

# Guy Lewis says to blame refs for Barnhill problems

United Press International  
HOUSTON — Houston Cougar coach Guy Lewis says the blame should be on "intimidated" Southwest Conference referees, not on Arkansas boisterous fans, for the inequal treatment visiting teams feel

they receive when they play the Razorbacks in Fayetteville, Ark. Not once, Lewis said on Monday, has he seen Arkansas school officials "feed an official to the fans" in Barnhill Arena, and yet experienced conference referees continually let the crowd

and Razorbacks' head coach Eddie Sutton influence their decisions.

The Cougars, 23-2, play at Barnhill Thursday against the Razorbacks, 24-1, in the biggest SWC game in years. The SWC championship and possibly a national championship are at stake.

Referees' decisions will be crucial.

"The last three years up there, the fans haven't intimidated our team," Lewis said. "The problem we have and everybody else has — and I know this is gonna make some people mad — is the intimidation of officials (referees).

"If officials would hang in there like the players do, you wouldn't see much griping about the crowd," he said.

Other SWC coaches haven't been as nice this year in statements about the Fayetteville fans. Many visitors describe them as obscene and dangerous.

Once a year for seven years since Houston entered the

Southwest Conference in 1976, the Cougars have lost at Barnhill. They've never won there.

In their first visit, the Cougars were intimidated into the worst loss in the school's history despite having Otis Birdsong on their side.

The Cougars apparently have learned to handle the crowd noise and to prepare for the actions around the bench area by Arkansas head coach Eddie Sutton.

"I notice Sutton. How can you help but see him doing his act," Cougar forward Clyde Drexler said. "But you get by with what you can. If I could intimidate the referees, I'd try. Sutton does a good job."

Lewis describes Sutton as the "conductor" orchestrating the home crowd. As far as the Razorback fans themselves, Lewis would love to coach in front of them.

"I don't find any fault with the crowd. I really don't," he said. "I think they are a great basketball crowd. I think they do exactly what Eddie wants them to do. If you'd listen to what he says on his TV show, you'd know he takes great pride in getting the crowd to back him."

Sutton is 89-6 at Barnhill. When his team is winning easily, he acts differently, Lewis said.

"But you get close to them and he will wave that baton," he said.

Lewis would much prefer a barnburner at Barnhill than a game against the Virginia Cavaliers in Tokyo, Japan. (The Cougars played there against the Cavs and lost 72-63).

"Over in Japan, the people were great. But they were so polite they didn't get into the game. I didn't like that," he said.

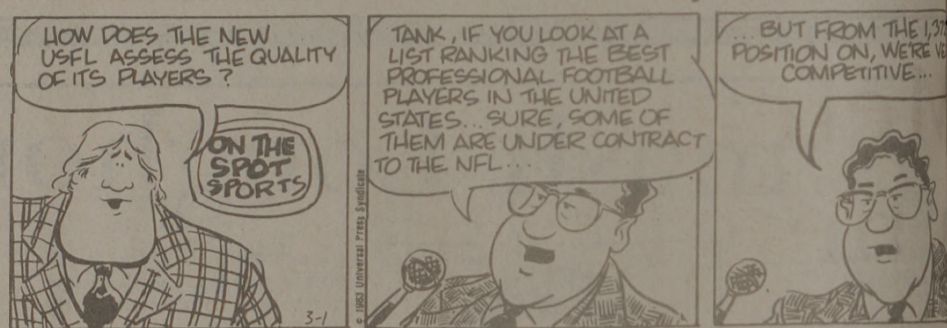
Fayetteville is the only place where Lewis feels the referees are affected by the fans.

"I've been to Rome and I've seen where they threw the Christians to the lions," he said.

"But I've never seen Arkansas feed a referee to the fans. If it was a lions' den, maybe the officials would have to worry."

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# Coin flip could decide SWC third-place finish

From staff and wire reports

Texas A&M's 96-59 victory over the Texas Longhorns not only boosted the Aggies' Southwest Conference record to 9-6, but it also pushed them into a tie with TCU for third place.

Both teams have one more game to play before the SWC tournament — the Aggies play Texas Tech in Lubbock on Saturday and TCU plays SMU Wednesday. Both teams need to win to stay in the hunt for third place.

The team that finishes third in the conference race does not have to play a first-round game in the tournament, which opens next Monday at three sites

around the league.

If A&M and TCU both win and finish tied for third, a complicated tie-breaker formula will be put into effect. In the case of the Aggies and Horned Frogs, the key would be which team finishes fifth.

If SMU finishes fifth, the tie-breaker advantage would fall to TCU. But if Texas Tech finishes fifth, the tie-breaker edge would go to Texas A&M.

Provided both teams win, TCU would have defeated SMU twice and Texas A&M would have defeated Texas Tech twice.

Tech and SMU are currently tied for fifth and could stay that way. If they do, a coin flip would

be needed to determine tournament bye.

If the Aggies finish in the SWC, they would play again Monday night at the third-place finish would them packing for however.

Aggie coach Shelby said he wasn't going to concern him.

"I'm not going to worry all of that," said Metz just going to worry about Tech. They only beat by three points out of the third-place finish would they beat SMU and TCU. They have only one coach, but all eight can feel sorry for them."

# Koch captures Doral crown for first victory in six years

United Press International  
MIAMI — Gary Koch, who went into the final round of the \$300,000 Doral Open golf tournament four strokes ahead, didn't miss a beat and won by five.

Runner-up Ed Fiori put it best when he said: "He just never missed a shot. He was down the middle of the fairways, he hit the greens and he made the putts. After he birdied the 12th and 13th holes, he should have been ordering fried chicken to celebrate on the 14th tee."

Koch came up with a 2-under-par 70 in Monday's rain-delayed, final round over the 7,065-yard Doral course, which lived up to its reputation as the "Blue Monster" as gusty winds of 25 mph held up the scores.

Fiori shot a 71 to finish at 12-under-par 276, five shots back. George Burns was another stroke behind at 277 after a 71

Monday. Next at 10-under-par 278 were two-time Doral winner Ray Floyd and Tom Kite. Floyd and Kite shot 70s in the final round.

It was Koch's second win in eight years on the tour and his first since the 1977 Florida Citrus Open. In between his second and third victories were a thumb injury that bothered him for a year and a half — and almost six years of wondering why he couldn't win again.

"It's been a long time," Koch said with obvious relief. "It feels good; it really does. There's been a lot of golf holes played all those years, a lot of frustration and a lot of self-doubt."

The 30-year-old University of Florida graduate said he hoped the victory was a portent for the future.

"I think my game is in better shape than it ever has been," Koch said.

He had gone into the round with a four-stroke lead over Fiori after finishing under-par 65 Saturday in a round marked by his fall on the 185-yard fourth hole.

The final round was Sunday when heavy, drizzling rain muddied the greens and the fairways. But Monday dawned sunny, warm and windy, leading to a course in surprisingly good condition.

Koch had the tournament just about won after the nine as he posted a 35 and expanded his lead to five shots. Then he led his own with another 35 in. His pursuers never got more than four strokes on the nine and five on the 10th.

Jack Nicklaus, a winner of this event, finished with a 71 for a 72-hole 280, nine shots back. Bean, who won his second last year, shot a closing 282.

Lee Trevino, playing the change instead of spending time in the broadcast booth, loaned to a 78 to finish at par 294.

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