

sports

Oklahoma's Newell says he won't go to NTSU

United Press International
NORMAN, Okla. — University of Oklahoma acting head basketball coach Mike Newell said Tuesday he was not interested in applying for the vacant head

coaching position at North Texas State University.

Newell, 31, said he had been contacted by NTSU officials who expressed an interest in meeting with him concerning

the position.

In a statement released Tuesday, he made it clear he had no intention of leaving Oklahoma at this time.

"I have strong ties and loyal-

ties to the university and to coach (Billy) Tubbs and his program," Newell said.

"Our team accomplished a great deal this season, making it

to the NCAA Tournament, tying the school record with 24. We are forward to even bigger things next season."

Cougars' foul shooting an obstacle in tourney

United Press International
HOUSTON — If their 23-game winning streak reaches 27, the No. 1 Houston Cougars would probably be the worst free-throw shooting team ever to win the NCAA Tournament.

Records are not available for distant NCAA champions, but evidence abounds regarding the current Cougars' inability to make half their free throws in post-season play.

Houston, 28-2, plays No. 17 Memphis State, 23-7, Friday in the NCAA Tournament, and Cougars coach Guy Lewis is doubling practice time to improve his team's shooting from the free-throw line.

"We're just going over the basics. We need to keep improving every week and free throws would be a good place to start this week. If we can improve our free-throw shooting 20 percent, think what that will mean on the way to the Final Four," he said.

The Cougars hit 47 percent from the free-throw line in three games of the NCAA and Southwest Conference tournaments.

Around Houston's "Phi Sla-

ma Jama" fraternity house, slam dunks are much preferred to free throws. To members, muscle means more than shooting touch, and that has Lewis concerned.

"I would foul us too," Cougar guard Reid Gettys said on Monday. "If I was an opposing coach, I would particularly try to foul Akeem and Larry."

Seven-foot center Akeem Olajuwon of Lagos, Nigeria, known as "Akeem the Dream" to outsiders but "Jellybean" to teammates, beat Texas Christian in a key SWC regular season game with a "brick" of a free throw. It banked in high off the glass.

Larry Micheaux, 6-9, the other starting Houston center, hits only 54 percent from the line, and things seem to be getting worse for him.

In a 60-50 win over Maryland in the NCAA second round Saturday, the Cougars missed 15 of 29. In the SWC Tournament final against TCU, they missed 14 of 22.

Lewis said he is trying to help but he isn't changing much in

anyone's style because there's too great a chance at this point of adding to the problem.

The Memphis State-Houston winner plays either Iowa or Villanova Sunday in the Midwest Regional final.

With Houston ahead in a game, Lewis tries to have his best free-throw shooters in the game — starting forwards Clyde Drexler (75 percent for the season) and Michael Young (65), and reserve guard Gettys (73).

But he has to have one of his starting centers, either Olajuwon (60 percent) or Micheaux (54) in the game, and they draw a crowd of hackers when Houston is trying to protect a lead and when one of those two gets the ball.

Gettys, who made a name for himself by hitting 10 straight free throws in the final minutes of a Midwest Regional win over Boston College last year, warns opponents not to be hasty in mapping out late-game strategy.

"If they bring somebody in to foul us, he'd better be a good player. If he's not, Drexler or Akeem is going to be scoring over him," Gettys said.

TCU to face tough test against Huskers in NIT

United Press International
LINCOLN, Neb. — The tall Texans hope to notch a third road win on the trail to the National Invitation Tournament finals — but the Texas Christian squad will have to reckon with Stan Cloudy and a deafening Nebraska home crowd.

"TCU really has its act together at the end of the year," Nebraska Coach Moe Iba said Tuesday. "They're a tough team for us to go against because of their size."

The winner advances to the final four at New York's Madison Square Garden. Iona's Associate Coach Ken Williamson said he expected that team to be Nebraska, now 21-9.

"They'll get there with another home game," he said. "This crowd here is unbelievable."

Playing before a sellout crowd of 14,712 Monday night, junior forward Cloudy scored 24 points to lead Nebraska past Iona 85-73 in a second-round game. Thursday's TCU game sold out Tuesday in just over six hours.

TCU, 23-10, will be playing its third straight NIT game on the

road. The Horned Frogs beat 1981 NIT champion Tulsa 64-62 at Tulsa and defeated Arizona State 78-76 at Tempe, Ariz.

The Horned Frogs start an all-senior front line of 6-10 Brian Christensen at center and 6-9 Doug Arnold and 6-8 Nick Cucinella at forwards.

Darrell Browder, a 6-1 guard, leads TCU's offense. The senior from Fort Worth, Texas, is the school's all-time top scorer with 1,861 points.

Nebraska's front line includes 6-11 freshman Dave Hoppen at center and 6-4 Cloudy and 6-6 senior Claude Renfro at forwards.

TCU Coach Jim Killingworth is familiar with Nebraska's disciplined style of basket-

ball. He coached at Big Eight Conference rival Oklahoma State for two years before moving to TCU in 1979.

Two weekends ago, TCU upset Arkansas 61-59 in overtime in the semifinals of the Southwest Conference Tournament in Dallas. The Horned Frogs followed that with a 62-59 loss to top-ranked Houston in the tourney's championship.

TCU has qualified for five NCAA tournaments, but this is the school's first appearance in the NIT.

Nebraska, which never has qualified for the NCAA, is making its fourth appearance in the NIT. This is the first time the team has advanced as far as the third round.



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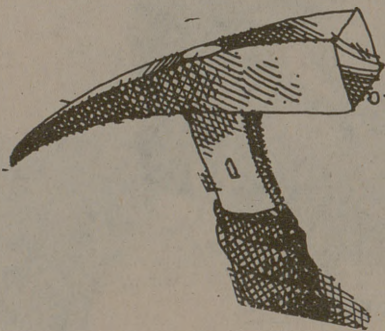
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