&M's Vernon Smith (14).

Conference officials said 23 players received at least one vote. The second team consisted of Arkansas' Scott Hastings, Texas Tech's Jeff Taylor, Texas' LaSalle Thompson, Texas A&M's David Goff and Houston's Rob Williams.

## Rice coach heads for A&M

United Press International  
HOUSTON — Rice football coach Mike Rader has resigned after only five weeks on the job, apparently to accept a similar position in the Texas A&M athletic department, Rice head coach Ray Alborn said Monday. The sudden resignation caused the Owls to postpone the start of

spring football practice a week to March 17. Alborn hired Rader from West Virginia after Owls offensive coordinator Ted Unbehagen left to join the A&M coaching staff of Tom Wilson. Rader was involved in the Owls preparation to install the veer offense this spring.

## NIT playoffs start tonight

United Press International  
NEW YORK — Pepperdine and Long Beach State, a pair of successful West Coast Athletic Conference rivals, will square off today in the first game of basketball's National Invitation Tournament.

St. Peter's, the top defensive team in the country, will meet the University of Connecticut in one of seven

games on Wednesday. The remainder of the 32-team field will play on Thursday and Friday.

The University of Texas-El Paso, with a 19-7 mark, will visit Wichita State, with a 17-11 record, on Thursday.

Also on Thursday, Nebraska, 18-12, goes up against Michigan, 15-12, on Michigan's home court.

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