

Coaches singing same tune—victory; pleased with weekend performances

United Press International
Jim Haller, Guy Lewis, Eddie Sutton and Shelby Metcalf sounded as if they would have made a pretty good barbershop quartet last weekend. They were all singing the same tune.

"I have more confidence in our team now than any other time this year," said Haller of Baylor.

"We played well and we've been playing well," added Lewis of Houston.

"Our team played very well," surmised Sutton of Arkansas. "We attacked their defense and we shot well."

And, finally, from Metcalf of Texas A&M, whose Aggies finally seem to be coming to life:

"We've got a better team than most people know. It's been the best

kept secret in Texas."

The Southwest Conference, which had been having a rash of upsets, close calls and dull, slowdown games this season — erupted in a burst of old fashioned thrashings last Saturday.

Houston, Arkansas, Baylor and Texas A&M all won impressively and on the intersectional front the Rice Owls — enjoying their best season in a decade — won big as well.

The Houston Cougars (9-2) take a game and a half lead over Arkansas (7-3) into this week's play with the highlight almost certain to come next Saturday afternoon in Fayetteville when those two teams meet for the second time this season.

Houston does not have another game before then while Arkansas hosts Baylor Tuesday night in

another key encounter.

The Houston-Arkansas game will be regionally televised with Arkansas hoping to avenge a 57-54 loss to the Cougars last month.

For a while this season it seemed as if any of the nine teams in the SWC could emerge from the conference's postseason tournament with a berth in the NCAA tourney. But that did not seem the case after last Saturday's doings.

To start with Houston whipped the shorthanded Texas Longhorns, 75-59, although Texas clung to with eight points with seven minutes to play. Rob Williams, the league's leading scorer, drilled in 32 points after scoring 40 against Texas earlier in the season.

But big man Larry Micheaux also scored 19 and that excited Lewis.

"Larry's play is going to help us in the future," said Lewis. "And I mean the immediate future."

Arkansas never gave TCU a chance, beating the Horned Frogs, 63-48, with center Scott Hastings scoring 26.

"We were able to get inside," said Sutton, "and Scott Hastings had a marvelous night. We're still very much in the race. Every game is a key one at this time of the year."

Baylor destroyed SMU, 80-52, outbounding the Mustangs, 49-20. The win gave the Bears third place all by themselves at 7-4 while Rice is 6-4.

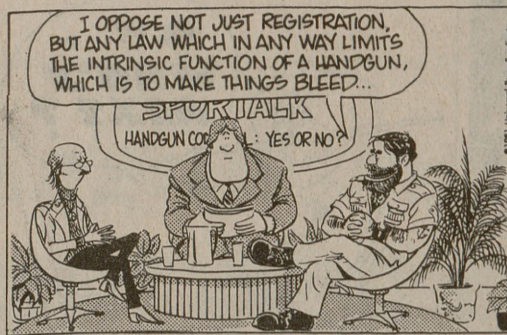
Texas A&M, meanwhile, poured it on late to knock out Texas Tech, 65-52.

Rice boosted its win total to 11 with an out-of-conference victory over Southwestern, 67-53. The Owls have not won that many games since 1971, when they took 14.

Other than Baylor's trip to Arkansas Tuesday night, that evening's activities feature Texas A&M (3-7) at SMU (3-8) in a battle for last place, Rice (6-4) visiting Texas Tech (5-6) and TCU (4-7) going to Texas (4-7).

TANK McNAMARA

by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds



Gym team splits in tourney

By RICK STOLLE

Battalion Staff
In the first tournament of the season, the Texas A&M University men's gymnastics team put in a strong showing at a four-way meet in Austin.

The Ags competed against the University of Texas, the University of Texas at Arlington and Odessa Junior College.

The Ags beat UTA and lost to both UT and OC. The OC loss does not affect the Texas Gymnastics Conference rankings, though, because OC is not in the conference. Odessa is a perennial powerhouse of men's gymnastics and Mark Hartwell, captain of the team, said the Ags had a fine showing despite being outclassed by OC.

"OC has been highly ranked in the NJCAA for eleven years," he said. "We were outclassed by them but we held our own for the most part."

With the win over UTA and loss to UT, the Ags are 1-1

for the season in the conference. The conference consists of A&M, UT, UTA, Texas Tech, North Texas University, Southwest Texas State University, UT-Paso, Pan American University and Eastfield College.

Hartwell said the team was encouraged by showing.

"We worked hard for a month getting ready for season," Hartwell said. "It looks like we can capture second in the conference with UT being our main competition."

The Ags took four places in the tournament. Moltz, who was also voted gymnast of the meet, was sixth in the all-around division with a 41.05. Mark Hartwell captured third in the floor exercises with an 8.6, third in the vault with an 8.9 and place on the ring with a score of 8.35.



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IM Game Plan

ENTRIES OPEN: Table Tennis buffs should migrate over to the Intramural Office this week to enter themselves in the IM Table Tennis Singles competition. Entries will be accepted today (Monday, February 9) through next Tuesday (February 17).

ENTRIES CLOSE: Tomorrow (February 10) will be your last chance to enter two of the spring's most popular intramural activities, Slow Pitch Softball and Racquetball Singles. If you have not yet entered, then hustle on down to the IM Office and see if there is any space available.

SOFTBALL TEAM CAPTAINS MEETING: All Slow Pitch Team Captains are reminded of the meeting that will be held on Thursday, February 12 at 5:15 p.m. in Rudder Theater. Attendance is encouraged since schedules will be distributed and important rule modifications will be discussed.

FREE THROW CONTEST: All individuals and teams who are entered in the IM Free Throw Contest are reminded that the competition will take place tomorrow evening (February 10) from 7-10 p.m. on the Main Floor of G. Rollie White Coliseum.

FENCING TOURNAMENT: Entrants are reminded that they must be ready to begin competition at 9 a.m. sharp this Saturday (February 14) in Room 267 of East Kyle. Don't forget to bring your I.D.'s to enter the building.

WEIGHTLIFTING CLINICS: If you missed last Wednesday's instructional clinic on the new Universal and Nautilus equipment, don't despair. Additional clinics will be held on the next two Wednesdays (February 11 and 18) from 7-8 p.m. in Room 262 of G. Rollie White.

INTRAMURAL LOGO CONTEST: Entry forms for the IM Logo Contest are still available in the IM Office (159 East Kyle). Why not put together a few ideas and enter them in the Logo Contest to see if you might have the idea we're looking for. Prizes will be awarded and the winning entry will also be the official IM Logo next year.



Bill Dawley warms up for Class B Co-Rec softball action.

'Tis The Season...

Penberthy Celebration

The time is nearing for y'all to organize your softball teams for the Second Annual Penberthy Celebration of Sports.

This year's competition in softball will run from noon on Friday, March 27 until noon on Sunday, March 29 — NON-STOP! — forty-eight hours of continuous softball at the Penberthy Intramural Complex. Entries will be accepted on a first come, first serve basis from Monday, March 2 through Tuesday, March 24. However since entries will be limited in each division, don't wait too long after the first day to enter.

An entry fee of \$40.00 will be assessed each team in each of the three divisions — Men's, Women's, and Co-Rec.

In addition to softball, Special Events will also be conducted during the weekend for individuals and teams. Entries are limited to TAMU students, faculty, staff, and their respective spouses.

FOR THE RECORD

As of noon on Friday, 551 teams had signed up to compete in this spring's Intramural Slow Pitch competition. If you have not yet entered, don't wait any longer. Racquetball Singles had 427 entries as of the same time on Friday.

Attention: Volleyball Fans

The Valentine's Day Invitational Volleyball Tournament will feature several All-Americans and World-Class Volleyball players in both men's and women's competition. This exciting volleyball extravaganza will include over 45 teams!

The Texas A&M Men's team is the defending champion and will enter the competition as the top seed. The entire A&M team has returned from last year with high hopes of becoming the best Aggie volleyball team ever.

TAMU will be entering three men's and three women's teams in the tourney. For the first time the Men's and Women's Finals will be played on the Main Floor of G. Rollie White Coliseum. Both finals will be conducted simultaneously on adjacent courts.

Don't miss the action! February 14th at 8 p.m. Advanced tickets for \$1.00 at the MSC table. Tickets available at the door for \$1.50.

Kelly Shea's "On Guard" earns her our McDonald's® "Be Our Guest" card for this week. Kelly can pick up her B.O.G. card at the Intramural Office.

Basketball Finals Previewed?

The Men's Class A All-University Championship game may have been previewed on January 29 when Pabst upset defending All-U champs, Exit Only, 49-42.

The game, characterized by sloppy play according to Pabst captain Bruce Welbourn and Exit Only captain Todd Shipley, may indeed have been a preview of things to come. Shipley and Welbourn considered the game sloppy because the game was decided by free throws in the end. Shipley also feels early season jitters may have affected both teams play.

Welbourn and Shipley echoed each other's thoughts in agreeing that there are several teams this year that could go all the way.

Both team representatives felt that playing tough opponents early in the season is beneficial because it sharpens their respective team skills early. Shipley, who was on Exit Only's championship team last year, said they were glad to play in a league with more competition.

Pabst and Exit only are basically the same teams that played together last year. However, both have some new additions that should improve both squads this year. Also helpful in their development is that they both play in the Bryan Men's City League.

Pabst, who reached the Men's B semi-finals last year, feel they are ready to compete with just about anyone this year. If their opening win against Exit Only is any indication, they may be right.

Mark Alspaugh's two points on this break-away show were not enough for Exit Only, as they dropped their contest with Pabst, 49-42.