

Olajuwon named SWC's 'superman'

United Press International

DALLAS — The Southwest Conference has named University of Houston basketball center Akeem Abdul Olajuwon male athlete of the year and Houston track record holder Carol Lewis the top female athlete.

Each school nominated one male and one female athlete and a panel of Texas and Arkansas sportswriters and broadcasters who regularly cover the conference selected the winners.

The athletes were selected on the basis of their contributions to the school's athletic program in the 1983-84 school year, the SWC said.

Of 25 votes cast, Lewis received 20 first places, two seconds and two thirds to easily overwhelm the women's field.

Olajuwon, the junior from Lagos, Nigeria, who is turning pro next season, gained 16 first places, four seconds and three thirds to win almost as comfortably.

Texas Tech basketball star Carolyn Thompson received four first

place votes among the women and was the runner-up, while Arkansas' Amanda Holley received one first-place vote.

SMU's Michael Carter, winner of seven NCAA indoor and outdoor shot put championships and an All-SWC football player, was second in the men's balloting and received three first-place votes.

Other female finalists were Texas tennis player Kathleen Cummings, TCU golfer Rae Rothfelder Deal, SMU tennis player Stephanie Fess, Rice track star Disa Lewis, Arkansas basketball player Amanda Holley, Baylor basketball player Jackie Reiter and Texas A&M cager Lisa Langston.

The men's field included swimmer Rick Carey of Texas, football and track standout Bruce Davis of Baylor, NCAA long-jump and triple-jump champion Mike Conley of Arkansas, defensive end Ray Childress of Texas A&M, batting star John Grimes of Texas Tech, footballer Brian Patterson of Rice and footballer James Benson of TCU.

Coach speaks out against drug use

United Press International

DALLAS — It was 17 months ago that Vince Dooley decided it was time he became personally involved in doing something about the drug problem in athletics and, as is usually the case with the outspoken Georgia football coach, he once again finds himself taking the lead in his profession.

Only 3 percent of the nation's colleges have instituted some sort of drug testing program and the one at Georgia was spotlighted at this year's meeting of the College Football Association.

"I got an education in all of this," said Dooley, one of the few coaches around the country who has publicly said major college football schools should get out of the NCAA. "My staff got an education, too."

"When you have been hooked on drugs, you are hooked forever. It's like alcohol. You have to fight forever to stay away."

Dooley decided he had had enough when one of his players was "bombed" on drugs the night before Georgia played in the Sugar Bowl season before last.

"If you have a player who takes drugs the night before such a big ball game," Dooley told his fellow coaches at a panel discussion, "what else do you have? We decided we had to find out."

So Dooley plunged into an educational program, visited drug rehabilitation clinics and found out everything he could about drug abuse in America.

"After three or four months of this," said Dooley, "I knew we had a problem in college athletics. I knew

we had a problem in all athletics. I knew we had a social problem, nationally."

A year ago during spring practice, Dooley told his players that when they returned to school in the autumn they would be subject to drug testing. Such testing is conducted, without advance notice, a number of times during the year.

Each player signed a statement allowing such testing to take place.

"We didn't make them sign it," said Dooley. "But if they didn't sign, it they didn't play. They kept their scholarship, but they were not a part of the football team."

"I guess some of the players thought we didn't mean it because we had several who tested positive."

"When that happened we retested the individual. We set up a policy that the person was required to call his parents to tell them what happened. We started those players on counseling and they were suspended for one week."

"When we were recruiting this year we told the students and the parents what we were doing. As you might imagine, the parents were all in favor of it."

"Maybe there were some players who didn't come to Georgia because of the testing, and if that is the case we are glad they didn't come."

Dooley called the drug situation in the United States a "national problem."

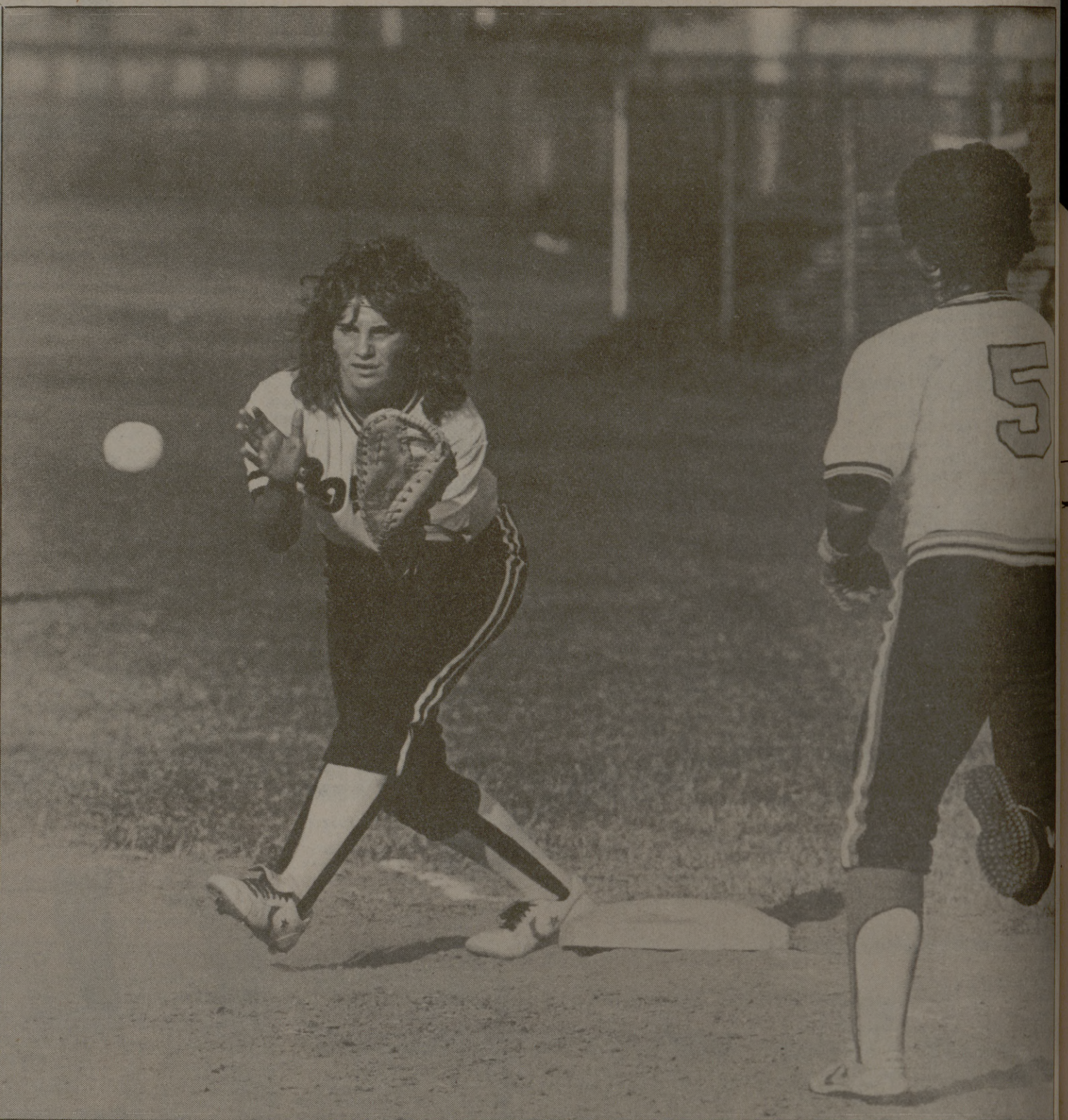


Photo by MARK BERRIER

Softball team finishes second in nation

The Aggie women finished behind No. 1 UCLA at the College Softball World Series in Omaha, Neb. last week. The Bruins defeated the Ags 1-0 with a 13th inning homerun.

Texas A&M ended the year with a record of 51-18. Pictured above, first baseman Mary Schwind makes a play earlier this season.

Half-Indian accepts prejudice

Pitcher recalls troubled times

United Press International

BOSTON — John Henry Johnson was in ninth grade when he got used to the animosity, to the word

"nigger" being spit at him for the dark skin that comes with being half Indian.

Growing up in Sonoma, Calif., Johnson recalls that he was "the only dark kid in school. Everyone else was white. I had to go through with the status of 'nigger,' because they didn't care if I was American Indian or not."

A relief pitcher for the Boston Red Sox, Johnson says he's the only Indian in the major leagues. His mother is full-blooded Potawatomi and his father is white; Johnson has the dusky skin of a man from two races.

In Sonoma, a wine-growing region, "the only other Indians were the Mexicans that migrate up to cut the grapes. But it wasn't a prejudice that people had against Indians, it was the dark skin. They think you're Mexican and everything, and you've just got to live with it."

Johnson, a left hander, came to the major leagues with Oakland in 1978 as a fireballing starting pitcher

who was being hailed as the "next Chief Bender," in memory of the Indian pitcher now in the Hall of Fame.

Johnson, as a visible Indian athlete, has had to deal with the public image of Indians.

"A lot of people think all Indians do is drink, get drunk and rowdy and get in a lot of fights," said Johnson. "Which is true in some cases, because they've got nothing better to do."

"In places around the reservations there's no work or anything and when they do get work they go out and drink on weekends, like anybody else does, but I guess maybe alcohol effects Indians different," said Johnson.

After an 11-10 rookie year, Johnson was traded to Texas and became a reliever in 1980. A year he developed a problem with the rotator cuff in his pitching shoulder.

Within professional baseball, Johnson says he has never encountered any prejudice.

"Being an Indian has made a difference, none whatsoever, on a team I've been with. Nobody in baseball that I've heard of is prejudiced because they're dealing with a kind of race."

Johnson's mother grew up on a reservation, "and I've been back eight or nine times, to see where my grandmother and relatives are buried. And to see what the government gave us after they took everything away. What they gave us back as much."

Johnson has two children. "They have dark complexions, but they will have to go through what I did, unless times change. But I'm going to instill in them that they are American Indians and ought to be proud of it," he said.

"Along with my skin, having dark curly hair and the name John Henry Johnson usually draw people thinking I am black," he said. "I've taken a lot of abuse, but everybody takes abuse; white people get abuse, too."

Gretzky retains NHL's honor

United Press International

TORONTO — Wayne Gretzky was awarded the Hart Trophy Monday night, emblematic of the NHL's outstanding player, for an unprecedented fifth straight season and Buffalo Sabres rookie Tom Barrasso became the first player in 12 seasons to capture two awards.

Gretzky, who helped the Edmonton Oilers to their first Stanley Cup title last month and dominated all NHL scorers for the fourth consecutive year, outpooled Washington Capitals' defenseman Rod Langway 306 to 102 points in voting by the Professional Hockey Writers Association.

Gretzky polled 60 first-place votes as opposed to only one for Langway.

During the past campaign, Gretzky, 23, registered the second 200-point season in NHL history — he is the only person to reach that plateau — scoring 87 goals and 118 assists. He ends his fifth NHL season with a career total of 356 goals, 558 assists for 914 points.

Gretzky, also the first player to win four straight Hart awards, needs only one more MVP award to equal the legendary Gordie Howe. But Howe needed 11 seasons (1952-1963) to win the trophy six times. Bobby Orr is the only other player to win three straight.

Barrasso, a 19-year-old goaltender signed out of Acton-Boxboro High School in Massachusetts last summer, won the Calder Trophy as rookie of the year and the Vezina Trophy as the league's top netminder.

The confident American rookie became the league's first double-award winner since 1972 when Orr claimed the Hart and the Norris. Only three players in NHL history have taken both the Vezina and the Calder Trophies in the same season.

Langway took the Norris Trophy as the top defenseman, leading three Washington Capitals to the awards podium.

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