

Baseball

International week exhibition

Ags vs. Honduran National team
Olsen Field 2 p.m.

Missed free throws to blame, not Lewis



Donn Friedman

Sports Editor

OK, Billy Packer so the run-and-gun guys from Phi Slama Jama didn't win it all, but where were your chums from the ACC when the nets were cut down in Seattle?

The Cougars from Houston sent Wake Forest and Virginia back to their Atlantic Coast. And what about the No. 1 Tarheels? North Carolina was gone from the daily box scores early in the tourney.

And Valvano and his fouling tactics from North Carolina State didn't even make the NCAA tournament this year while the Cougars were a rim rattlin' all the way to Seattle.

Still Guy Lewis's name has become synonymous with BAD COACH.

But the University of Houston basketball coach is a man who knows the game and knows how to recruit.

If you want to criticize Lewis, do it because he has had only 24 players graduate in the past 20 years — an average of less than 1.5 a year — not because of the way he coaches.

The criticism of Lewis's coaching methods are unwarranted. So what if it were true that a Guy Lewis practice consists of rolling a basketball out onto the court and letting the players play until they drop, and then picking up the ball and going home?

The man has brought his team to the Final Four for the last three years in a row and has a 560-251 record in 28 years with the Cougars.

Coaching isn't what beats the Cougars. Missing free throws is what beats the Cougars — 320 misses or less than 62 percent from the line for the season.

A free throw is an uncontested shot to the basket from behind a line that is positioned deceptively far away from the basket.

And like my high school coach used to tell me, the coach can't shoot the ball for you. No matter how many line drills the coach makes you run, when you step up to the free throw line in a game it's one and one — you versus the bucket.

Sounds easy enough doesn't it? Not for the guys from Phi Slama Jama who've been weaned with leather basketballs on concrete courts.

And no one shoots free throws in street ball games.

So if the City of Houston ever wants to have a NCAA Championship basketball team, it's time for Kathy Whitmire and the city council to pass an ordinance requiring basketball players in the streets of the city to shoot foul shots rather than getting the ball at the top of the key after a foul.

Two shots after a hack at Fonde Recreation Center. One-and-one after a push at McGregor Park. The bucket and one shot for a foul in the act at Landsdale.

Soon every street player in Houston would be dropping free throw attempts through the net with a sweet swish.

All the Cougars would soon start hitting free throws like Calvin Murphy — or at least Reid Gettys.

And at least then Cougar fans wouldn't have to drop their heads into their hands ever time Akeem steps to the free throw line.



'Let's go Aggies'

Photo by MARCY BASILE

Players on the bench help their teammates on the field by shouting out plays when a runner attempts a steal and by locating pop flies in the lights.

Last night the Aggies beat the Honduran National team 9-4. The two teams play again today at 2 p.m. as part of International Week festivities.

Spurs beat Lakers

Slumping Mavs lose

Blazers 91, Mavs 88

DALLAS — Guard Jim Paxson scored 22 points, including three free throws in the final 11 seconds, and center Mychal Thompson added 17 Tuesday night to give the Portland Trail Blazers their eighth straight win, 91-88, over the slumping Dallas Mavericks.

Dallas, 39-37, staged a furious fourth-period rally that saw Mark Aguirre score 13 of his game-high 23 points. Aguirre, who was held to 10 points in the first half, helped Dallas erase a 10-point deficit and gave the Mavericks their only lead of the second half, 77-76, with 4:10 remaining on a pair of free throws.

But Paxson converted two foul shots to put Portlanded, 47-28, ahead for good at 78-77 and then fed Kenny Carr for two of

his 14 points to put the Trail Blazers up by four.

Spurs 137, Lakers 109

SAN ANTONIO — The San Antonio Spurs, with George Gervin rallying for 15 third-quarter points, blasted the Los Angeles Lakers, 137-109, Tuesday night in NBA action.

Paced by Mike Mitchell's 28 points and 23 assists from point guards John Lucas and Johnny Moore, the Spurs kept alive their faint hope for the eighth and final Western Conference playoff berth.

San Antonio, 33-43, trails Phoenix, 33-41, by two games, with six left to play, pending the outcome of the Kansas City-Phoenix match late Tuesday night.

Lucas collected six assists in the crucial third quarter as the

Spurs hit 16 of 24 field goal attempts and outscored the Lakers, 41-23, to enter the final 12 minutes with a 100-77 lead.

The game featured the return of Spurs center Artis Gilmore, who had been sidelined for 16 games with broken right cheek bones.

Gilmore hit 4-of-5 from the field and snarled eight rebounds to offset Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, who hit 27 points but managed only six rebounds.

Abdul-Jabbar pulls within 11 points of passing Wilt Chamberlain's all-time NBA scoring title of 13,419.

Astros, Rangers drop openers

United Press International

Tuesday was not a good day for Texas' two major league baseball teams. Both the Astros and the Rangers dropped their season openers.

In Houston, Andre Dawson tripled in the winning run and Charlie Lea pitched seven strong innings to lead the Montreal Expos to a 4-2 victory over the Astros.

Lea allowed five hits and one run while striking out four and walking four. Jeff Reardon pitched 1 2-3 innings for the save.

Pete Rose went 2-for-5 with two singles in his Montreal debut, leaving him eight short of 4,000 career hits.

Houston opened the scoring in the second inning when Denny Walling drove in Jerry Mumphrey with a single to center.

The Expos tied it 1-1 in the third on a two-out single to left by Rose, followed by an RBI double by Bryan Little.

Montreal added three runs in the eighth off starter and loser Joe Niekro. Miguel Dilone, pinch hitting for Lea, stroked a two-run, bases-loaded single to left for a 4-1 lead.

The Astros got a run in the eighth off reliever Gary Lucas, who was making his Montreal debut. Terry Puhl scored on a one-out single by Mumphrey which chased Lucas. Reardon came on to retire the side.

In Arlington, Julio Franco's three-run triple capped a six-run second inning Tuesday night that helped Rick Sutcliffe coast to his second straight season opening victory as the Cleveland Indians won a 9-1 decision over the Texas Rangers.

Sutcliffe allowed seven hits, walked three, struck out one and was supported by a 12-hit attack — six of which came in the first two innings off loser Charlie Hough.

Pat Tabler, who went 4-for-4, started the Cleveland outburst in the second with a single and, after Brook Jacoby walked, Ron Hassey singled in Tabler.

Hough then retired two batters on ground outs, but he loaded the bases with a walk to Brett Butler and then walked Tony Bernazard to force in a run. That brought up Franco, who tripled on one bounce to the center field wall.

Texas' run came in the eighth on a double by Buddy Bell and a two-out single by Larry Parrish.

George Wright tripled with two out in the first and the Rangers advanced only two other runners past first until the eighth.

Only 21,537 fans turned out for the Arlington Stadium opener.

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