

'85 Hoyas look powerful

United Press International
SEATTLE — Georgetown left the Final Four with an NCAA championship. It also left college basketball something unsettling to consider. More than its outright assault of Kentucky in the semifinals, more than its clinical dissection of Houston in the final, Georgetown gave the rest of the nation this to dwell on as the basketballs are put away for spring and summer: the Hoyas return as fearsome as ever next season. "I think our chances are terrible," Georgetown coach John Thompson said laughingly after Monday night's 84-75 decision over the Cougars. "The

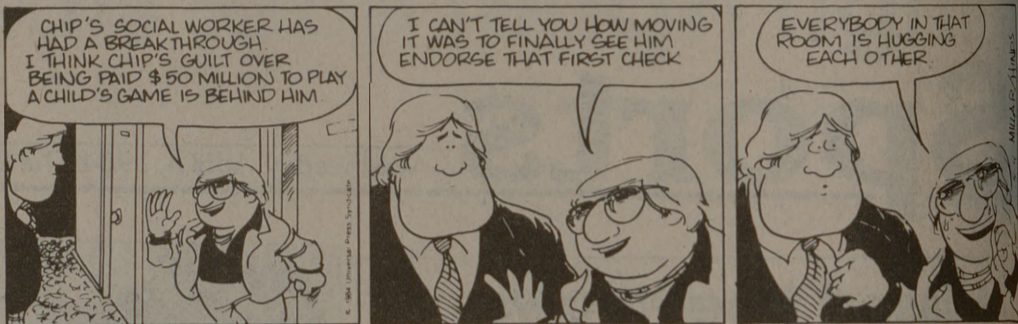
hardest thing in the world is to come back. These kids will be cocky." If many don't believe, it will be with justifiable reason. On Monday night, with the focus on 7-footers Patrick Ewing and Akeem Olajuwon, the texture of the game was determined by a couple of Georgetown freshmen — Reggie Williams, a 6-7 swingman, and Michael Graham, a 6-9 forward. While some merely move on the court, Williams glides. Playing as if he should be in formal evening wear, he can go low for the quick basket or hit the delicate jumper. And despite a lithe 185 pounds, he can also go high on the boards.

Graham plays fire to Williams' ice. With an on-court scowl attached to a shaven head, Graham cuts a striking figure. He has the convincing look of someone stressing the urgency of prompt payments on a debt. But for all the menace in Graham's game — as seen in the Big East Tournament and West Regional — there is another side: hugging Kentucky's Sam Bowie after the semifinal, offering to help an opposing player off the floor in the Houston game. "He does things in a dramatic way that tends to add incentive to the team," Thompson said. "He has a lot of characteristics that Patrick has, only in different ways. He's very raw right now but he's going to be a great player one day if he continues to work and continues to develop."

Brown and Gene Smith. Brown, who came back from knee surgery, played 15 minutes Monday night. Smith injured his foot in the semifinals. In what he said was the "hardest thing I've ever done in my life," Smith told Thompson before tip-off he was unable to play. Thus, next season the Hoyas' frontline is intact — Ewing at center with 6-7 David Wingate, a strong shooter who had 16 points against Houston, and 6-11 Ralph Dalton, who can fill in at pivot. At guards there will be Michael Jackson, a clutch player who had 11 points in the title game, and possibly Williams.

TANK McNAMARA

by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds



Houston pennant contenders

Surprise forecast for '84

By MILTON RICHMAN
United Press International

MESA, Ariz. — I like Houston to win it all this time around. There's something about the Astros, some new anticipatory

sense they suddenly seem to have developed, and I also get myself from watching players like Dickie Thon, Bill Doran, Ray Knight, Phil Garner, Terry Puhl and of course, Nolan Ryan, that makes me think the Astros about ready to win their first National League pennant. After a horrible start last season, the Astros played so well, they came very close to being the best club in the league at the end. I hear it said Bob Lillis has fooled a lot of people by becoming a good manager. He didn't fool me. I thought he was an outstanding one to start with. If there is such a thing as being able to pinpoint what will happen seven months from now, I see the Astros finishing on top in the National League West and then making it into their first World Series by beating the Eastern Division champion Montreal Expos. Now, I suppose you're waiting for the American League winners. Okay, you got 'em. Big surprise. Baltimore all the way. I like the Orioles to win in the East and then capture their second straight pennant by once again beating the Chicago White Sox, who should also win again in the West. What did you expect, Cleveland and Seattle? The Indians have shown they can run and bunt, but they can't hide the fact they have no power. And although Del Crandall, the Mariners' manager, has told them not to put any theoretical lid on how high they can finish, I'll believe it when I see it. If you're still curious, here's

the order I'm picking them to finish in both leagues:
National League East
1. Montreal 2. Philadelphia 3. New York 4. St. Louis 5. Pittsburgh 6. Chicago.
National League West
1. Houston 2. San Francisco 3. Atlanta 4. Los Angeles 5. San Diego 6. Cincinnati.
American League East
1. Baltimore 2. Toronto 3. Detroit 4. Milwaukee 5. New York 6. Cleveland 7. Boston.
American League West
1. Chicago 2. Oakland 3. Texas 4. Kansas City 5. California 6. Minnesota 7. Seattle.
Despite the fact Steve Rogers won't be ready to open the season next week and Pete Rose's showing he's mortal after all the Expos, I think, still are the strongest club in their division. It was a little hard understanding the Phillies' latest deal with the Cubs. Not only for me, but for a lot of others who aren't sure the Phillies helped themselves. There's always one dark horse in every race, and the Mets are mine in this one. I like their young pitching and look for them to generate more power with Darryl Strawberry's added experience and George Foster coming back a bit. The Cardinals' pitching doesn't impress me. They're still trying to figure out what happened to Joaquin Andujar, and Bruce Sutter no longer gets the hitters out the way he once did. Pittsburgh's outfield is highly suspect, and with a far from happy John Candelaria preferring to be traded, the pitching isn't that solid, either. Lee Smith, the Cubs' relief ace, is sure to get plenty of work this year. That gives you some rough idea about the Cubs starting staff. Next to the Astros, the Giants strike me as the most improved club in their division. If there's one thing Al Oliver can do, it's hit, and his presence gives Jack Clark and Jeff Leonard a big lift. Pascual Perez' incapacity has to hurt the Braves' chances, and now they've got a hole in the outfield as well with Brett Butler gone. I thought Tommy LaSorda worked some sort of miracle bringing home the Dodgers first last year. You know what former Dodger manager Charlie Dressen would say whenever he saw anyone pull off a miracle. He said he'd like to see it done again. Me, too. Kevin McReynolds and Steve Garvey should have good years for the Padres. San Diego's pitching is what I question, though. Vern Rapp is excited about the Reds. I'm not, but who knows. In the American League, the Orioles are far and away the class of the Eastern division. They have so much talent, they were forced to send down some kid pitchers who could win in the big leagues right now. Think about this, too: Willie Mays, Cal Ripken, Jr., Eddie Murray, Ken Singleton, John Lowenstein and Gary Roenicke, how many times are you going to get shut out? The Blue Jays could steal it all if their bullpen was stronger and that's the same department that may kill the Tigers' chances. Nobody hits harder than the Brewers, but their pitching holds them back, even if Rollie Fingers does make it back. Had Andre Robertson been able to play, I'd have picked the Yankees higher. The Indians look to me like a team of leadoff hitters. In the Western Division, I can't see anybody finishing ahead of the White Sox. "Am glad to be with this club," says Tom Seaver. "What hitters!" Wait'll he sees their pitchers. Oakland's outfield, I think will turn out to be the best in the league, and A's manager Steve Boros and his pitching coach Ron Schueler, are molding a good strong hurling staff. The Rangers' pitching isn't half bad, either, and they have an excellent defensive outfield. One problem, though, not enough hitting.

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