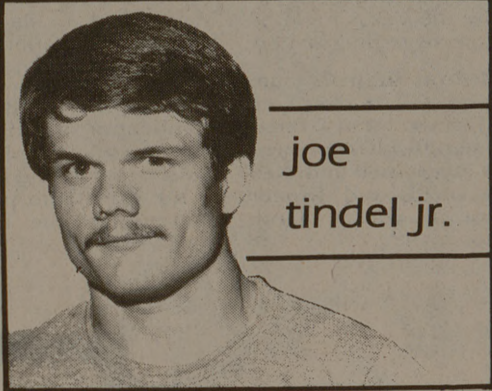


SWC basketball: A lesson in economies of height

Many Keynesian economists will tell you there's no such thing as perfect competition. So true.

Take, for example, the Southwest Conference basketball scene. Now there's not a monopoly in the success market of the conference, but there is a *duopoly*. Yes, that's right. Read the word carefully and then say it to yourself.

Then say *Arkansas* and *Houston*. If you add *TCU*, you're creating a *triopoly*, which doesn't exist, contrary to some opinions. The Killer Frogs just don't quite have the capital to rate with the Cougars. That's been proven. Saturday's matchup between the Frogs and the Hogs set TCU back to its proper category.



joe tindel jr.

But the Frogs have their market share. It's considerably less than that found in the *duopoly*, but maybe it's a little better than anybody else's. Texas A&M, SMU and Texas Tech may have shares close to that of the Killer Frogs, but how they rate at the end of the "fiscal year" remains to be seen.

As for the rest of the organizations, bankruptcy proceedings are near.

What's the secret of success that the big

guns have found? Well, to be consistent, we'll continue to exemplify with the business world analogy.

For one thing, both members of the *duopoly* have crafty chief executive officers. Arkansas' Eddie Sutton pulls strings, bends, folds and mutilates the concentration of other CEOs and their "employees" as well as that of the authorities that regulate the competition.

Sutton also has some nifty resources in

center Joe Kleine, forward Darrell Walker and forward Alvin Robertson. Perhaps the biggest factor in the success of Arkansas is good management of resources. Sutton excels in this category.

Houston's CEO, Guy Lewis, is blessed with some of the best resources in the country. He's even imported one — Akeem Abdul Olajuwon. The locals are fantastic, too. There's Micheaux, Drexler, Young, Gettys, etc.

But these are the only two that are really enjoying a dandy profit margin. TCU's not doing badly. But Rice, Texas, Baylor and SMU haven't even reached the breakeven point. Some of these organizations have lost some key resources during the course of the "fiscal year." Rice lost Tyrone Washington and Kenny Austin, Texas Tech lost Charles Johnson, Dwight Phillips and Joe Washington and Texas lost practically everybody. The only answer for them is to wait until the resources in the *duopoly* run out.

The lack of balance in the SWC's "market" makes the outcome of the year predictable. The *duopoly* will prevail, the middlemen will battle each other until the finish and the rest will regroup for next year.



Run season record to 3-3

Ice-Ags beat NTSU twice

Sometimes coaches make decisions that lose games. Sometimes coaches make decisions that win games. Fortunately for the Texas A&M Ice Hockey team, player-coach Todd Steinweg made one of the latter.

Steinweg, who was subbing for the ill James Johns, made a key strategy decision which turned an Ice-Ag three-game losing streak into a two-game winning streak over the weekend.

The Aggies defeated North Texas State twice in Waco, 5-2 and 7-5.

All Steinweg did was move Aggie standout Greg Skibin from defense to offense. The result? A five-goal performance that paced the Ice-Ags to their first two victories since Oct. 29, 1982.

Skibin found the net twice in Saturday night's contest and recorded the first hat trick (three goals in one game) in Texas A&M history in Sunday's finale.

And Skibin was not the only star in Saturday's opener. Goal-tender Blair Oliver turned back 36 North Texas' shots en route to his second victory in four starts.

But things didn't start so smoothly for the Ice-Ags, who fell behind 1-0 early in the first period of the first match-up between the schools. But just two minutes into the second period Joe Anderson put the Aggies on the board for the first time in four periods (the Aggies were shut out in their last game against SMU). Seconds later, North Texas regained the lead, only to have Skibin tie it up with his first goal of the night just before the end of the period.

The third and final stanza was all Texas A&M. Early into the period, Steinweg scored an unassisted goal to put the Ice-

Ags ahead to stay. Steinweg's goal was followed by Skibin's second. Matt Coleman finished off the Aggie scoring with an open net goal with only 12 seconds remaining in the game.

Sunday's match wasn't even that close. Skibin got things rolling early and they never stopped. Only three very late North Texas tallies made the game seem close.

Skibin's first of three came on a fancy breakout pass from his first-time linemate Tom Dobrez. All of Skibin's goals for the weekend were assisted by the senior Dobrez. Skibin's second of the game came shortly after Freshman Jody Leidolf had given the Aggies a 2-0 lead. North Texas came within one goal at 3-2, before Aggie forward Gordie Anderson closed the wild first period of scoring with his fifth goal in six games.

Pinpoint passing by a charged-up Aggie offense and fine goaltending by Aggie goalie Eddie Cassavoy helped extend the Texas A&M lead in the second period. Scott Strom scored early in the period and Skibin finished off his three goal performance late in the period as the Aggie lead bulged to 6-2.

John Nagy added the finishing touch with a third period goal before North Texas fired off three goals in the last three minutes off the game to make it appear close 7-5.

The Ice-Ags improved their record for this inaugural season to 3-3, while North Texas fell to 0-3.

Texas A&M will again travel to Waco next weekend for a match-up against the Dallas Juniors.

The Juniors are made up of college-age men, but are not affiliated with any school.

Texas A&M plays its home games at Spenco International Ice Rink, located off Highway 6 in Waco. Because of the lack of an ice rink in the Bryan-College Station area, the Ice-Ags are forced to practice and play in the Waco arena.

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