



staff photo by Eric Mitchell

Giving It All He's Got

Kimmo Alkio lays into a serve during the Texas A&M tennis team's practice session Thursday afternoon. The Aggies' tournament against Texas Christian University was rained out Thursday and has been rescheduled for Saturday at 10:30 a.m.

Rockets win sixth straight

United Press International
HOUSTON — Scores in the Houston Rockets' last two games were pretty close, but that doesn't bother Coach Del Harris. He's just glad the points were in his team's favor when the final buzzer sounded.

"The games are harder to win now. There's a lot more contention on every play," Harris said Thursday night after the Rockets defeated Golden State 104-101.

The Rockets, who have won six in a row, are fighting for a berth in the Midwest Division playoffs. The latest victory brought them to within 2 1/2 games of No. 1 San Antonio, who they face twice next week.

But the Warriors, who dropped to seventh place in the conference, said the fight isn't over yet. The two division winners and four best other teams go to the playoffs.

"It will take more than this game to keep us out of the playoffs," said Golden State coach Al Attles.

One handicap for the War-

riors was that all-star guard World Free injured his neck in the second period and was unable to play the rest of the game. Free, who averages 23.3 points per game, only scored three points Thursday night.

"I hit my head in San Antonio Tuesday night and injured my neck," Free said. "What the team misses with me out is my experience. We came back well against them until the last few minutes."

Moses Malone was the game's high scorer with 35 points and 15 rebounds for the Rockets. Elvin Hayes contributed 18 points and 12 rebounds and Robert Reid added 16 points for Houston.

"Once it gets down to the remaining games of the season and you're fighting for the playoffs, the scores get lower," Reid said. "We're playing as well as anybody in the NBA and we're talking more on defense."

"We'd like to catch San Antonio but we want to make the playoffs first. If we can beat them Sunday up there it might be different."

TANK McNAMARA

by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds



Astro pitcher Richard files suit against doctors

United Press International
HOUSTON — A medical malpractice suit filed by Houston Astros' pitcher J.R. Richard claims doctors recommended he continue practicing despite a restriction in blood flow to his right pitching arm.

The suit, filed last week, said Richard suffered a stroke less than one week after medical tests found him to have no palpable blood pressure in his right pitching arm, his attorney said Thursday.

Attorney Jeffrey R. Parsons said the blood pressure information in the suit came from medical reports.

The suit also said doctors advised against surgery because "any operative intervention would require loss of the remainder of the current season."

Claims against each of three Methodist Hospital doctors who supervised physical and neurological examinations in July 1980 exceed by several times the state-law allowed \$500,000 in damages.

The suit alleged medical conditions existed to necessitate surgery.

On July 30, 1980, Richard worked out for 15 minutes and collapsed. That night he underwent life-saving surgery to remove a blood clot doctors said had shifted from an artery in his right shoulder to a neck artery leading to his brain.

As a result of the stroke, he was temporarily paralyzed.

Richard, 32, is trying to pitch again some 20 months later. The team has informed him he can choose between starting the year on the disabled list or playing for a minor league team.

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