

SWC race at halfway-point

United Press International
The second half of the Southwest Conference basketball race opens Saturday and there is little indication that it is going to look much different than the first half.

In the 36 league games played thus far, there has been only one result that could be called an upset — Texas Tech's surprising decision over Baylor.

With 36 more games to go, the chief questions seem to be:
— Can Arkansas manage to defeat Houston in Fayetteville on March 3?
— Can TCU earn a spot in a post-season tournament for the first time in 11 years?

There seems to be little anybody can do to slow down the eighth-ranked Cougars, who

rolled through their first eight conference games with only a slight scare against TCU in Fort Worth.

But if there is to be an upset, it could come Saturday afternoon before the regional television cameras at College Station.

Texas A&M (5-3) hosts the Cougars in hopes of avenging the 84-61 thrashing it absorbed in Houston last month.

The other league games will all come Saturday night with TCU (6-2) at home against Texas (1-7), SMU (4-4) visiting Texas Tech (3-5) and Baylor (1-6) making the trip to Rice (0-8).

Houston's losses this season have come at Syracuse and in Tokyo, Japan against Virginia, which played that night without Ralph Sampson.

But as the Cougars have gained momentum, clobbering Arkansas in the process, they have begun to gain more and more attention.

At least they got the attention of Baylor coach Jim Haller, whose team became the latest Houston victim last Wednesday night.

Earlier this season, Baylor played Nevada-Las Vegas and lost, 77-65. The Rebels remain as the only unbeaten team in major college basketball.

"We've played both Nevada-Las Vegas and Arkansas," said Haller. "There is no comparison between Houston and those teams."

"Houston would demolish Las Vegas."
The aggressive front line


crew of Akeem Olajuwon, Larry Micheaux (6-9), Mike Drexler (6-6) and Mike Young (6-6) have created their own fraternity, giving themselves the name, "Phi Sigma Jamma."

And even Houston coach Lewis senses this could be a special year.

"They are playing like I expected them to be playing at this point in the season," said Lewis whose team made it to the Four last season before falling in the semifinals to national champion North Carolina.

"But believe me, there is plenty of room for improvement, the other teams in the conference will be improved when we see them next and we will be, too."

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Stump on his way to being an Aggie

Sports File

Learning quickly: Port Arthur Jefferson quarterback **Craig Stump**, who has announced he will sign a letter of intent with the Aggies on Wednesday's initial signing date, says he — and his family — are happy with his decision: "I guess I have to get used to saying 'we' when I mention Texas A&M. My whole family is glad I decided on A&M. Now, whenever I do something wrong or dumb around the house, my brothers tell me, 'You're already learning to be an Aggie.'"

Golf season's underway: The Aggie women's golf team competed in its first tournament of the spring Sunday through Wednesday, finishing sixth in a field of 10 teams. The Aggies, who placed fifth in last spring's NCAA tournament and eighth in the national AIAW competition, shot a team total of 786, which trailed TCU (751), SMU (762), Tulsa (767), Lamar (771) and LSU (780). Individual scores for Texas A&M include: **Angela Atkins**, 15th at 194; **Shirley Furlong**, 17th at 196; **Jackie Bertram**, 20th at 197; **Susan Yantis**, 201, and **Patricia Gonzales**, 206. Texas A&M will compete in the **Lady Gator Invitational** Feb. 11-13 in Gainesville, Fla.

Baseball around the corner: **Clint Heard**, co-captain and second baseman of the Aggie baseball team, and **Buddy Haney**, a first baseman, will be at Post Oak Mall Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon. And **Rock King**, co-captain and a pitcher for the Aggies, and **Mark Magee**, a catcher, will be at Manor East Mall in Bryan at the same time Saturday. Both groups of players will be accompanied by two **Diamond Darlings**. They will hand out schedules and will be available to talk to the public about the upcoming season. The groups also will be able to take orders for baseball season tickets. A special season ticket package is being made available to all adults for \$25. By purchasing one or more adult season tickets, adjoining reserved seats are available to youngsters (high school age and under) for only \$10 per season ticket for the 1983 season.

Razorbacks' best start ever: Although the Houston Cougars ended Arkansas' season-opening winning streak at 14 games, the Razorbacks are still off to their best start since the 1977 season. That year, Arkansas won 26 of its first 27 games, but was beaten 86-80 in the 28th game by **Wake Forest** in the NCAA tournament. The Hogs, who now have a 18-1 over-

Yes, Virginia, they play defense, too: The Houston Cougar basketball team is known mostly for its high-scoring offense, but the defense has been making itself known of late. When UH held the Rice Owls to 40 points Jan. 26 in a 76-40 victory, it represented the fewest points given up by the Cougars in **Coach Gay Lewis'** 27 years as head coach. It's the lowest point total by an opponent since a 38-29 UH victory at **Texas A&M** on Dec. 8, 1951. The Cougars have the third-longest current winning streak in the nation (12 games), which represents their longest winning streak since 1972-73. UH has won 16 straight SWC games — its longest league streak. Sophomore center **Akeem Abdul Olajuwon** leads the nation in blocked shots through games of Wednesday according to *The Sporting News*. Olajuwon is averaging 5.3 per game (100 in 19 games), the best per-game average in Houston history. The 7-foot center had 11 blocks Jan. 22 against Arkansas — the second time he's accomplished that this season, while the Cougars had 17 as a team.

Red Raiders finding it rough on the road: The Texas Tech basketball team has endured its share of problems during the Red Raiders' 6-15 season (3-5 in the Southwest Conference), as the team has had to rebuild after starters **Joe Washington**, **Dwight Phillips** and **Charles Johnson** were kicked off the team in early January. But in fact, the Red Raiders have been successful playing in Lubbock, where they're 5-2 this season. However, on the road, Texas Tech has a 1-7 record, and on neutral courts, the Raiders are 0-6. Coach **Gerald Myers'** squad won its first road game of the year over Baylor on Saturday by a score of 58-57. One of the players who has maintained consistency is guard **Bubba Jennings**, who averaging 14 points a game. In the Red Raiders' 78-63 loss to Texas A&M on Monday, Jennings made two free throws to give him 34 in a row.

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