

Cougars ready to settle score against hard-pressing Cardinals

United Press International
HOUSTON — It is Houston Cougar Alvin Franklin's opinion

that the NCAA Tournament championship comes Saturday afternoon — not Monday night, as scheduled.

The No. 1 Cougars play No. 2 Louisville Saturday in Albuquerque. "This game is gonna tell who wins it all," Franklin said on Monday. "It's between us and Louisville."

Franklin, a freshman, said he did not discount the chances of the other two semifinalists, Georgia and North Carolina State, but those teams were not ranked in the Top 10 and the Cougars did not have a score to

settle with them. Cougar players have said they were looking forward to re-matches with Virginia or Syracuse, the two teams that beat them this year.

"Since they're gone, we're the only top teams left. We've got to keep it going," said Franklin.

Meanwhile, Cougars' leading scorer Michael Young and backup center Bryan Williams missed their second days of practice Tuesday with sore hands.

Both say they will be able to play Saturday. Young bruised the back of his left shooting hand in UH's de-

feat of Villanova Sunday, and on Monday he could not make a fist for the pain. He received whirl-pool treatment Tuesday, and after practice he shot and dribbled for an hour.

Statistics on matchups of Nos. 1 and 2 teams in the Final Four Tournament give neither the Cougars nor Cardinals an edge. The top two teams have met eight times, and No. 1 has won four times, No. 2 four, Houston Sports Information Director Jay Goldberg said.

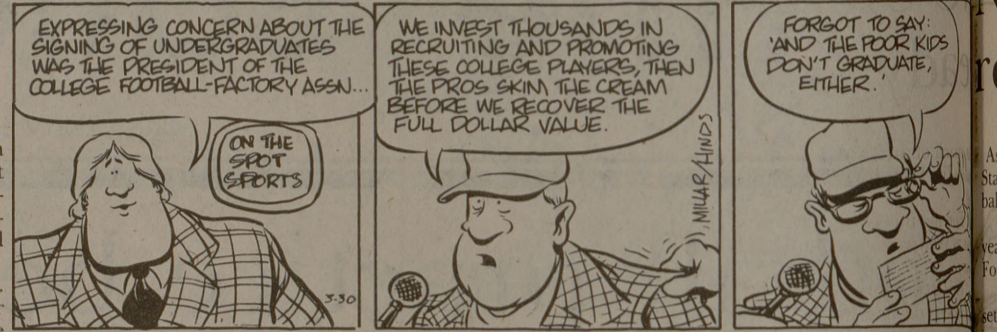
Houston has not played Louisville since 1974. In their three meetings, the Cardinals won twice — including a rare Hofheinz Pavilion win in a visitor's role.

The Cougars play their home games in Hofheinz and only nine non-SWC teams have won there over the years. Louisville beat Houston 91-87 there in 1974.

Franklin, the youngest Cougar starter, is expected to receive a stern test from the full-court-pressing Cardinals Saturday afternoon in Albuquerque, N.M.

TANK McNAMARA

by Jeff Millar & Bill H.



Softball team pounds UTA twice, 1-0, 7-0

John P. Lopez
Battalion Staff

Behind the strong arm of pitcher Lori Stoll and clutch hitting by Josie Carter, the Texas A&M softball team swept a double-header from the University of Texas-Arlington Tuesday 1-0 and 7-0.

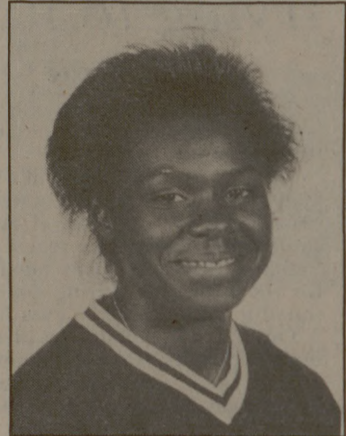
Stoll helped her record to 12-4 on the year by giving up five hits and striking out 22 Maverick batters in the two games.

In the first game, the Aggie Ladies scored their only run in the third inning when Iva Jackson and Carter hit back-to-back singles to bring in Cindy Cooper who walked.

In the nightcap, again it was Stoll leading Texas A&M on defense, but on the offensive end Carter was helped by the born-again bats of her teammates.

After a lead-off strikeout, Rose Ruffino got on after a shortstop error and moved to second when Cindy Cooper hit a dribbler to the pitcher, who also committed an error.

With two on and one out, Maverick pitcher Tracy Haynie



Josie Carter's clutch hitting aided Aggies in UTA sweep

gave up consecutive walks to Jackson and Carter to force in Ruffino from third.

But the Aggies weren't through scoring yet. With the bases still loaded, Patti Holthaus brought in two runs with a single to right field. One more run was brought in when Debbie Rollman singled in a run after Carrie Ausgen walked to load the

bases for the third time in an inning.

Haynie managed to limit Aggie Lady rally in the third, not before Texas A&M scored four runs on two hits and UTA errors.

With her team comfortable ahead 4-0, Stoll was untouchable for the rest of the game. Mavericks couldn't muster the slightest semblance of an

against the overpowering Stoll. And on offense, Texas gained confidence, scoring more runs in the fourth than one in the fifth for the margin.

After the double-header sweep, Texas A&M's record moved to 16-6 on the year and into the Aggie Invitational which starts Friday.

This weekend's tournament will be an important one for Aggie Ladies as some of the teams in the country will participate in the tourney at the Park in Bryan. Some of the teams entered in the 12-team tourney are two-time national champion Utah State, Iowa State and New Mexico

Twelfth Man

(continued from page 11)

during the spring," Sherrill said. "Next week they'll go into the kickoff coverage and tackling drills. They'll go through spring practice just like everyone else ... but they're not going to get into a lot of things."

Sherrill made a point of assuring "non-believers" that the kickoff team won't turn into a disaster.

"There's no question about that," he said. "It will be successful."

Although it might seem that there would be some animosity among his players as a result of the Twelfth Man idea, Sherrill said he hasn't had to talk to his team about the situation.

"Don't have to," Sherrill said. "If these players go through and become a part of the team, they deserve a spot just like everyone else. But they'll have to earn a spot. They know that and they'll have that to work for."

One of the players already has made an impact on the team. Tom Bumgardner, a non-reg, senior mechanical engineering major from Crosby, has been moved into a third team corner back slot behind Greg Williams and Billy Brown. And Sherrill has said that if one of the Twelfth Man hopefuls performs well enough to earn a spot elsewhere on the team that position is his.

Beal said he expects other Twelfth Man players to perform well during the workouts.

"I think some other guys will step up and fight for positions, too," Beal said. "Some of them are small, but by watching their faces when they work, I'd be afraid if some of them hit me."

Among the 40 players are 15 defensive backs, 17 linebackers, four defensive ends and four wide receivers.

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