

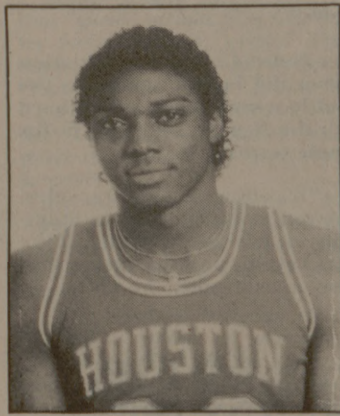
Texas A&M

The Battalion Sports

March 4, 1983/Page 7

Coogs race past Hogs to clinch SWC crown

United Press International
FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. — There were only a few Arkansas faithful left in Barnhill Arena Thursday night, 15 minutes after their Razorbacks had been whipped at home for the first time in more than two years.



Soph Benny Anders came off bench to lead Coogs

Losing was bad enough, but suddenly right in front of them Larry Micheaux — Houston's 6-9 senior forward — had the affront to start cutting down the nets. That's something that just isn't done in Fayetteville. "Stop him," members of the crowd yelled to a policeman who was standing nearby. "Don't let him do that. He can't do that."

But the nets came down at Barnhill and the Houston Cougars — already the No. 1 team in the country — moved up another notch in the world of basketball respectability. "Houston deserves to cut four nets down," said Arkansas coach Eddie Sutton. "If we ever win a championship at Houston, I'd hope they would let us do the same."

In a high-pressure duel between the two highest ranked teams in the history of the Southwest Conference, the Houston Cougars downed the No. 4 Arkansas Razorbacks, 74-66, surviving foul problems and two enemy rallies in the second half.

The win clinched the league championship for Houston, its first since joining the SWC eight years ago, raised the Cougars winning streak to 19 games and boosted their overall record to 24-2.

It was the first time Houston had ever won in Fayetteville.

Arkansas, meanwhile, had a 28-game home winning streak snapped and lost on

vault the Cougars back in front by eight.

Then, with 5:47 to go, outside shooter John Snively connected to bring the Razorbacks to within one at 57-56.

With enough noise reverberating in the arena to cause pain, Young coolly dribbled to the baseline, lofted a 13-footer and scored for Houston. Olajuwon then slammed home two dunk shots and Drexler hit a bucket to increase the lead to nine points and deal the final blow to the Hogs.

"Our fans were super," said Sutton. "If we had played as well as our fans performed, we would have won. But you aren't going to win many championship games shooting 43 percent (to 57 percent for Houston).

Young scored 14 for Houston, Olajuwon 15 and Drexler 13 while Arkansas' Darrell Walker, playing his final game at home, managed 18 and kept the Razorbacks in the game in the first half.

"I don't know about our national ranking," said Houston coach Guy Lewis. "But I do know we're No. 1 in the Southwest Conference now. I'm appreciate about being voted No. 1 in the nation, but we won't know who's No. 1 until April 4 (at the NCAA championship game).

"Winning here tonight won the Southwest Conference championship for us and that's a big thrill. Arkansas has a fine basketball team. I hope we meet in Albuquerque in April."

But the two teams figure to meet well before then.

If Houston and Arkansas win their semifinals games in the SWC tournament, they will tangle again in Dallas on March 12.

Aggies, Tech to square off

Tech's Bubba Jennings a Raider to look up to

by Frank L. Christlieb
Battalion Staff

During his high school career, people made a habit of looking up to Bubba Jennings.

No, people didn't look up at Jennings, who at 5-feet-10-inches seems a bit of a midget on a basketball court. Instead, opponent of his team at Clovis (N.M.) High School overlooked small size and slight build to look up to Jennings.

And now, basketball players at Texas Tech University look up to Bubba Jennings, who in three years at the school has established himself as the team leader. After playing a full freshman season and being red-shirted last year because of a broken foot sustained in the third game, Jennings has become Coach Gerald Myers' on-court commanding officer.

"My role is more of a leadership role, because I'm one of the older players on the team," Jennings said in a long-distance interview Thursday. "I try to get us into our offense and to get things set up. I try to show the players what to do in different situations. I guess the team looks up to me and (junior forward) David Reynolds because we've been here the longest and we're used to Coach Myers' system."

During his senior year at Clovis High, Jennings averaged 33.8 points a game, hit 61 percent from the field and 87 percent from the free throw line. The Clovis Wildcats had a 77-9 record and won the state championship once with Jennings, who was named to the Basketball Weekly all-America squad as a senior.

At Texas Tech, the success ratio hasn't been quite the same. The Red Raiders have a 27-32 record with Jennings. But coaches around the conference say the sophomore may be one

of the better all-around point guards in the league.

With a 10-18 overall record and only Saturday's home date with Texas A&M remaining, the Red Raiders will complete their first losing season since 1968-69. Since the arrival of Gerald Myers as the new coach in 1970, the team has won 217 games and lost 133.

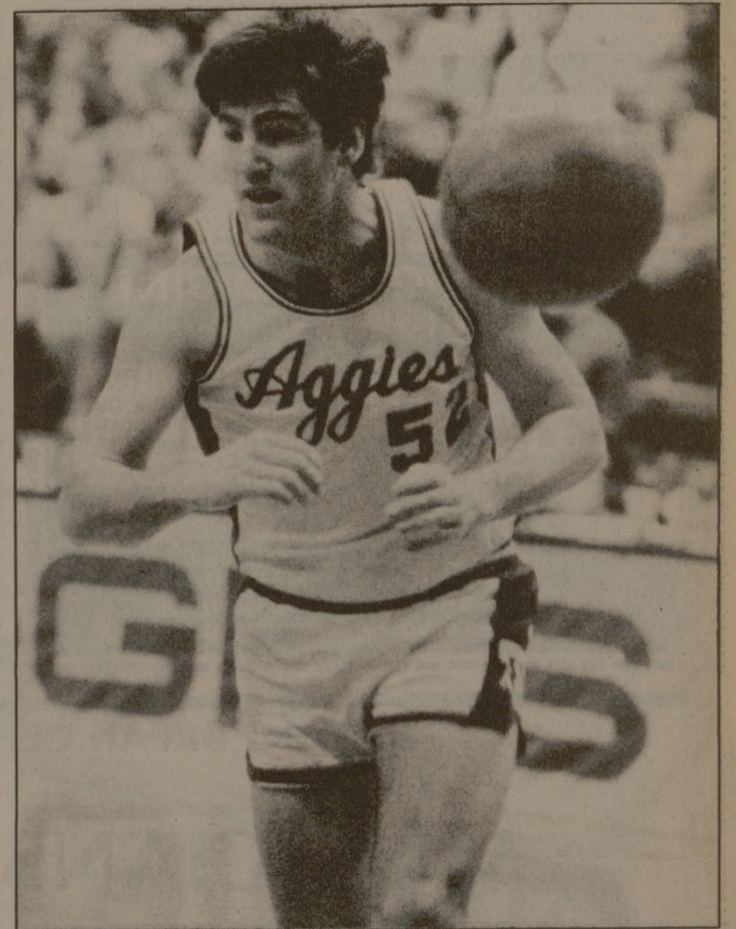
The Red Raiders have survived player dismissals, injuries and a dwindled roster that includes just eight players to enter Saturday's 12:10 p.m. game in Lubbock Municipal Coliseum with a not-so-embarrassing 7-8 Southwest Conference record. Jennings, the team's leading scorer at 14.9 points a game, says it's been an up-and-down season for him and his teammates.

"When we started the season, we thought we'd have a pretty good team and that we'd win quite a few games," he said. "But then we started losing some games, we had the player dismissals, some people got injured and then we continued to lose. People were getting down on us and it didn't look like things were going to get better."

"But we came around and started playing better during the conference season. Everyone began to pull together and realize their roles on the team, so we started winning some games."

A few days before the start of the league race in January, Myers sent starters Joe Washington, Charles Johnson and Dwight Phillips to the showers, kicking them off the team for disciplinary reasons that involved after-hours visitation by some female students.

Even with those three players, Texas Tech had a horrible 2-10 record in pre-conference games. The Red Raiders lost their first two conference games to SMU and TCU, but since that



staff photo by David Fisher

Roger Bock, shown here against Texas, and the Aggies will face Bubba Jennings and the Texas Tech Red Raiders Saturday at 12:10. The Aggies can clinch third place in the SWC with a win.

time, they've gone 6-6 in the conference.

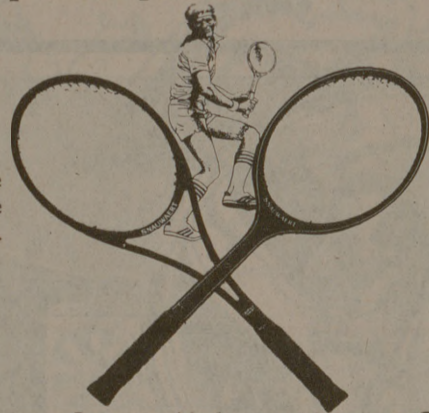
A surprising statistic reveals that Texas Tech had a 2-10 record with Johnson, Washington and Phillips and so far, the Raiders have an 8-8 without those three players. Granted, the Red Raiders lost to teams like North Carolina, Alabama, Pepperdine and Arizona State (twice) during pre-conference games, but they've had to play opponents just as tough in the SWC.

The Aggies, in third place in the SWC, have a 16-13 overall record and a 9-6 league record. TCU, which lost to SMU Wednesday night, has completed its season at 9-7.

For the Aggies to finish the season with sole possession of third place and a bye to the SWC tournament quarterfinals in Dallas, they must defeat Texas Tech. If the Aggies lose and SMU, 8-7 in the SWC, defeats just as tough in the SWC. See JENNINGS page 10

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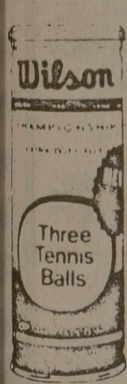
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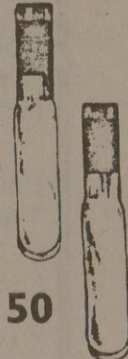
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