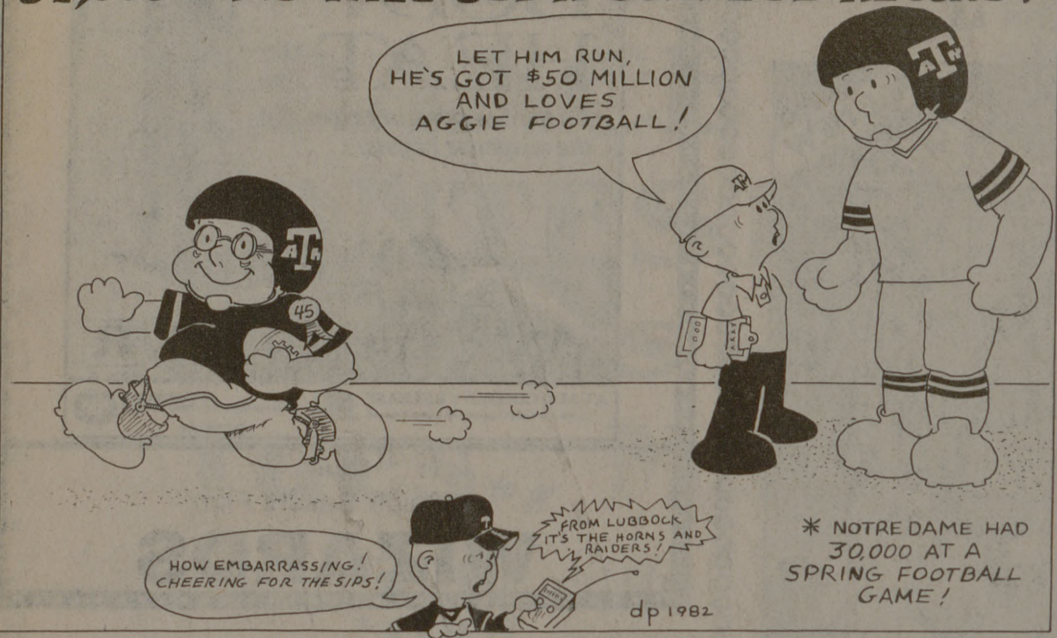


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### Astros give mysterious Ivie his release; no reason given

**United Press International**  
HOUSTON — The Houston Astros have released first baseman Mike Ivie, whose eight-year baseball career has been interrupted periodically by psychological problems.

fielder Scott Loucks, 25, who just recovered from a broken index finger.

Loucks, a swift and good fielding outfielder, has been up with the Astros the final months of the previous two seasons. In the last 10 games of 1981 he hit .571.

The Astros gave no reason for Thursday's release of Ivie, 29, who played this year only in a pinch-hitting role and had two hits in six at-bats.

Last year he played only the first and last months of the season as he suffered, by his own admission, from "mental fatigue."

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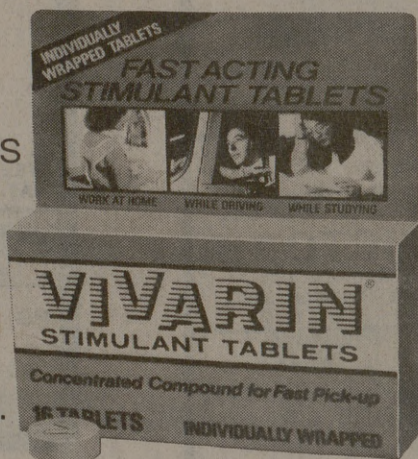


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## Spurs must break through Seattle defense for victory

**United Press International**  
SAN ANTONIO — The San Antonio Spurs' ballhandling and bench scoring go on the line tonight in Game 3 of the Western Conference semifinal series with the Seattle SuperSonics.

San Antonio coach Stan Albeck also hopes the return to the Spurs' home court will mean that George Gervin, the NBA's leading scorer, will be going to the line more.

When the Sonics won the second game, 114-99, to even the best-of-seven series, Albeck was angered by what he thought was an officiating advantage afforded the Sonics on their home court.

Through the first two games, the Sonics

had 26 more free throw attempts than the Spurs and Gervin went to the charity stripe only 10 times.

"The thing I find difficult to accept is that every shot from the league's premier offensive player winds up being a clean block," Albeck said. "Ice (Gervin) has seen every defense possible in the league and you can't tell me he won't get to the line."

Seattle's Bill Hanzlik held Gervin to 24 points in Game 2, nine below his average. In the series opener, however, Gervin shook loose to hit a 20-foot jumper with five seconds left for a 95-93 San Antonio win.

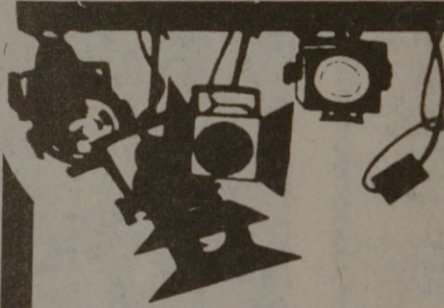
That victory enabled Albeck to leave Seattle with a smile. Splitting the Sonics' full-court zone press,

which contributed to 23 San Antonio turnovers in Game 2 compared to 11 in the first, may be the biggest concern of those whose ballhandling was ranked second game.

John Johnson of the Sonics might as well be prepared to see how they can handle it.

Scoring from the bench also is a factor. Through two games, the bench led by Fred Brown has averaged 15.5 points per game. The Spurs' reserves 55-30 and provided 15 lifts.

"Fred's just a helluva shooter," Johnson said. "What he does, you have to see outside shooting. It's like George Gervin. You can't leave him alone."



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