

Fast pace of UH contrast to Tar Heels' passing game

Lewis defends Coogs' style

United Press International
HOUSTON — Coach Guy Lewis is fed up as he prepares for the NCAA Tournament finals with characterizations of his fast-paced Houston Cougars as undisciplined and defensively inept.

If a team tries to score points without hesitation, Lewis said Tuesday, it follows that quality opponents will score more points against you because they get more possessions than they do against slow-down teams.

Offensive styles clash Saturday in a tournament semifinal game at the Louisiana Superdome when the Cougars, unranked with a 25-7 record, play the No. 1 North Carolina Tar Heels, 30-2.

Lewis said that a team like the Tar Heels, which can "pass the ball around 30 times" patiently waiting for a good shot, is made to look as if it plays better defense because there are fewer points scored against them than are scored against Houston.

This season, North Carolina gave up 55 points a game while scoring 67. Houston allowed 74 and scored 82.

Lewis says his players work as hard as the Tar Heels for a good shot.

"If it's one pass and you get the shot you want, why in hell pass the ball around? Then you increase the chances of throwing it away," Lewis said. "If that's undisciplined play, I advocate it."

Lewis said that media who did not know his style in games and practices were spreading false impressions of his team.

"We get criticized for being undisciplined. I read that so much," he said. "People who write that don't come to my practices. People write that all I do is kick a damn ball out on the court at practice and watch them scrimmage. That's ridiculous. Every minute of my practice is structured. Plus, we never scrimmage."

He said that college basketball

observers too readily criticize anyone who doesn't try to emulate the methodical offensive teams.

"What I'm saying is that every coach has his way of doing things, so before anybody criticizes he ought to ask the coach what he is doing. He might have a good reason," Lewis said.

He pointed out that Boston College, which Houston beat 99-92 in the NCAA Midwest Regional final Sunday, stunned him by getting more close shots than any opponent this year.

Water ski club's slalom squad second in meet

The Texas A&M water ski club, hosting the seventh annual Polar Bear Intercollegiate Tournament in Hillsboro, placed two of its squads second in the competition held the past weekend.

The tourney included Houston, Texas, LSU, Northeast Louisiana, Oklahoma State, North Texas State and Baylor.

In the team's men's "A" slalom event, Bret Stevenson and Joe Don Dockery tied for sixth and Mark Gunstenson placed 18th. Texas A&M finished second in the overall men's slalom event.

From the Texas A&M women's slalom team, Melanie Jarrell came up with Texas A&M's highest finish in the competition.

Teresa Gaffin tied for seventh in the women's slalom, and Anita Bedrich, Bobbi Van Cleave and Donna Davis all tied for 15th.

Texas A&M placed second in the overall standings for the women's slalom. Stevenson finished in a 10th-place tie in the men's "A" trick competition and Jarrell placed fifth in the women's class "A" trick event. Sunday's men's and women's jumping competition was canceled because of rain.



staff photo by Peter...

Keep your eyes on the ball

Aggie center fielder Billy Cannon, a sophomore hitting .347, appears to be watching the outfield instead of the pitch during a victory over McNeese

State. Texas A&M, rained out of double-header with Minnesota Tuesday hosts the Gophers today in a two-game series at 1 and a single game at 7:30 p.m.

Williams may go pro if UH wins NCAA title

United Press International
HOUSTON — Rob Williams believes it might be just too much of a letdown to play college ball again next year if the Houston Cougars win the NCAA national championship.

The high-scoring junior guard said Tuesday he would seriously consider declaring himself a hardship case to become eligible for the NBA draft should the Cougars make it through Monday night's championship game in the Louisiana Superdome.

The Cougars play the North Carolina Tar Heels in a semifinal Saturday in the Superdome. "My stock has gone way up," said the 6-2, 170-pounder. "Most of the season has been up and down. At times I'd feel good about myself and then I'd hit a slump. The tournament has been good to me."

At times during the season, he said he felt he needed another collegiate season.

"It looks better (for going pro now)," he said. "It looks 100 percent better."

In four tournament games, Williams has aver-

aged 21 points. He was voted the Midwest Regional most valuable player as he scored 10 points against Missouri and 25 against Boston College.

In the Midwest pre-regional he scored points in two games.

He has until April 25 to declare himself a hardship case and become eligible for the May draft.

He said attaining the Final Four this year would make playing for Houston next year a better option. "If I were to come back next year it would be the same," he said. "I'd say if we win the national title I'd really consider it. It would be a safe bet."

Williams may leave a team that would consist of its top seven players. The lone senior in the bunch, guard Lynden Rose, said he thinks Williams will decide to stay.

"This is going to be a great team next year. I think they'd probably be back in the Final Four," Rose said. "He'd have a chance to get to the top twice. Either way there are going to be a lot of happy people and a few sad people."

Tennis match rescheduled

The Texas A&M women's tennis team's match Tuesday with the University of Texas was canceled because of rain. The Aggies have rescheduled the match for March 31 at the Omar Smith Tennis Center.

The men's tennis team, which was to have played the University of Wisconsin Tuesday, will not make up that match. However, the Aggies will host Houston Thursday in an important Southwest Conference match.

The Texas A&M men's tennis team ranked number 19 in the nation has an 18-4 match record through the spring season. Two of the Aggies' losses have been to nationally ranked Duke and Trinity.



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