

Metcalf

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Monday's game. "I thought (Clyde) Drexler's fourth foul (a charging call in the first half) was a bad call."

"What I found hard to believe is that all three officials were from the ACC. It just shouldn't have happened, because it's got to be tremendous pressure on them to officiate in that situation."

Metcalf, who said he considers this year's UH squad one of the best in college history, said the outcome surprised him.

"I was surprised, but anything can happen in a one-game series like that," he said. "I thought Houston would win—they were seven-point favorites. But there's so much emotion going on out there that anything can happen. What it really came down to was Houston missing those 1-and-1 shots."

Although he was surprised that the Cougars lost, Metcalf said he wasn't shocked that only two points separated the teams late in the final buzzer.

"Anyone you get that far," he said, "you know (North Carolina State) has a great ballclub. Those championship games have a way of being close, or at least most of them do. When UCLA was so strong, they blew everyone out, but that doesn't happen any more."

As for Charles' easy winning dunk, Metcalf said Olajuwon might have thought the clock had run out and didn't react when Whittenburg's jumper fell through the hoop.

"It was just one of those mistakes that younger players sometimes make," Metcalf said. "He was the talk of the town and he was just great all the way through (the tournament)."

The Cougars, who for the second year in a row made the Final Four, helped the SWC's basketball image immensely with their performance, Metcalf said.

"They represented the league in fine fashion," he said. "They're a great team and Guy Lewis is a gentleman."

Metcalf said he thinks one or two of the Cougars may attempt

to jump into professional basketball, but he's not sure what exactly will happen.

"I feel Keem could go hard-ship now, but I don't know," he said. "This will be the last year that the big-money (contracts) will be available since they've put a cap on the NBA team salaries (for the 1984-85 season). You've got to think that Houston would have to lose some players."

In averting a strike recently, NBA officials and players agreed upon a basic team salary "cap" of \$3.6 million for the 1984-85 season. This means that teams with 12-man rosters must pay an average of \$300,000 per player.

Metcalf said it wouldn't be unreasonable to expect at least one Cougar underclassman to try the hardship route. Of the UH starting five this season, only Micheaux is a senior.

"I wouldn't be surprised because of the new NBA ruling and because of the ability of some of those Houston players," Metcalf said. "If I had one guess, I'd say Drexler might go, but I don't know."

And with the April 13 signing date for high school recruits coming up, Metcalf said the Aggies have their sights set on rounding up some top talent.

"We need a point guard and a couple of forwards," he said. "We'd like to have a big point guard if we could, because Tyren (Naulls, the Aggies' 6-4 point guard the past two seasons) kind of spoiled us."

"We haven't had any commitments ... but we're fighting St. John's and Syracuse for one player and Nevada-Las Vegas for another player. We're hopeful that we'll sign some good players."

Metcalf said the SMU Mustangs may be a team to watch in the Southwest Conference next season, as Coach Dave Bliss has signed a 6-10, 240-pound out-of-state center. Metcalf has seen him play and says he's impressed.

"SMU may have the best talent in the league," he said. "They're returning nearly everyone except (point guard Dave) Piehler."

Two homers defeat White Sox

Rangers give Rader 5-3 triumph

United Press International ARLINGTON — Texas Ranger manager Doug Rader has broken an 0-for-6 slump in opening games.

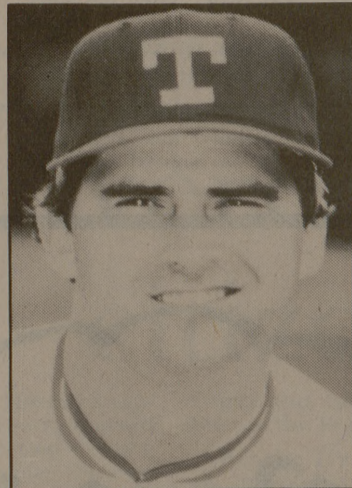
It couldn't have come at a better time.

"Well, I can die happy now," Rader said in the Ranger locker room Monday after Texas, one of baseball's worst last year, beat Chicago, one of baseball's best this year, 5-3, on opening day.

"This is the first opener I've ever won (as a manager)," said Rader, whose Hawaii AAA farm team dropped six straight openers.

The win was Rader's first as a Major League manager, but foremost on his mind was shaking the team's image as losers. With 98 losses on their record last season, Texas needed some shaking.

"It's like getting your first hit of the year," he said. "I don't care if you're a lifetime .300 hitter and have played on 15 championship teams, every year you



Larry Parrish's homer gives Texas opening-day victory

saying we can quit thinking about winning now but we can quit worrying about winning that first one."

To continue winning, Rader must rely on a pitching rotation which doesn't include veterans Charlie Hough and Danny Darwin, both out with injuries. Starting for Texas Monday was Mike Smithson, a 6-foot-8 former Tennessee basketball player who at 28 is in his rookie season.

Smithson, admittedly nervous about the opening day assignment, gave up all three White Sox runs in the first inning. After Rudy Law singled, Smithson gave walks to Tony Bernazard and Harold Baines and then hit Greg Luzinski with a pitch to score the first run.

Greg Walker hit Bernazard in on a fielder's choice and Baines scored on Carlton Fisk's single.

"My control was bad early," Smithson said. "I can't expect to give up four walks and keep our

team in the game. But luckily I found some stuff to get some strikeouts when I needed them."

Smithson pitched five more innings, allowing only two more hits, including Walker's triple in the fifth.

"I was real proud the way he got his composure and came back to pitch a steady game," Rader said of Smithson. "He'd never pitched an opener and was jittery in the beginning. It's just one of those things you have to live through."

John Butcher, working in relief during the final three innings, collected the victory when Mike Richardt homered to tie the game in the sixth and Larry Parrish homered for the game-winning RBI in the seventh.

"I don't feel we were as bad last year as the record indicates," Parrish said. "We lost some close games and hopefully this year

we'll win them."

Richardt, who hit only three home runs last season, said he prefers the No. 2 slot in the order to the eighth or ninth position he hit in last year.

"I'm going to concentrate on getting on base and let Buddy (Bell) or Hoss (Dave Hosteller) bring me around. I won't be challenging anyone for a home run title," he said.

The Rangers picked up two runs in the first on two errors by Walker. Richardt reached first on the first error and scored on Bell's double. Bell scored when Walker dropped Parrish's two-out pop-up.

Bell got another RBI in the eighth, scoring Billy Sample with his single.

SWC picks athletes of week

United Press International DALLAS — Southwest Conference schools chose two pitchers and a golfer as SWC athletes of the week.

The vote for the male athlete of the week ended in a tie between two freshmen — Arkansas pitcher Tim Dietz and Texas Christian University hurler Brian Ohnoutka. The easy winner for female athlete of the week was TCU golfer Marci Bozarth.

Bozarth finished third in the First Annual Lady Mustang Round-Up at Dallas' Lakewood Country Club. Many observers called the weather conditions on Friday's final day the worst they had ever seen with low temperatures and wind gusting up to 60 miles per hour.

Led by Bozarth's total of 236, the Frogs came from 12 shots back to win their fourth tourna-

ment of the spring, eventually beating Georgia by three shots. Bozarth is a senior.

Pitching was in the spotlight at College Station where Dietz, a redshirt freshman from Tulsa (Hale High School), threw the only SWC no-hitter ever by a Razorback. Dietz struck out

none and allowed only one walk.

In Austin, TCU was winning for the first time ever at Disch-Falk Field, with Ohnoutka throwing a four-hit shutout at Texas. The game marked the first SWC shutout of a Texas team in Austin since Southern Methodist University beat the Horns 3-0 in Austin in 1978.

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