

TANK McNAMARA

by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds



Coogs headed to Final Four

Akeem leads UH past 'Cats

United Press International
KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Akeem Olajuwon and Larry Micheaux have put together the ideal scouting film for Louisville — and it might rival "Frankenstein" as a horror flick for Coach Denny Crum and his No. 2-rated Cardinals.

The two giants in the middle of the Houston lineup each played the best game of his career Sunday in a 89-71 victory over Villanova that delivered the nation's No. 1-rated team its second consecutive trip to the NCAA Final Four and a semifinal date with Louisville.

The 7-foot sophomore Olajuwon collected 20 points, 13 rebounds, 8 blocked shots, 2 steals and an assist and 6-9 senior Micheaux added a career-high 30 points, 12 rebounds, 4 blocked shots, 2 assists and a steal to give the Cougars their 25th consecutive win and their second straight NCAA Midwest Regional title.

Olajuwon was named the most outstanding player in the regional and was joined on the

all-tourney team by teammates Micheaux and Michael Young. Olajuwon also had 21 points, 6 rebounds and 5 blocks in Friday night's victory over Memphis State.

"Akeem had perhaps his best game of the year," said Houston Coach Guy Lewis of his center's play Sunday. "Not necessarily from a scoring standpoint but an all-around game. He was intimidating inside and great on both ends of the floor. He sure made a difference in the way I felt on the bench. I'm glad to have this big rascal."

Olajuwon was 10-of-11 from the field with five dunks as Houston's celebrated Phi Slama Jama fraternity held another rush party. The Cougars had 10 dunks in the game, including two by Clyde Drexler and one each by other starters Young, Micheaux and Alvin Franklin. Villanova coach Rollie Massimino expressed some displeasure with his Houston scouting report.

"Obviously they must be better than we thought if they beat us by the score that they did," Massimino said. "That's (Houston) an extremely talented team. They run very well and with the big guy in the middle (Akeem Olajuwon), they can be a tremendous team."

Olajuwon asserted himself during a 4½-minute stretch midway through the first half, collecting six points, three rebounds, two dunks and a steal to trigger a 10-0 run that lifted the Cougars from a three-point deficit into the lead for good at 18-11.

Guards Dwayne McClain and Stewart Granger combined for nine points to pull Villanova back within 22-20 with 5:25 left in the half. But Micheaux and Young used power moves around the Villanova basket to score six points apiece and the Big East Wildcats could manage only one more field goal over the duration of the half to fall behind 37-27.

Villanova went to a full-court press to start the second half and

the Cougars shredded it. It took just five minutes for Houston to double its lead against the press, outscoring the Wildcats 16-6, with Olajuwon and Drexler benefiting most from a series of 2-on-1 and 3-on-1 breaks with six points apiece.

Villanova was able to break out on top early, but then the Cougars began to heat up with a 10-0 run that featured six points by Olajuwon. After that Villanova couldn't catch freewheeling Houston.

"At the present time the team is somewhat disappointed," Massimino said. "But we are disappointed to the point where we are embarrassed. We played hard and never stopped trying to get back into the game."

The game marked an end to an era at Villanova. Third-year All-America center John Pinone, point guard Stewart Granger and forward Mike Malquin are among five graduating seniors who have taken the team to four straight NCAA tournament appearances.



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Poly-Pomona stops softball squad twice in tournament

by Frank L. Christlieb

Battalion Staff
The Texas Aggie softball team lost twice to Cal Poly-Pomona in Sunday's final round of the 16-team double-elimination Pony Invitational tournament, held in Fullerton, Calif., Friday through Sunday.

After winning its first four games of the tourney Friday and Saturday, No. 4-ranked Texas A&M lost 3-2 and 3-0 in the finals to fall to 14-6 on the season.

In Sunday's first game with third-ranked Poly-Pomona, the Aggies' Josie Carter hit a home run on the first pitch of the game to give Texas A&M an early 1-0 lead. In the fourth inning, Aggie second baseman Patti Holthaus walked, was singled to second by Mary Schwind and went to third on a passed ball. Catcher Gay McNutt hit a sacrifice fly to give Texas A&M its final run of the game.

In the sixth inning, Poly-Pomona third baseman Sue

Brazney doubled and went to third on a fielder's choice. Kobie Murray walked and stole second, and moments later, shortstop Kay Nutter singled to score both runs. When the ball was thrown from the Aggie outfield to Schwind at first base in a futile attempt to get Nutter, Schwind hesitated for a few seconds. By the time she threw to McNutt, Murray had crossed the plate to tie the score at 2-2.

After the game went into extra innings, Poly-Pomona scored the winning run in the 10th when center fielder Lisa Donigan doubled, was sacrificed to third and came home on a sacrifice fly by Murray. Texas A&M, which has had trouble hitting and scoring runs this spring, finished the game with five hits.

In Sunday's second game, Poly-Pomona scored all of its runs in the first inning, as the Aggies committed three errors. All three runs, which scored with the benefit of Poly-Pomona's only two hits of the

game, were unearned. Texas A&M had one hit in its seven-inning game.

In tournament action preceding Sunday's finals, the Aggies defeated Utah 2-0 on Friday morning as Stoll had seen strikeouts. Shan McDonald at Stoll then threw a complete shutout that afternoon, as Texas A&M stopping Arizona 0 in 12 innings.

McDonald, who aggravated a shoulder injury the previous weekend in a game against Cal State Fullerton, had not pitched during the week until Friday's game with Arizona. Her condition hasn't improved much, so looks as if Stoll may have to be most of the Aggies' pitching load.

The Aggies defeated Poly-Pomona on Saturday morning, winning 1-0 on only two hits. Stoll won again, giving up one hit and recording four strikeouts.

In the afternoon, Texas A&M won 2-0 over No. 2-ranked Cal State Fullerton, which had defeated the Aggies twice the previous weekend. Stoll, who has a 10-4 record, had six strikeouts and gave up three hits.

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