

Sutton explains technicals

Hogs hard to beat at home

United Press International
During Eddie Sutton's stay in Fayetteville, the Arkansas Razorbacks have won 98 games at Barnhill Arena. They figure to win No. 99 tonight against the SMU Mustangs.

Just why the Hogs are so hard to beat at home was demonstrated quite clearly Saturday night when the Texas A&M Aggies limped out of town with battered eardrums.

Not only do the Razorbacks put a talented team on the floor, but Sutton has shown over the

years he knows how to work the officials and the crowd.

"Coach Sutton usually knows what he's doing when he gets a technical," Arkansas center Joe Kleine said following the Hogs' 62-55 victory over the Aggies in Fayetteville. "When he gets one, he usually goes after it. I don't question it."

Sutton's outbursts at the officials drew two technical fouls Saturday night and worked up the crowd at Barnhill, but it was not until a late-game technical was called against A&M coach

Shelby Metcalf that ninth-ranked Arkansas was finally able to subdue the Aggies.

Metcalf said he was merely yelling at one of his players — forward Roy Jones — when he was slapped with the technical foul.

"I guess we are going to have to start using sign language," said Metcalf. "I'll take a polygraph test if they want me to. I was just talking to one of my players."

"I thought it was a pretty quick technical considering what was happening at the other end of the court (a reference to Sutton's work on the officials)."

Sutton's reputation for lashing out at the officials has grown steadily during his almost decade-long tenure at Arkansas. Two weeks ago, in a game

against Wake Forest that was televised to much of the country, Sutton fell to his knees after one call he did not like and crawled back to his seat on the bench.

Last year at the Southwest Conference tournament, he took off his bright red coat, threw it skyward and ignited a partisan crowd at Dallas' Reunion Arena in the championship game against Houston.

After the A&M win Saturday night, Sutton delivered another of his frequent sermons on officiating.

"This league has come so far in basketball," he said. "It's been a great football league and it's improved so much in basketball. The players are much better, but the officiating is no better today than it was nine years ago."

TANK McNAMARA

by Jeff Millar & Bill Hin



Tarheels upset; UNLV could be new No. 1

United Press International
Three days after scaling Mount Sampson, North Carolina is about to take that grand plunge from the summit.

The Tar Heels reinforced their No. 1 ranking Thursday night by rallying from a 16-point deficit with nine minutes remaining to edge second-rated Virginia — and 7-foot-4 center Ralph Sampson — 64-63. On Sunday in Chapel Hill, though, North Carolina looked sluggish, fell behind early and was upset 56-53 by a 14th-ranked Villanova club that battled the elements before battling the Tar Heels.

"There is no question that this is one of the best wins we've ever had," said Coach Rollie Massimino after the Wildcats scored the game's first seven points and held off a comeback bid to snap the Tar Heels' 18-game winning streak. "There is no question that this was our best game of the year."

Villanova, 17-4, had to be routed through Atlantic City, N.J., to catch a special charter flight because of a blizzard that brought much of the northeast to a standstill. The Wildcats didn't arrive at their hotel until 12:30 a.m. Sunday.

John Pinone scored 14 points, Ed Pinckney added 11 and Villanova outrebounced North Carolina 30-21 in avenging a 70-60 loss in the NCAA East Regional championship game last year.

"We started chasing with 7:22 left and it a long time to chase somebody," said Tar Heel Coach Dean Smith. "We were disappointed; we know that any one of these games you lose in January and February aren't as important as the ones you lose in March (the NCAA playoffs). You don't want to lose in March."

Aside from ensuring that the Wildcats move up nicely in the Top 20 rankings when the new ratings are released today, the up-almost certainly bumps the Tar Heels from the top spot they've held since Feb. 1.

North Carolina took the lead only once with 16:34 left in the game, when Michael Jordan, who led all scorers with 20 points, hit a field goal to make it 31-30. But Pinone came back at 15:57 with a field goal to put the Wildcats ahead again.

In other games Saturday involving the 10 ranked teams, No. 3 Nevada-Las Vegas downed Fresno State 66-59, No. 4 Indiana defeated Wisconsin 75-65, Oregon State downed fifth-ranked UCLA 69-65, No. 6 Houston Texas Christian 74-66, No. 8 Missouri defeated Oklahoma 84-79 in overtime, No. 9 Arkansas defeated Texas A&M 62-55 and No. 10 Memphis State lost to Tulane 49-47. John's, ranked No. 7, had its game with Connecticut postponed because of snow.

Erving leads East team to 132-123 All-Star win

United Press International
INGLEWOOD, Calif. — Julius Erving is 32 years old and therefore must be heading into the twilight of a dazzling career. But it's hard to believe while he's in the midst of a spinning, triple-pump slam dunk.

Isiah Thomas is 21, not four years out of high school, and therefore must be easy prey for NBA veterans. But no one who has seen his lightning speed and brilliant raw talent believes that either.

Sunday, against the cream of the NBA crop, the old man and the kid got together and put on an electrifying show.

Erving, the oldest player on the team, and Thomas, the youngest, combined for 44 points to lead the East to a 132-123 victory over the West in the 33rd NBA All-Star Game.

Erving, the Philadelphia 76ers' star forward, was named the game's Most Valuable Player, recapturing the award he won in the 1977 game. He finished with 25 points and helped shut down a West comeback bid in the closing minutes with a pair of typically spectacular baskets. Erving, appearing in his seventh All-Star Game in as many NBA seasons, also had six rebounds as the East won for the fourth consecutive year.

"At this point in my career, I'm just trying to master my game," said Erving. "There are guys in this league who can outrun me and who can out-

jump me, but I try to outthink them."

Erving said the showcase game of the season should boost interest for the second half of the season.

"The NBA has taken a lot of knocks from people who don't know much about the game," said Erving. "This week, we made a concerted effort to put on a show so that the people who weren't watching would wish they were."

Thomas, who in addition to being the youngest player in the All-Star game was also the shortest at 6 feet, added 19 points, all in the first two periods. The flashy Detroit Pistons' guard added 10 points in the opening period as the East led to a 42-31 lead. It was Thomas' second All-Star appearance in his two NBA seasons.

"When I came to the game last year, it was a thrill to be here and I got caught up in the festivities," said Thomas. "This year, I can't play the game."

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar led the West with 17 points while Los Angeles Lakers' teammate Magic Johnson added 17 points and 16 assists, breaking Oscar Robertson's All-Star game record of 16 assists set in 1961.

"The record is OK, but I'm not into individual awards," Johnson said. "Winning is the thing we didn't win. I'm happy to have the record; someone will come along, maybe next year, and break it."

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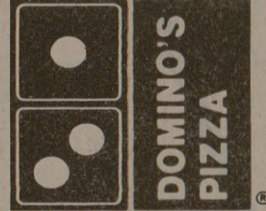
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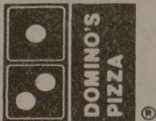
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