

# Parity's the rule in today's college basketball spotlight

If Mr. Webster were a half-court basketball fan, he wouldn't just define parity as "equality in power." He'd also say it describes accurately what's happening in the game of college basketball today.

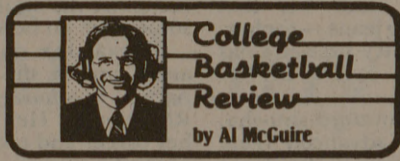
Looking at the polls, the norm today seems to be a new No. 1 team every week. Being No. 1 in the polls is like a hot potato. Nobody seems to want it. Knocking at the door have been Indiana, Kentucky, St. John's, Mississippi, UCLA, Virginia plus a flotilla of others.

The reasons for this are many. The most obvious one is the freshman rule, which does not allow the dynasty colleges to stockpile the blue-chippers like they did years ago. What you used to do was bring in a great freshman team, break them in as sophomores and play them as juniors and seniors. Today, a blue-chip freshman wants to play right away or he'll go somewhere else where he will, because most keepers have their eyes on the pros down the road. And, unlike in football, turning a program around and taking a trip uptown costs only a couple of blue-chippers and the right complementary players.

What all this has done is spread the high school blue-chippers throughout 50 to 60 schools in Division I, which is a first big step toward equality.

Another thing is that the NCAA has lowered the amount of scholarships you can give. At no time can you have more than 15 basketball players on scholarship. They can bring in 15 in one year, or spread it over four years, but at no time can there be more than 15 on scholarship.

That's step No. 2. Third, with the exception of states like



Indiana — Branch McCracken and Bobby Knight country — and Kentucky, where the late Adolph Rupp and now Joe Hall are making it routine to go uptown and almost common to make the Final Four, basketball for years has been a city game. An overwhelming majority of thoroughbreds came out of Chi, the Big Apple, L.A. and D.C. But today, there are great ballplayers in states like Montana, Louisiana and Maine.

This has come about because basketball has come center ring, made the spotlight, gone SRO. It happened because the game was made for TV and the tremendous exposure of the boob tube. Major sponsors prefer college basketball because the ratings are strong and it hits the right audience. Fans like it because the ball is big, not like a hockey puck you can't see. The lighting is excellent, the court is small enough for good camera angles, the players are always visible because of their limited amount of clothing.

Also, with a few exceptions over the last 20 years, basketball camps — specialized basketball camps — have sprung up by the thousands throughout the land. There used to be just a handful of guys who had them, but not anymore. Now the coach at East Cupcake has one, the Little Sisters of the Poor have one — everyone has one.

In addition, basketball coaches have finally left the shadows of the goalposts. It used to be, at many schools, that they were also assistant coaches in football, but now basketball coaches are extremely well-paid, have competent staffs and the schools have provided them with the monies to promote, recruit and scout.

Most coaches, too, try to help themselves by trying to keep their schedule relatively soft. That's because most teams go to the NCAA on their record. Some of the bids are based on conferences, but the rest on record. So today, outside of a regional hookup, non-conference bookings are usually weak sisters. That's why so many schools today start their conferences with 10-0 records.

Finally, televised regional or national games provide a big payoff and have spawned larger recruiting budgets and bigger facilities — some of them mammoth in size. Syracuse is touching close to 30,000 at tip-off time, and the University of Tennessee is building a new arena to seat 25,000.

So, college basketball, welcome to the major leagues, the heavyweight division, the eighth race, the super bowl of college sports. But forget about any consistency in individual schools any more, the fabric has been irretrievably changed. And parity will be the word for whatever college basketball is for the next century.

Parity has already sent the word "upset" the way of the buffalo. Today you can never count a game an upset unless it's on the road. Even Chaminade beating Virginia is not that much of an upset, because it was at Chaminade. There is no upset on the road. Only if you beat 'em on their turf.

## TANK McNAMARA

by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds



## TCU still in third after win

United Press International  
Dennis Nutt has begun to play like he never has before — at least not in a TCU uniform.

Nutt was the key Wednesday night to a 72-50 TCU victory over Rice, as the Horned Frogs stayed alive in their fight for third place and the last bye past the first round of the Southwest Conference postseason tournament.

With Texas A&M's victory over Baylor, TCU stayed in third place, one game ahead of the Aggies. Texas A&M needed forward Claude Riley's streak shooting in two important stretches of Wednesday's game to fight off the Baylor Bears, 74-62.

And TCU used the early scoring of Nutt to race to a quick lead over the Owls, the league's last-place team.

TCU scored the first nine points in its meeting with Rice, allowed the Owls just five points during the first 10 minutes and coasted to one of its most comfortable victories of the season.

## Cleveland trips up Dallas, 99-96

United Press International  
There's no time like the present for the Cleveland Cavaliers to change owners.

With a deal between current owner Ted Stepien and real estate developer John Ferchill nearing completion, it appears the new owner will inherit a team on the upswing.

While Ferchill was saying Ted and I shook hands on the deal ... I signed the documents and sent them to Ted and I assume he will sign them," the Cavaliers went out Wednesday night and posted their fourth straight victory, a 99-96 decision over the Dallas Mavericks.

Four victories in a row may not sound like much, but the Cavaliers have won just 13 of 52 games. The four-game surge is Cleveland's longest winning streak since Jan., 1981.

World B. Free scored 23 points, including four free throws in the final 19 seconds, and Cliff Robinson added 23 points and 22 rebounds to spark Cleveland to its home triumph before a crowd of 3,587.

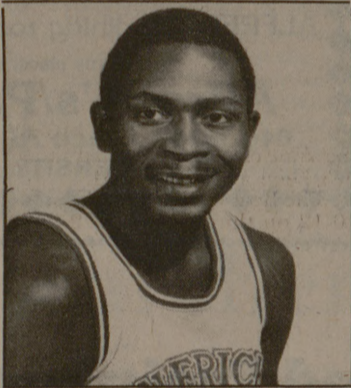
"I felt we had a chance to beat Dallas all through the game, but our bench did a super job," Robinson said.

After Dallas took a 76-70 lead into the final period, the game was tied five times before a drive by Free put the Cavaliers ahead to stay, 93-91, with 1:59 left. A jumper by Jay Vincent pulled Dallas to 95-94 with 34 seconds left, but Free connected on a technical foul shot when Dallas was called for a zone with 19 seconds left.

No time ran off the clock as Free sank another technical when Mark Aguirre fouled Larry Kenon on the next inbound play. Free then added two more foul shots with seven seconds left.

Dallas Coach Dick Motta said he feared Free in the final period.

"I was afraid of Free when I



Mark Aguirre's 29 points pace Mavs in loss to Cavs

saw him sitting on the bench for the first five minutes of the fourth period," said Motta. "I knew he was rested."

Aguirre led Dallas with 29 points and Rolando Blackman

had 26 as the Mavs' record fell to 25-25.

**BUCKS 126, PISTONS 121** — At Milwaukee, Marques Johnson scored 39 points, including the go-ahead basket in overtime, to lift Milwaukee. Vinnie Johnson's 3-point shot at the buzzer tied the game, 108-108, after regulation.

**CELTICS 108, SUPER-SONICS 100** — Robert Parrish scored 34 points and Boston held the SuperSonics to just two points in the final four minutes as the Celtics registered their first victory in six years at Seattle.

**76ERS 116, NUGGETS 95** — At Philadelphia, Moses Malone scored 21 points and combined with Maurice Cheeks to spark a 19-0 spurt in the opening quarter to lead Philadelphia.

**SUNS 111, KINGS 102** — At St. Louis, Larry Nance had 23

points and Kyle Macy fueled a fourth-quarter rally that carried Phoenix.

## HALF PRICE

Join us for half price on mixed drinks and oysters on the half shell. Only at Pelican's Wharf every Monday thru Friday 5-7 p.m. Enjoy Margaritas by the liter just \$7.00.

## PRICE.

Mixed Drinks-n-Oysters\*



\*half price does not include beer or wine  
pelican's wharf 2500 Texas Ave., 693-5113

### MSC Amateur Radio Committee

will have a tour of the

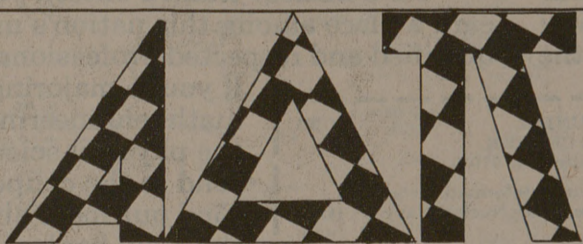
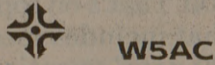
### Zachry Solid-State Labs

Thursday February 17  
7:00 PM Meet in Zachry Lobby

Visitors welcome!

Memberships still available.

Equipment condition is improving every week.



Alpha Delta Pi

## PLAYDAY DANCE

Feb. 19<sup>th</sup> 1983

AGGIELAND BALLROOM

Tickets...???  
Presale \$4.00  
Door \$5.00



Music by...

baggy trousers

### quick as a flash

wants to

## THANK YOU FOR "1" GREAT YEAR!

To celebrate our First Anniversary we are having a 1/2 price sale on 2-17-83  
\$1<sup>00</sup> for processing 15¢ a print  
not good with any other offer



### REGISTER NOW!

for a 35 mm camera to be given away on 2-17-83!



Post Oak Mall

### AGGIE SPECIAL

\$3<sup>00</sup> off our already low prices on processing & printing C-41 print film.  
1/2 price on E-6 C-41 slide processing with this coupon & TAMU I.D.

Good thru Feb. 21  
Not good 2-17-83

### 1-HR. PROCESSING