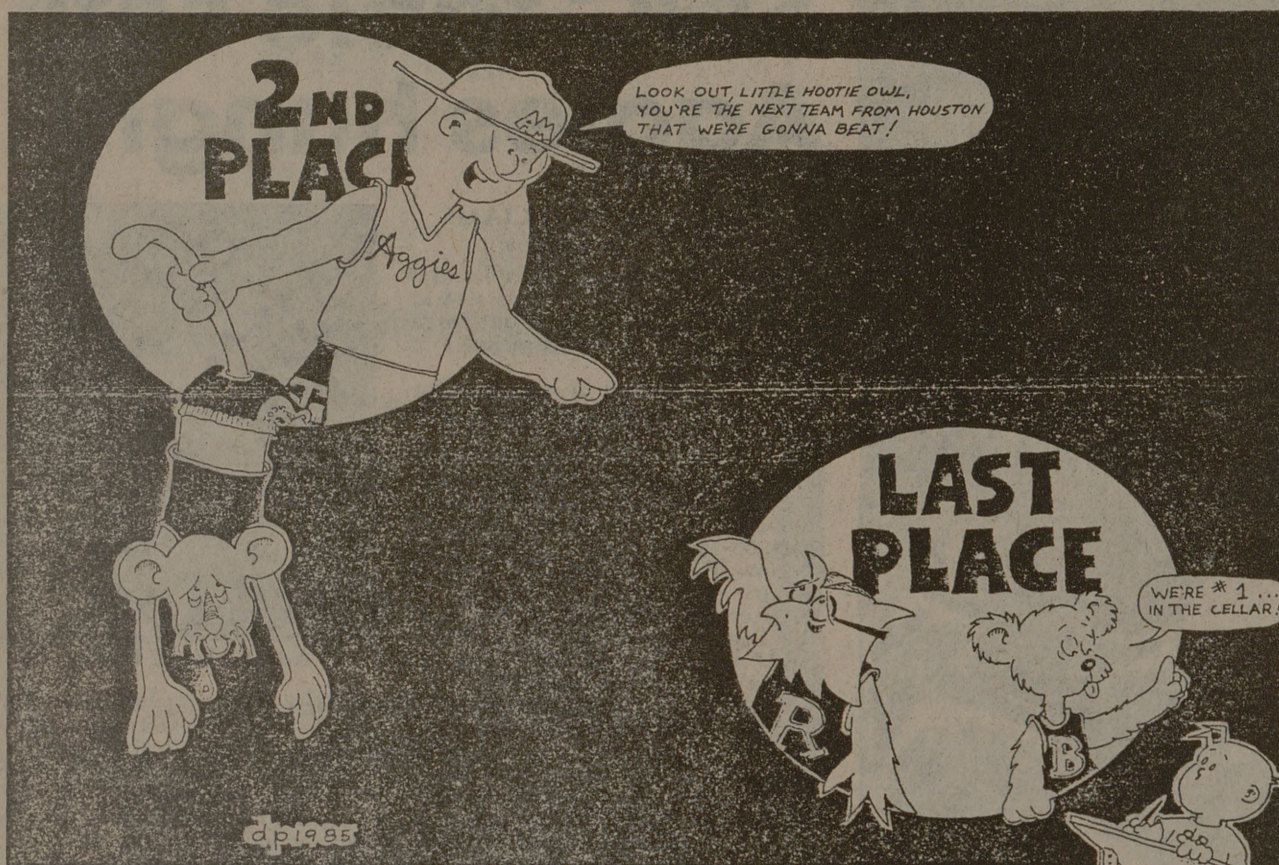


**SPORTS**



**Raider's Myers conjures quiet West Texas magic**

Associated Press

LUBBOCK — There is a collegiate basketball magic man in West Texas called Myers, but he's a household name only to purists of the game and followers of the Southwest Conference.

Bobby Knight of Indiana has called Gerald Myers one of the top four coaches in the nation.

Arkansas Coach Eddie Sutton agrees, saying, "He's as good as there is in the conference and one of the most respected in the country."

Myers has been at Tech 14 years but no victory was any sweeter than Saturday night's 64-63 upset of No. 2 ranked Southern Methodist.

The win made basketball fans from the Atlantic to the Pacific sit up and take notice of the news coming from Lubbock, Texas. You know, the hometown of Mac Davis who sang of looking at Lubbock through his rear view mirror.

Down in the southwest, fans just nodded and said "Well, ol' Gerald has done it again."

They know Tech holds a series advantage over every SWC school except Houston. They know Myers gets the most each year out of a talent-limited band of scrappers.

Myers, 48, is 240-148 at his alma mater where he still holds the free-throw shooting record he set as a feisty, crew-cut guard back in the 1950s.

So why has Myers won only one SWC title — 1973 — if he is such a good coach?

Lubbock's relatively isolated location works against him in recruiting. It's hard for him to sell big city kids even though author James Michener described Texas Tech as "the most beautiful campus in the West — 'til you get to Stanford."



Tech's Gerald Myers

Texas Tech also has to play in Lubbock Municipal Coliseum, built in 1965, which is also used for rodeos and tractor pulls and doesn't have the sparkle of some basketball houses.

The city-owned "bubble" has been improved in recent years with a new floor, lighting and seats — but it's still a recruiting liability.

Myers has difficulty mining the Dallas-Fort Worth and Houston basketball mother lodes.

He has to recruit well in other areas such as Eastern New Mexico where he found Bubba Jennings, Vince Taylor, and Tony Benford for

the current Red Raider squad.

However, Myers made the mistake of scheduling New Mexico in December and the local paper called the New Mexico players traitors. Even in New Mexico, Myers has to flit from shadow to shadow.

Other coaches like to recruit against Myers by saying he teaches slowdown, boring basketball.

He has the same theories as Knight and Sutton but what would you do if you couldn't recruit a true center? His last one was Rick Bullock. That was 1976.

What Myers does teach is opportunistic basketball. His teams play tough, hard-scrabble defense and will fast-break an opponent dizzy if given the chance.

His teams have discipline. They are sound in fundamentals.

Other schools know this and have tried to hire Myers, the most recent being Iowa State. Myers almost went, but came back to where his heart is.

"Gerald almost went to Iowa State," said Tech Athletic Director John Conley. "He just couldn't bring himself to leave Texas Tech and we're glad he didn't."

Myers, the first Texas Tech player in any sport to earn All-SWC honors (1958), said, "It gets frustrating not being able to recruit with the big schools but we do OK. All you have to do is get a player out here and he sees how great Tech can be."

Tech has a senior-dominated team this season and Myers will have to rebuild the squad into a contender once again next year.

Somehow he always manages.

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**Poetry and Short Stories**  
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Questions: Contact Melissa Romine 693-1904  
Dan Bitting 589-3145

**Texas A&M Flying Club**  
**COME LEARN TO FLY WITH US**  
Interested people are urged to attend our meeting Jan. 29 at the Airport Clubhouse  
Jan. 29 7:30 P.M.

**Texas A&M Sportsday**  
Women's basketball Tuesday night  
Aggies (9-8, 2-5 in SWC) vs. Rice (4-11, 2-4 in SWC)  
Aurry Court — Houston, Texas — 7:00 p.m.  
Women's golf team places fifth in tourney  
The Texas A&M women's golf team placed fifth this weekend in the Oklahoma State Invitational in Guadalajara, Mexico. A&M freshman Holley Frizzell led the team with a 71-80-80. Other Aggies competing were Angela Atkins, Fiona Conner, Susie Faccini and Patricia Gonzales. Tulsa won the team title, with University of Florida and Oklahoma State coming in second and third. Winning the individual title was Yoko Ito of OSU.

**Camp Counselor Interviews**  
Camp Champions, a private summer camp for boys and girls will interview prospective counselors at 1-31-85 from 10:00 am - 3:00 pm.  
Champions is located on beautiful Lake Lyndon B. Johnson in the Texas Hill Country. We feature swimming, sailing, skiing, horseback, football, baseball, soccer, tennis, basketball and many other fun activities. We are looking for college students who enjoy working with children (ages 7-15) and the out of doors. Being a summer camp counselor is one of the greatest experiences you can have. Our facilities are excellent as are the working conditions and salaries. If this sounds like what you are looking for this summer, please contact the Placement Center for an interview time.  
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