

U of H using new tactics

Coogs revitalized

Associated Press

HOUSTON — The Houston Cougars are best known for their nerve-rattling slam dunks, but they've been turning to different tactics lately.

Houston broke a four-game losing streak Wednesday by maintaining a game-long full court press against the Texas, instead of showering the Longhorns with slam dunks.

Coach Guy Lewis says the Cougars are likely to use a variation of that defensive strategy against Texas Tech in Lubbock Sunday.

"We'll have to use something a little different against Tech," agreed guard Alvin Franklin, who orchestrated a balanced offense that had five players in double figures in Wednesday's 94-80 victory.

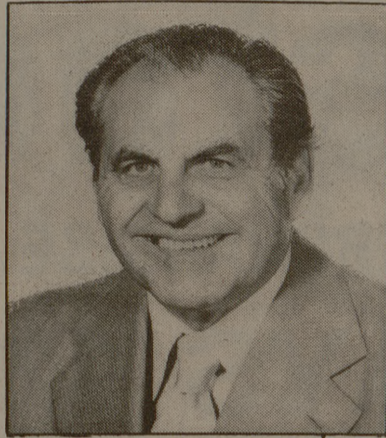
"They've (Tech) got (guard Bubba) Jennings outside to worry about and you have to deny the ball inside so we'll probably use some zones and mix our defenses."

But against the plodding Longhorns, the Cougars pressed man-to-man from the start, forcing the Longhorns into 23 turnovers.

"The players wanted to run it (the man-to-man press)," Lewis said. "I can't say it was great defense when (Texas) scored 80 points, but from a standpoint of getting us revved up, it did that."

The victory kept Lewis from directing a five-game losing streak for only the second time in his career and improved the Cougar record to 14-8 for the season and 6-4 in South-

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Houston's Guy Lewis

west Conference games.

"I'm so glad to get off that damned 13," Lewis said.

Houston's Rickie Winslow had four dunks in the game but was more pleased with ending the losing streak.

"It's a relief," he said. "I got a little tired. But I hope we go into the rest of the season games pressing. There was no more catch up tonight. We felt more like a unit."

Houston's trademark in three straight appearances in the Final Four championship tournament has been the slam dunk. But the dunks have become a sideshow since the departure of Akeem Olajuwon.

The Cougars had 194 dunks over 37 games last season and had 122 after 22 games a year ago. But at the same juncture this season, Houston has only 70 slammers.

Franklin had 10 assists against the Longhorns and hopes the trend will lead to a more balanced attack the rest of the season.

"We've been trying to win with the jump shot," Franklin said. "I started paying attention in practice to getting the ball in to the big men. I was really trying to get everyone involved in the offense."

Texas Coach Bob Weltlich praised Houston's press but also gave his Longhorns partial credit for making it work.

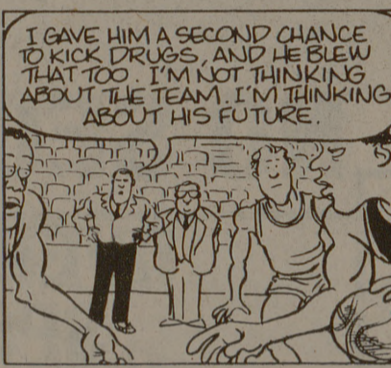
"Quickness is part of it, but when you break the press and then come down and throw the ball out of bounds or over somebody's head that's something else," he said. "We just were not taking care of business."

QUESTION: IF YOU DON'T KNOW THE RULES AND DON'T KNOW HOW TO BE A REFEREE, WHY DO YOU KEEP SHOWING UP AND EMBARRASSING YOURSELF?



TANK McNAMARA

by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds



Driver killed in Daytona Speedway practice

Associated Press

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — The death of an ARCA stock car driver Thursday at Daytona International Speedway added to the tension as the Grand National cars prepared for a high-speed onslaught on the pole position for the Daytona 500.

Francis Affleck, a 34-year-old Canadian-born driver who had previously raced at Daytona in four sportsman events and a modified race, died of massive head injuries after his late model Ford stock car flipped wildly down the backstretch during an Automobile Racing Club of America practice.

Observers at the 2.5-mile, high-

banked oval said the car was traveling alone on the track between 180 and 190 mph when Affleck apparently lost control.

It was the 14th racing death at Daytona since the historic track was opened in 1959 and the first since Ricky Knott was killed during one of the twin 125-mile qualifying events for the 1980 Daytona 500.

The Grand National cars are faster than the ARCA cars, which will race here Sunday prior to the Busch Clash for 1984 pole position winners.

And at least a dozen of the cars that will race in the \$1.2 million Daytona 500 on Feb. 17 are expected to

qualify at more than 200 mph Saturday when the pole position and outside spot on the front row go up for grabs.

"Any time you run over 200, you're on the ragged edge," said Bill Elliott, a rising Grand National star and one of the favorites to win the pole position after testing a Ford Thunderbird at more than 205 mph here in December.

"I fully expect 12, maybe 15 cars to be over 200 in qualifying," Elliott said. "I suppose there could be some danger in that, but the speeds in the race will be down somewhere in the 192 to 195 range, I expect."

That's not a very comforting

thought for the entries who are going to have to drive on that same ragged edge just to get up into the 190s in qualifying or in next Thursday's twin 125 qualifiers.

"With the equipment that the top teams have, they can coast at the speeds it takes everything I've got to get up to," said Ronnie Thomas, a veteran of Grand National racing who never has finished higher than seventh.

But the speeds at Daytona have become a fact of life in recent years, with Cale Yarborough breaking the 200 mph barrier in qualifying two years ago, then capturing the pole a year ago at more than 201 mph.

Texas A&M Sportscope

Lady cagers host Miami (Fla.) Saturday

Saturday, Jan. 9 — Aggie women vs. Miami (Fla.)
G. Rollie White Coliseum — 7:30 p.m. tipoff

Netters host Lamar, SWL over weekend

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Saturday, Jan. 9 — Aggie men vs. Southwestern Louisiana
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