

Presence of Houston's Drexler dictates many 'court' decisions

They call him "Clyde the Glide" around the University of Houston campus. Professional basketball scouts pencil "great NBA material" into their notebooks in reference to his skills. And folks who are just plain old fans say he's the most talented athlete in college basketball.

Meet Clyde Drexler, the Houston Cougars' stud of studs and the president of their elite "Phi Slamma Jamma" fraternity.

He's the kind of guy you look at and decide to call Mr. Drexler instead of Clyde. The Cougars' No. 1 jammin' gent doesn't care if you call him Clyde or Mr. Drexler, but he's courteous enough to give you all the respect in the world — even if you're a total stranger.

But when he's on the basketball court, Mr. Drexler dons a red and white robe and becomes one of several presiding judges. This court of law doesn't need jurors, however, since most of the verdicts are cut-and-dried; that is, they're decided upon before the opening tip.

Drexler, Michael Young, Larry Micheaux and Akem Abdul Olajuwon form a multi-judge panel that treats its defendants with no mercy and no respect.

In Saturday's hearing with the Texas Aggies, the verdict wasn't handed down until the second half. But when these judges decided to put an end to the Aggies' comeback, they did so without warning.

The Cougars have been doing that to many of their opponents. The Aggies just happened to be the latest in a long line of defendants who didn't have a chance against a no-mercy group of judges.

But back to Mr. Drexler. Most people don't call him "Your Honor," but sometimes he makes you want to call



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him a gentleman and a scholar. Give him a chance to speak and he'll give you an earful.

"The greatest thing about today was our hussle," Drexler said with a smile after the Cougars finished off the Aggies, 86-66, in G. Rollie White Coliseum. "Hussle makes the team. Hussle is contagious. When you hussle, you win ballgames."

While nearby teammates laughed it up, Drexler smiled from ear to ear, obviously pleased with himself and his brief moment of literary license.

"I think we'll get better and better as the season progresses," the Cougars' smooth-flying forward said. "There's still work to be done. I hope we can keep going at this pace."

Drexler's main task against the Aggies included guarding 6-10 forward Claude Riley, Texas A&M's leading scorer and rebounder. At 6-7, Drexler lost some

height to Riley, but he says quickness made up for those inches.

"Everywhere he went," Drexler said, "I went, watching the ball, whether he went right or left. I'm quicker than him, so I was able to keep up with him. The Aggies were trying to force it inside, but they couldn't do it. We just didn't want them to have their way inside with us."

Drexler, who faked in about four different directions and snaked his way to an impressive layup to make the score 52-40 with 13:43 left in the game, said the shot didn't come easy.

"I had to do a lot of twisting and turning to get free," he said, "but I've made that shot before. That's the kind of shot you make in practice, but not too often in a game."

"We've got an awesome team. Whenever we play with this much intensity, we're hard to beat. The Aggies have a good team, but their inside game just can't match ours — that's the key."

Now that the Cougars have a 9-0 record in the Southwest Conference, Drexler said, it's time to get the players in line for the countdown to the league tournament — and whatever may lie ahead. It's up to him and his fellow upperclassmen — Micheaux and Young — to perform that task, Drexler said.

"We as the 'senior' members of the team aren't going to let everybody get cocky," Drexler said with a grin. "It's up to the older members of the team to keep everybody straight."

And with Mr. Clyde Drexler at the helm, it shouldn't be difficult to keep the wheels moving in the right direction.



staff photo by David Fisher

A sure-bet two points

Aggie guard Reggie Roberts dunks the ball during his team's victory over the Texas Longhorns earlier in the season. The Aggies, who lost to Houston 86-66 Saturday in G. Rollie White Coliseum, take on Rice Wednesday in Houston. Game time is 7:30.

Virginia, Villanova next on schedule

No. 1 Tar Heels face tough road

United Press International
NEW YORK — North Carolina may find life at the top of college basketball's ratings to be a precarious one before next Monday rolls around.

The Tar Heels hung on to the top spot Monday in the weekly United Press International's Board of Coaches ratings, but must face two of the toughest teams on their schedule within a pace of four days.

North Carolina, 20-3, and winner of 17 consecutive games, plays host to No. 2 Virginia at

Chapel Hill Thursday night and entertains No. 14 Villanova Sunday on national television.

North Carolina was far from a unanimous choice for No. 1 in this week's ratings but held a comfortable lead over Virginia. The Tar Heels received 26 first-place votes and 585 points from the 41 members of the coaches board who participated in this week's ratings, to outdistance Virginia by 35 points.

Virginia, 19-2, received six first-place votes and 550 points to retain the No. 2 spot and un-

beaten Nevada-Las Vegas, 20-0, got eight first-place votes and 498 points to hold on to the No. 3 spot.

Indiana, UCLA, Houston and Missouri each moved up two places from last week. Indiana, 17-2, climbed to No. 4 after turning back two Big Ten Conference foes last week; UCLA, 16-2, advanced to No. 5 after downing two Pacific-10 Conference rivals; Houston, 18-2, moved up to No. 6 after beating two Southwest Conference opponents and Missouri, 18-3,

jumped to No. 8 after defeating a pair of Big Eight Conference foes. The Cougars received one first-place vote.

St. John's, 19-2, split a pair of games during the week and dropped three places to No. 7 and Memphis State, 17-2, fell five places to No. 10 after splitting a pair of games. Arkansas, 18-1, remained in the No. 9 position.

Heading the second 10 was Louisville, 18-3, which won two games during the week to advance

one place. Kentucky, 14-5, Georgetown, 15-5, and Minnesota, 14-4, each advanced three places despite splitting a pair of games during the week. Kentucky moved from No. 15 to No. 12; Georgetown climbed from No. 16 to No. 13, and Minnesota advanced from No. 18 to No. 15.

Illinois State, 17-2, won two of three outings during the week but dropped two places to No. 16, in a tie with Syracuse, 15-4, which returned to the top 20 after a one-week absence.

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Interviews for 1983-84 MSC Council Officers will be held on February 12 and 13. Applications and additional information can be obtained at the Secretary's Island in Room 216 MSC. The available positions include:

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