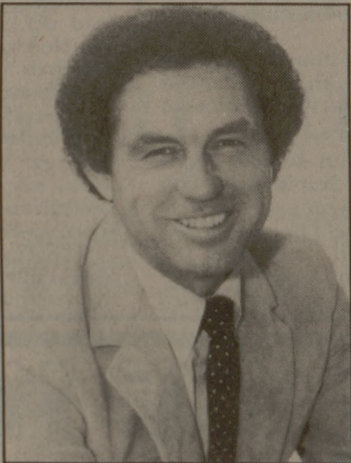


# The Battalion Sports

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## Showdown at Barnhill

### Houston, Arkansas battle tonight for share of SWC championship



Eddie Sutton's team hasn't lost to Cougars in Barnhill

go to wipe out the last of a 10-point Houston lead and give the Hogs a 67-66 triumph.

"It's just a hard place to play in," Houston coach Guy Lewis said. "But that's pretty evident since they haven't lost many games in there. Coach Sutton has some great fans up there that respect and support him and his program."

But at least one of Sutton's and Lewis' Southwest Conference competitors thinks this is the year for Houston to escape Fayetteville with a victory.

"I think Houston is strong enough to overcome all of that this time," Texas Tech coach Gerald Myers said. "I just think they are so much better physically than they have been before. I'm going to enjoy watching it."

The key, as usual, appears to be Houston's ability to handle the pressure defense and the noise that goes along with it.

"Arkansas scores off its defense," Myers said. "And if those Houston guards feel the pressure and short out, then it might be all over right there."

"But if they can get the ball downcourt, they are going to be in good shape. The other way Arkansas scores is with Darrell Walker and Joe Kleine getting in close to the basket. And I don't think they can score enough points inside against Houston."

"I look at Akeem Olajuwon (Houston's 7-foot center) as one of the top three or four guys in the history of college basketball as far as blocking shots."

"I would rate him right along with Bill Russell and Wilt Chamberlain as far as blocking shots."

and if the Cougars win tonight they will capture their first SWC championship since joining the league for the 1975-76 campaign.

Arkansas, meanwhile, has lost only once this season — that being a 15-point embarrassment that was Sutton's worst setback as the Razorbacks' coach.

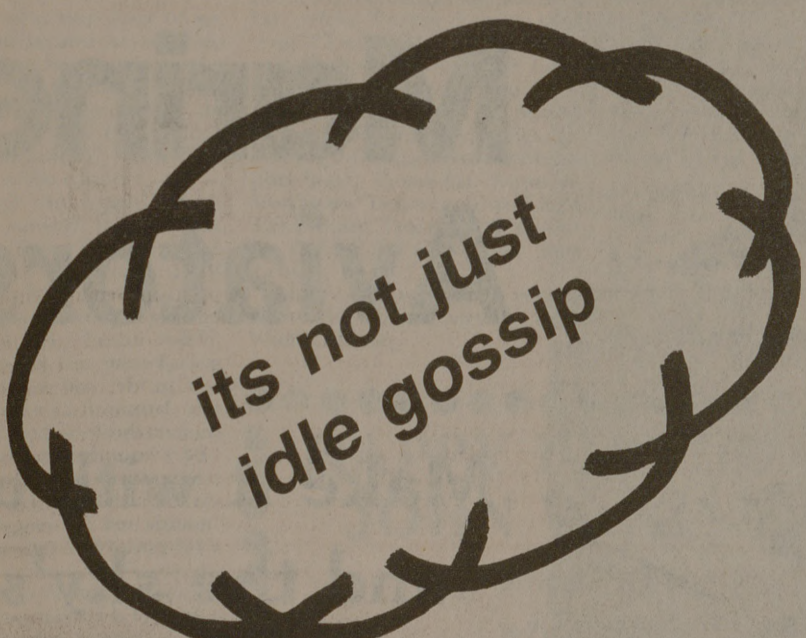
But the overriding statistic involving this game is the number of wins Houston has had in Arkansas — zero.

Houston's first trip to Barnhill came in 1976 and the Cougars suffered the worst loss in the history of their basketball program, 92-47. Since then the Cougars have lost by 11, 19, 20, 3, 15 and 1 in Fayetteville.

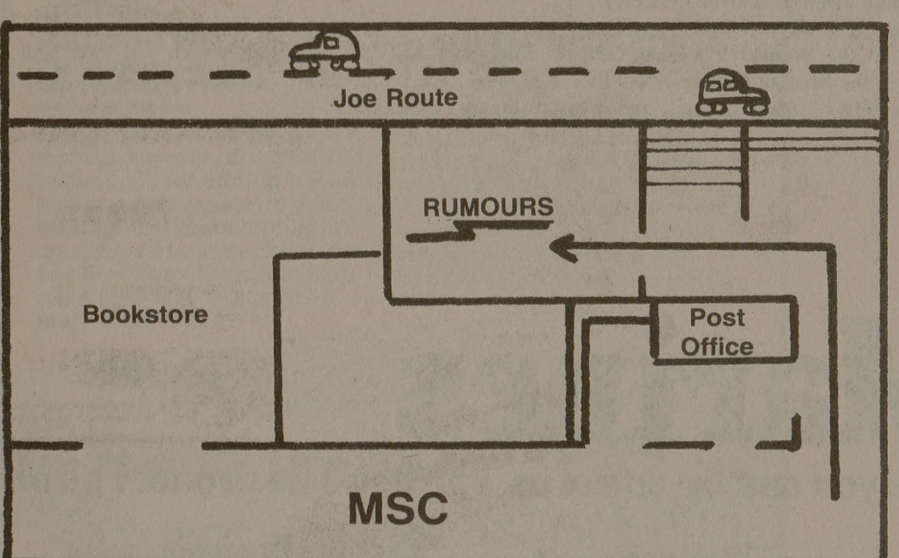
Last year, Arkansas center Scott Hastings hit an 18-foot jump shot with five seconds to



The play of Arkansas' Alvin Robertson, left, and Houston's Akeem Olajuwon, inset, will be major factors when the two teams meet tonight.



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