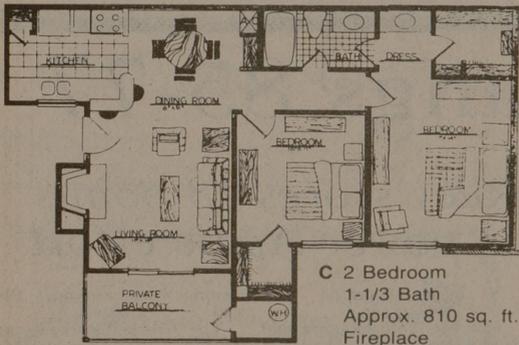
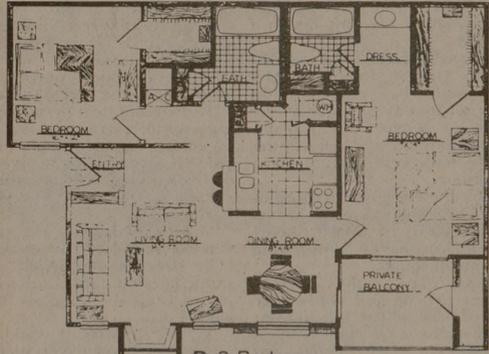


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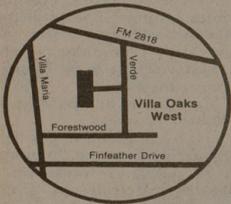
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## sports

# Just eight players

### UT's basketball misfortunes in the hands of 'chosen' few

**United Press International**  
AUSTIN — The only thing more rare than a win this season for the University of Texas basketball team is a substitute.

Heading into tonight's game in Fayetteville against fifth-ranked (but, because of a 75-60 loss to Houston, soon to be displaced) Arkansas, the Longhorns are suiting up eight players — five scholarship athletes, three walk-ons and no returning

starters from last year's team. First-year coach Bob Weltlich's assistants outnumber his bench.

Late last week, the former assistant to coach Bobby Knight of Indiana refused to discuss the team's status and preparations for Arkansas, though earlier in the week he was emphasizing his efforts to prevent the team from wallowing in its misfortune.

"Why should we feel sorry for

ourselves when Houston, Arkansas, Rice and all the others aren't?" Weltlich said Tuesday after losing three starters in one day. "My guess is the people we play will try to run us into the ground."

Some already have. Through 15 games this season the Longhorns are 6-9 and many are predicting the team's most recent win, a 47-45 squeaker over Rice last Wednesday, will be its last.

Last year, through 15 games under the tempestuous tutelage of coach Abe Lemons, the Longhorns were 14-1. But the 1981-82 Longhorns won only two more games after the fast start while losing 10.

Exit Lemons. Enter Weltlich. Exit 10 players from the playing roster.

Of the departed 10, one, LaSalle Thompson, left via the NBA. Academics claimed two, injuries two others and Weltlich dismissed two for disciplinary reasons.

One transferred to be closer to home, one gave up the sport

and Jack Worthington, the sole returning starter on the team, said he was directed by "the Lord" to transfer to Southwest Texas State.

The transition from Lemons to Weltlich has been anything but divine, but Lemons, who is

Still, the divorce from the UT program has been with little hope of return this year.

But Lemons, who in his own stretch of coaching during a lengthy and distinguished tenure at City University, dismissed ranks of Longhorns as real cause for concern. "I used to carry guys," Lemons said. "If they were handicapped, I'd be sure he would like to choose them."



reluctant to discuss the current program and refuses to offer any words of advice for Weltlich, says the problems should not have been unexpected.

"Everytime you have a changeover there is some adversity to deal with," said Lemons. "Before Coach Weltlich came some of the players asked me if they could play for him and I told them all they had to do is find out what the people want and then decide. But it's out of my hands now."

There are bright spots. Burnt orange horizon Mike Wacker, who headed for all-conference honors last year before a knee that has been slow to heal, has been redshirting a year and will return next with two years of eligibility. All of the four players recruited to UT, though apparently are out for with injuries.

# Craig 'Stump's rest of SWC expected to sign with A&M

Craig Stump, one of the top high school prospects in the state, is expected to sign a national letter-of-intent with Texas A&M University, several sources have said.

Stump passed for 2,088 yards and 18 touchdowns while leading the Yellow Jackets to their second consecutive District 22-5A title and an 11-1 record.

The 6-foot 1-inch quarterback from Port Arthur Jefferson is perhaps the No. 1 high school quarterback in the state. Because of Aggie coach Jackie Sherrill's pro-style offense, Texas A&M was considered to

have an edge in his recruitment. During his senior year, Stump was named to several post-season teams, including the all-Greater Houston and all-state 5A football squads. He was also listed as one of nineteen players on the Dallas Times

Herald's blue chip list, selected by Southwest Conference coaches.

Three other top quarterbacks are also considering A&M, including Belmont Stafford, Eastland's Jay and Hempstead's John land. A&M Consolidated Corington has also been a Texas A&M high on his list. It is rumored the Aggie like to switch him to defense.

## NEWPORT

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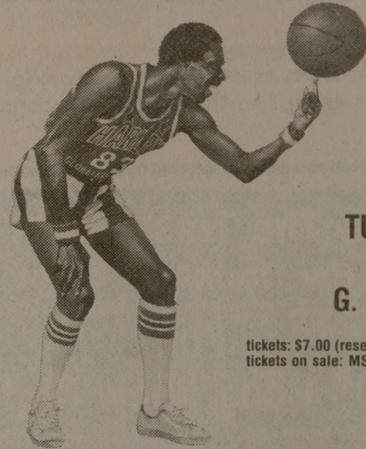
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