

UT's Carey, UH's Lewis named athletes of week

United Press International
DALLAS — Texas swimmer Rick Carey and Houston jumper-hurdler Carol Lewis were selected the Southwest Conference male and female athletes of the week Monday by a vote of the nine SWC schools.

Carey, a sophomore from Mt. Kisco, New York, set American and U.S. Open records in the 100- and 200-yard backstroke at last weekend's NCAA Swim-

ming and Diving Championships at Indianapolis, Ind. Entering the meet owning the American record in the 200 back, Carey shaved fourteen-hundredths of a second off that previous best and captured the U.S. Open record as well with a 1:45.21 in that event. In the 100 backstroke on Friday, the Longhorn sophomore regained the American record with a 48.25, five hundredths of a second bet-

ter than Stanford's Dave Bottom's mark set in the preliminaries earlier that same day.

Carey also came in fourth in the 200 butterfly and totaled 43 points to help Texas to a third-place finish.

Lewis, a sophomore for Houston, won the high jump, long jump and the 100 meter hurdles at UH's triangular meet with Arizona State and Oklahoma Saturday.

SWC's dominance still overlooked by writers

Listen carefully. When the wind is blowing just right and you really listen carefully, you can hear the ever-so-slight sounds of Eastern sports writers doing what they've had to do a lot of lately — "munch, munch, munch."

The sound you're hearing is the hoarde of so-called "experts" doing their best Pac-Man imitation while eating their words. It's a sound similar to the sound a goat makes when he eats trash. And in a sense, that's exactly what the Eastern writers are doing.

By now everyone knows that the Houston basketball team has proven that the Southwest Conference is more than just an "also-ran" in basketball. The Cougs have romped all over the NCAA tournament field the same way they romped all over the teams in the SWC.

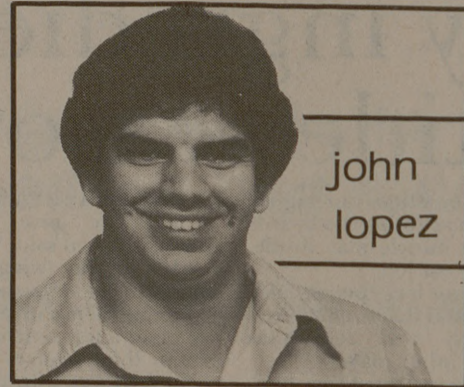
Take that, Al McGuire. The big brothers of Phi Slama Jama are only two victories away from a national title and are without a doubt the most talented team in the country. But Houston's successes on the hardwood are only added luxuries to the athletically superior Southwest Conference.

Every year, preseason national polls pick Eastern teams to win the national title in all the major sports. And every year SWC teams wind up at or near the top at the end of the season.

The 1982-83 season has been no exception.

Almost every preseason poll said the Pitt Panthers would be national football champs while SMU and Arkansas would slug their way through the "weak" South- west Conference and fold in bowl play.

Wrong Dan Marino breath.



John Lopez

SMU had the best record in Division I football, including a Cotton Bowl win over, ironically, Pittsburgh. But the Mustangs found themselves No. 2 at the end of the season behind Penn State.

If you're wondering how that happened, take a quick look at any U.S. map and try to find what coast Pennsylvania is on.

And to prove that SMU wasn't the only strong conference team, Texas and Arkansas also fought their way into the Top 20.

Baseball is another sport that proves the SWC's athletic supremacy.

Texas was rightfully chosen as the No. 1 team in the country in all the preseason polls and all signs are that the Horns will get another bid to Omaha, Neb., and the College World Series. But the Longhorns probably will play their toughest games during conference play.

The Houston Cougars may be the biggest hurdle Texas will have to jump on its

way to the SWC title, but no less than three other teams — Arkansas, Texas A&M and Rice — have proved that they won't roll over in front of the Horn either.

There's no doubt other conference field strong teams in all sports, but no single conference has the parity, strength and versatility of the Southwest Conference.


And that goes for women's sports as well as men's.

In volleyball, Texas A&M and Texas gave the "superior" west coast team a tough fight while fighting their way to the NCAA post-season tournament. And at the NCAA swimming championships, SMU finished second overall, Texas wound up in third and three other SWC teams placed individual swimmers on the all-America team.

In tennis and golf, the SWC is fast becoming a powerhouse from top to bottom, with four tennis teams in the Top 10 and three golf teams fighting their way to the national championship.

In the past, when most people thought of the Southwest Conference, their thoughts centered around football, but more and more people are recognizing that the SWC is strong in all sports. Perhaps the conference still lacks respect when it comes to sports writers, but in June those writers might be singing a different song.

SMU already finished second in the country in football, Houston should finish first in basketball and Texas or Houston should finish first at the College World Series — not bad for a band of laid-back country folks from the South.



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Fans love Wolfpack success

United Press International
RALEIGH, N.C. — North Carolina State will make its third appearance in the NCAA basketball finals Saturday and excitement at the university campus and among fans around the state has reached an unprecedented fever pitch.

The Wolfpack finished third in 1950 and won the title in 1974, but a university spokesman said Monday that the mood

on campus this year exceeds that of even the national championship.

"In 1974 it was more of an expected thing," said Jim Pomeranz, the Wolfpack's director of publications and sports editor of the student newspaper in 1974. "The atmosphere is electric. It's been a continuous party since the ACC tournament."

The games seem to have been purposefully designed to generate excitement. North Carolina State has come from behind in all but one of its past seven games, and two of the victories were in overtime.

Squad members attended their first classes since early March, when the Wolfpack began the streak of victories that match it against Georgia in the championship semifinals in Albuquerque, N.M. Coach Jim Valvano concentrated on paperwork and assistant coach Tom Abatemarco prepared his recruiting schedule.

But Wolfpack fans weren't about to take a break from the delirium that has swept the land-grant college since North Carolina State won the Atlantic Coast Conference tournament.

The student body held a pep rally Monday afternoon, while

at the Wolfpack Club — North Carolina State's booster group — five telephones were constantly with calls from people asking about charter flights to New Mexico.

Pomeranz said he believes excitement is greater this year because "A lot of people are saying 'Aren't you going to board with your partying?' It's something that doesn't happen every year for us."

Pomeranz noted the team of David Thompson, Burleson, Tim Stoddard, Monte Towhe had lost just one game in two years.

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Lewis says press not likely to be problem

United Press International
The power of the press? Guy Lewis just smiles at the thought.

"We haven't been bothered by the press all year," the Houston coach says.

No, Lewis isn't referring to the media. He means a fullcourt press, something No. 2 Louisville is expected to throw at the top-ranked Cougars when the two teams meet in an NCAA tournament semifinal game Saturday in Albuquerque, N.M.

"You press us and we'll get it down the court and stuff it on you," Lewis said. "I told the guys if they pressed us, we were going to take it to the basket."

Houston, 30-2, showed in last Sunday's regional final what Lewis means. Villanova came out with a press to start the second half and Houston built up an insurmountable lead.

One big problem for Louisville, 32-3, will be to forget about last Saturday's highly emotional 80-68 overtime victory over Kentucky in the first meeting between the schools in 24 years. Cardinal coach Denny Crum pointed out that his team will have almost a week to calm down and prepare for the Cougars.

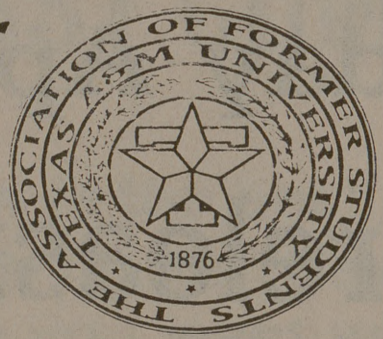
"The pressure's on Houston," he said. "They were No. 1-ranked and they're supposed to

win. When you're ready and you've got the game you play well.

"It's going to come down to who plays best. We're going there to play our game. If it's good enough we'll get it, but that's nothing to be afraid of. We just need to do what we do in our game."

Houston, although appearing in the Final Four for the second year in a row, has one senior in the starting lineup, 6-foot-9-inch Larry Micheal. The big man for the Cougars is 7-foot Akeem Abdul Olajuwon.

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