



photo by C. Michel Chang

Rudy vs. Akeem

Texas A&M center Rudy Woods releases a shot over the outstretched arm of Houston center Akeem Abdul Olajuwon (34) in the Cougars' 96-93 victory over the Aggies Saturday in Hofheinz Pavilion. Waiting for a rebound are Houston's Michael Young (42) and Texas A&M's Claude Riley (13). Texas A&M will face Baylor Thursday night at 7 in Dallas' Reunion Arena in the quarterfinals of the Southwest Conference tournament.

Fight for survival

TCU, Texas Tech, Baylor move into Dallas quarterfinals

United Press International
 The defense of Joe Washington and the offense of Doug Arnold carried Texas Tech and TCU deeper into the Southwest Conference tournament Monday night. But the shot heard around the league came from the hand of Jay Shakir as the buzzer sounded at the Heart O' Texas Coliseum in Waco. Not only did that shot bring Baylor a victory, but it ended perhaps the most bizarre season in SWC history — the one that was at first enjoyed, but at the last only endured by the Texas Longhorns.

"I don't think we would have had any business being in the tournament, anyway," was the summation delivered by Texas coach Abe Lemons. "The win would have been nice, but we need to get out and recruit a little more than we did to be in Dallas."

But Dallas is the destination for Texas Tech, TCU and Baylor after the tourney's first round of games Monday evening.

Shakir's 20-foot jump shot at game's end provided Baylor its only lead of the night in a 48-46 win over the disaster-prone Longhorns; Tech downed the Rice Owls, 60-46, with Washington shutting off high-scoring Ricky Pierce; and TCU finally erupted in the second half on Arnold's 19 points to deflate SMU, 54-46.

The rest of the tournament will be played in Dallas' Reunion Arena with Thursday night's second round starting with a matchup between Baylor (15-12) and Texas A&M (17-9) and then finishing with a meeting

between TCU (15-12) and Texas Tech (17-10).

The Baylor-A&M winner will return Friday night to face Houston (20-6) and the TCU-Tech survivor will take on regular-season champ Arkansas (21-5). The championship game is set for Saturday night.

Texas' season would make a pretty good book if anyone had the stomach to write it. It started 14-0 and finished 2-11. The turning point came when forward Mike Wacker wrecked his knee on the same court where the Longhorns suffered their final loss Monday night.

Among the Texas setbacks was one in which it lost a nine-point lead in the final 70 seconds and a one-point defeat at the hands of Rice.

"Does this look familiar?" asked Lemons. "Have you seen that before?"

Texas led by as many as eight points in the second half only to have the advantage melt away. The winning shot came after the Bears had brought the ball under Texas' basket with four seconds to go. Instead of working the ball to Terry Teagle, who was off form with only 15 points Monday night, Bears' coach Jim Haller directed the team to get it to Shakir.

"Terry was not in the groove tonight," said Haller. "Jay is a pressure player. It was our design to go to him, but we wanted him to get a little closer than he did. He won a game for us earlier this year at the end and we have all the confidence in the world in him to get the ball in the basket."

In Lubbock, the Owls were trying to defeat Tech for

the third time this season, but all hopes went out the window when Pierce could not produce his usual game. It marked the seventh time in the seven years of the tournament that the Owls have lost their first-round game.

Pierce, the nation's second leading scorer, produced just 14 points — half his season average. Washington stayed with Pierce all night.

"This was the best we have played on defense all year," said Tech coach Gerald Myers. "Joe Washington has been the unsung hero on our team and tonight he was our most valuable player. He did a great job of covering a great basketball player."

TCU, an overwhelming favorite over SMU, found itself behind early in the second half but then went on a binge in which it outscored the Mustangs, 12-2. SMU, which finished the year with 13 straight losses, could get no closer than six the rest of the night as the Frogs went into their delay game with 7:30 remaining.

"It just seemed like both teams were having trouble doing anything," said TCU coach Jim Killingsworth. "The game seemed like it never started — like it was the first two minutes all night. It seemed like both teams were walking hip deep in mud."

TCU, however, put together its best season in 10 years and if the Frogs beat Texas Tech Thursday night they will have won more games than in any season since 1959.

Aggie softball team opens tonight

The Texas A&M women's softball team, which won the state championship during the fall with a 36-3 record, opens the spring schedule tonight with hopes of a national title.

coach Bob Brock play the Baylor Bears in a double-header, with the first game starting at 5:30 p.m. and the finale starting at 7 p.m. Both games will be played

at Travis Park in Bryan, where Texas A&M plays all of its home games.

The Aggies had a 48-9 record last spring and finished fourth in the College World Series.

Two freshmen also led the team offensively, with outfielder Iva Jackson hitting .355 and outfielder Josie Carter finishing at .312. Carter also had 38 RBI, and shortstop Carrie Austgen had 23 for the number two spot on the team.

Lacrosse team ups records to 5-0, 3-0

The Texas A&M lacrosse team defeated two more opponents this weekend to bring its season record to 5-0 and its conference record to 3-0.

Playing on the main drill field, the Aggies ran past the University of Houston 13-6 Saturday in a conference match which saw the teams endure 32 minutes in penalties. Texas

A&M scored six goals in the last half to take the easy victory.

In Sunday's non-conference match, the Aggies defeated the Bay Area Lacrosse Club 10-7, scoring six goals in the first period.

Texas A&M hosts the Dallas Lacrosse Club Saturday at 1 p.m. and the Bayou Lacrosse Club Sunday at 1 p.m.

Non-credit Physical Conditioning class open to all Texas A&M students. Class to be held Monday through Friday beginning February 24th. Class will start promptly at 5:15 p.m. at Kyle Field. You will be required to supply your own equipment. All interested students contact Dave Williams at 845-3193 for more details.

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