

# Macklin, LSU outlasts WSU

**United Press International**  
NEW ORLEANS — Louisiana State forward Durand Macklin left the game with a deep cut on his finger in the second half, but the possibility of slipping an NCAA championship ring immediately killed the pain.

Macklin, the Southeastern Conference Player of the Year, went to the locker room with a dislocated and bleeding finger after playing only 30 minutes against Wichita State in the NCAA Midwest Regional finals, but that was enough.

Macklin, 6-7, fired in 21 points and smothered the Shockers under the boards, pacing the Tiggers to a 96-85 victory.

At a post-game news conference, Macklin said his injury would have no effect on his performance in the NCAA semifinal matchup against Indiana Saturday in Philadelphia.

"I can't let anything stop me from contributing to our team," the senior forward said. "It might hinder me in dribbling but I'll just have to get used to it."

Macklin and teammate Greg Cook spurred LSU in a first half 19-2 burst, contributing from both ends of the court with clutch field goals and rebounds.

Macklin finished the first half

with 17 points and nine rebounds while Cook finished with 19 points and seven rebounds.

Even Cook, a 6-9 center known for his aggressive rebounding, had a difficult time handling the Wheatshocker board play.

"I played physical so when I say it was rough — it was rough," he said.

Wichita State coach Gene Smithson couldn't agree more with Cook's interpretation.

"They really killed us on the boards in the first half. We just didn't pull them down."

"They have a tremendous basketball team. They boarded well. They had great quickness," he said. "They are just an outstanding basketball team."

Cook and Macklin swarmed over the Shockers' every move, knocking and blocking shots repeatedly.

Shocker guard Randy Smithson, who finished the game with 18 points, hailed the superior Tiger defense.

"I was looking to shoot a lot, but

I just didn't get many opportunities," the 6-3 senior said. "You've gotta give credit to their defense and board play. We just didn't hit the boards like they did."

LSU is now 31-3 and is fourth in the nation. WSU, the Missouri

Valley champions, finished at 26-7. LSU led the SEC in defense, holding their opponents to just 67.6 points per game.

LSU advanced to the finals after clobbering Arkansas 72-56 and Lamar 100-78.



Staff photo by Greg Gammon

## Blind Concentration!

Leslie Kerr gets set to take the handoff from fellow teammate James Washington in the second leg of the Texas A&M 400 meter relay team Saturday evening in the College Station Relays. Meanwhile, Bay-

lor's Bruce Davis is preparing for the Brian Savage handoff. Baylor won the event in a time of 40.43. A&M finished second in 40.86. The Aggies, however, won the meet by one point.

## Ags play tough over vacation

By RICK STOLLE  
Battalion Staff

Going into the lion's den, Texas A&M University tennis coach, David Kent, was understandably apprehensive.

"Both Houston and Rice are very good teams," he said before leaving Friday, March 13 for the two Southwest Conference matches. "Houston are the favorites for the conference title, especially since they won the Corpus Christi tournament, and Rice should be ranked in the top twenty ship May 10 in Denton."

Kent said nobody likes to go to Houston to play. They are awfully tough at home, he said, and they are probably out to avenge the 7-2 loss the Ags handed the Cougars last year.

However, to Kent's dismay and pleasure, the Ags were able to look into the lion's mouth and keep their heads.

The Ags lost to Houston 5-3 in a match that was shortened by darkness and defeated Rice 8-1. The missing UH match will be completed later in the season.

"We were up for this match and played excellent tennis," he said. He said Tom Judson played very well as did Max King. King defeated Joel Hoffman 6-4, 6-4 for the first time in four years. Judson took a three set marathon match over Mike Livshitz 7-6, 3-6, 7-6.

He said he was upset, however, by the Cougar fans. They were obscene and distracting, he said, possibly due to the free beer that was served at court-side.

"It was the worst treatment I've ever had a team receive," he said. "I have written a letter to the WC protesting the whole affair."

Returning home for some rest after the surprisingly easy 8-1 victory over Rice, the Ags experienced a rude shock at the hands of the Wichita State Shockers on Monday in a 6-3 loss.

The Ags took the Shockers to a three set matches but were only able to win two. But the Ags were without the services of Trey Schutz who had a badly sprained ankle that kept him out of competition.

Tom Judson and Reid Freeman won three set singles matches to keep the Ags close but the Ags won only one doubles to lose the match.

Judson beat Peter Dellaucdova 6-0, 4-6, 6-2; Freeman defeated Brod Dyke 4-6, 6-1, 6-3 and Max King-Leonard Smith won their doubles match over Simon orman-John O'Rourke 7-5, 6-4.

But the Ags rebounded Tuesday with a 5-4 win over Arizona University, to keep an even, .500 mark for the spring break.

Judson was the bright spot for the Ags in both home matches as he went undefeated. He was impressive in both sets, showing a tenacity that surprised Kent.

"Tom is playing the best ever," Kent said. "I just can't say enough about him and the way he's been playing."

Judson beat Dellaucdova of Wichita State and then defeated Bill Moss of Arizona 3-6, 7-6, 7-5.

The matches raise the nationally ranked Aggies record to 15-5 for the spring season. The Ags are ranked 20 nationally in the latest Intercollegiate Tennis Coaches Association poll.

The Ags are 2-1 in SWC competition with a match record of 22-4. The SWC counts the number of conference matches won to determine the champion and standings.

Individuals competed in the Rice Invitational Tournament in Houston over the weekend but had no outstanding individual performances or wins.

The team will go against Oklahoma City University Tuesday, SMU Thursday and Texas Saturday at the Omar Smith Tennis Center on the Texas A&M campus.

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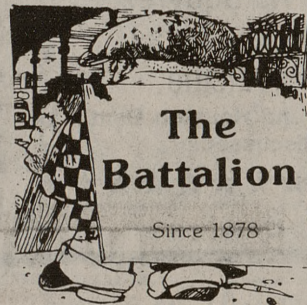
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