

UH closes in on Tar Heels

TANK McNAMARA

by Jeff Millar & Bill

United Press International
NEW YORK — North Carolina, showing its Heels to top 20 rivals for the seventh straight week, drew support from 40 members of the UPI Board of Coaches Tuesday in opening a 93-point lead over Houston in this week's major college basketball ratings.

first-place votes helping the Cougars gain 535 points for the week, nudged Arkansas 64-61 Sunday, raising its regular season record to 24-3 and moving up a notch to supplant Georgetown as the No. 2 team in the nation. In winning their ninth straight game, the Cougars virtually clinched a second straight Southwest Conference title.

The Tar Heels, 24-1, making the most of its lone encounter during the week by beating Clemson, collected 628 points from the board. All-Americans Michael Jordan and Sam Perkins combined for 43 points in the 82-71 triumph over the Tigers.

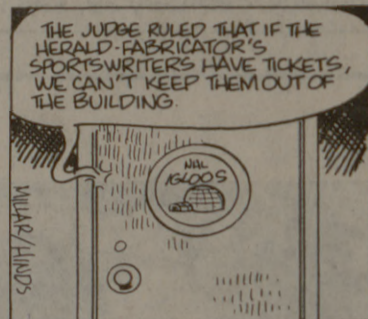
North Carolina, 12-0 in the Atlantic Coast Conference, still has Georgia Tech and Duke on its hit list before the Atlantic Coast Conference tournament opens March 9.

Georgetown, 24-3, dropped to fourth, replacing Kentucky, which moved up a rung to No. 3 after posting a 66-64 victory over Georgia last Saturday. The battle for third place was very close, with the Wildcats drawing 507 votes to 505 for the Hoyas.

DePaul retained fifth place on the strength of Sunday's 73-63 triumph over Louisville, while sixth through eighth places had new occupants. Nevada-Las Vegas, Oklahoma and Texas-El Paso each moved up one spot. UNLV got 20 points and 10 rebounds from Jeff Collins in routing Santa Barbara 97-69.

Purdue vaulted three places

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| 1. North Carolina (24-1) (40) | 628 |
| 2. Houston (24-3) (2) | 535 |
| 3. Kentucky (21-3) | 507 |
| 4. Georgetown (24-3) | 505 |
| 5. DePaul (21-2) | 487 |
| 6. Nevada-Las Vegas (25-2) | 356 |
| 7. Oklahoma (24-3) | 344 |
| 8. Texas-El Paso (24-2) | 339 |
| 9. Purdue (19-5) | 275 |
| 10. Illinois (20-4) | 231 |
| 11. Tulsa (23-2) | 217 |
| 12. Arkansas (21-5) | 183 |
| 13. Washington (20-5) | 104 |
| 14. Memphis State (20-5) | 74 |
| 15. Temple (21-3) | 31 |
| 16. Wake Forest (19-6) | 30 |
| 17. Syracuse (18-6) | 28 |
| 18. Duke (22-6) | 26 |
| 19. Maryland (18-7) | 25 |
| 20. Oregon St. (19-6) | 20 |



Fans only notice mistakes

Refs want fair shake

United Press International
KANSAS CITY, Mo. — It happens maybe 25 times during the course of a college football season that spans several thousand games — an official will make a call that determines the game's outcome.

The official is making the call as objectively as he can. It just doesn't look that way to the team that gets saddled with the loss and it certainly doesn't seem that way to that team's fans.

"When an official is noticed, it's always something bad," veteran Big Eight Conference referee Vance Carlson said.

Carlson was joined by the Southwest Conference's Buddy Coleman and Norbert Ackermann of the Southeastern Conference as part of a panel to discuss the plight of the officials in this age of instant replays.

Media representatives in attendance asked that the officials be more available after the game.

Ackermann, the chairman of the SEC Officials Association, said:

"I don't think it is going to put the officials in a better light because there's always going to be a certain faction that's not going to focus on the calls made right, but always on the calls made wrong."

"I have myself never been contacted, or heard of a supervisor being contacted, with compliments on the good call. That's not true with the coaches or the players. There's great praise in the media about their tactical decisions."

The officials said they were available, at least through conference representatives, after the game but, "When you get in the area of judge-

ment calls, that's when the door shut," said Coleman.

"In the case of the SWC, we've got officials out there trying to watch the god-damn athletes. And we have 40,000 to 60,000 people there in the stands and up what we miss."

Oklahoma State Coach Jimmy Johnson he was against the media having immediate access to the officials.

"It's a very emotional game and there are those that are made that are judgement calls." "And there's going to be a lot of differences on those calls."

"Being an emotional person, there are times that I have disagreed with officials. I was put in an uneasy situation during a ballgame, at the press conference with reporters driving me, badgering, asking me about controversial calls."

"Again being an emotional person, I want to state my opinion and lot of times I've argued against the officials. A day later, I hadn't said anything about the officials. When the game's over, the less said about officiating, the better."

The questioning of judgement calls said to be the biggest complaint of the officials, said that by making the call they had explained it — they saw the play and the call. But it was added that they would be happy to explain any rule interpretation.

"An official is a human being," Carlson said, "but if he makes a mistake, the whole world knows about it. You let one official screw one game and it will go nationwide. So it affects people's views of what officials are out there in the first place."

Coogs can clinch SWC title in Waco

United Press International

The Houston Cougars spent eight years trying to win their first Southwest Conference basketball championship, but now they seem to have the hang of it.

The Cougars are only one win away from clinching their second straight league crown and that win should come Wednesday night at home against the Baylor Bears — a team that has already lost 20 games.

A Houston win is so much of a foregone conclusion that Arkansas coach Eddie Sutton was already congratulating the Cougars and coach Guy Lewis last Saturday.

"It would take a miracle to keep Houston from winning the title," Sutton said after Houston's victory over Arkansas last Sunday. "I don't think Baylor can beat them in Houston."

A Houston win would not only bring the Cougars the

league title but would move them to within one victory of completing two consecutive perfect sweeps through the SWC.

That last step, however, would have to come in Fayetteville next Sunday afternoon where the Razorbacks will be seeking revenge for last weekend's setback.

Wednesday night's other SWC games will have Rice visiting Arkansas and SMU taking on Texas in Austin.

The Owls can expect a particularly rude reception in Fayetteville since Rice stunned Arkansas in Houston earlier this season.

SMU meanwhile, will try to advance its hopes for an NCAA tournament bid against the Longhorns. The Mustangs are in range of their largest win total ever — 26, a figure they achieved 28 years ago.

An SMU win Wednesday night combined with a Texas Tech loss to Texas A&M Thursday night in College Station would wrap up a third-place finish for the Mustangs and the first-round tournament bye that goes with it.

If the Mustangs and Red Raiders both win, however, Tech would have a chance to move into a third-place tie with SMU when those two teams meet Saturday night in Lubbock.

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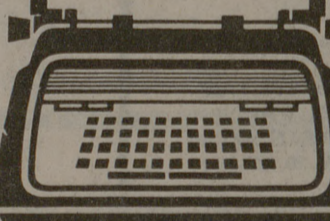
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