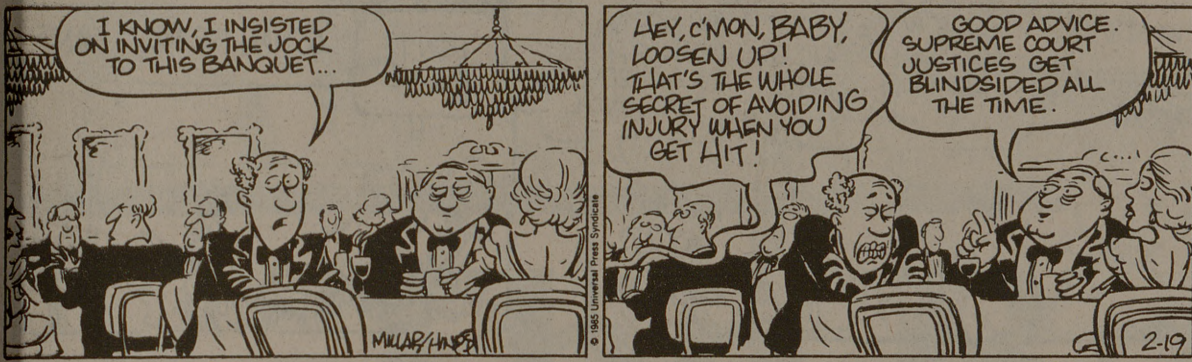


TANK McNAMARA®

by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds



## SWC coaches learning to stay in sideline box

Associated Press

Being on the NCAA basketball rules committee has its advantages, says Texas A&M's Shelby Metcalf, speaking not from first-hand experience but from watching Arkansas Coach Eddie Sutton.

Sutton serves on the committee, which voted last spring to institute a coaching box this season designed to keep coaches on — or at least near — the bench, where they theoretically belong.

At a critical point in the Aggies' game with the Razorbacks in January at College Station, Sutton ventured past the little white line to debate a foul on William Mills. He was not hit with a technical foul for leaving the box. Metcalf could have lived with that had he not received a technical only seconds earlier for straying beyond the line.

"I guess Eddie's got diplomatic immunity," the A&M coach speculated several days after the incident. "I'm going to have to get me one of those hog hats because maybe they won't call you for it if you're wearing one."

Metcalf was joking. Sort of. At the time, it didn't seem like a laughing matter, especially since Arkansas escaped with a 70-67 win.

If Sutton did, indeed, have diplomatic immunity from the coaches box for his membership on the rules committee, it expired in Dallas three days after the A&M incident. Against SMU, Arkansas twice was called for box infractions. Sutton got a technical early, then the bench got

*"I know a lot of people in Texas think I'm a wild man, but I think it's a good rule. The intent is to keep coaches from going down to the scorer's table, like I did in Dallas against Houston." — Arkansas Coach Eddie Sutton*

one late, as SMU took a 3-point overtime verdict. Afterward, Sutton fumed that the Hogs were "hosed" by the officials.

Since those misadventures involving the box early in league play, things have quieted down. The conference doesn't know the number of box infractions — "That's a negative statistic. We don't keep that," Bob Prewitt, the SWC's supervisor of basketball officials, tried to explain — but coaches appear to be learning how to live with and within the box.

They should, because the rule was enforced on an experimental basis in the SWC last year. The box actually is a line that extends 28 feet from the baseline and ends at a point where, ideally, coaches can't get to the scorer's table. It was tried in the SWC last year, Prewitt said, because of the success the Southeastern Conference had with it in the 1982-83 season.

"I think it's a good rule," said Prewitt, the former SMU coach. "It defines limits on just how far a coach can go."

Some conference followers believe the rule was implemented here not because of the SEC's success with it, but because of a famous Sutton performance at the SWC postseason tournament at Dallas' Reunion Arena in 1982.

In the finals against Houston, the Arkansas coach did everything but moonwalk for the SRO crowd. Taking vociferous exception to an official's call, Sutton stormed onto the court, flung his red sports coat to the ground, strode angrily to the scorer's table more than once and generally conducted himself in a manner that has attained legendary status in conference circles.

"From what I understand, that was part of the reason we've got the rule," said game official Robert Ledbetter of Round Rock, a 17-year officiating veteran who has called SWC games for seven years.

Sutton, perhaps surprisingly, likes the rule.

"I know a lot of people in Texas think I'm a wild man, but I think it's a good rule because coaches have responsibilities they need to accept," he said. "What I did three years ago was wrong. I shouldn't have done it."

"The intent of the rule is not to call technicals if a guy happens to step six inches over the line. The intent is to keep coaches from going down to the scorer's table, like I did in Dallas against Houston."



## Texas A&M Sportscope

**Twelfth Man organizational meeting set for Feb. 20**

An organizational meeting for all students interested in trying out for the 1985 Texas A&M Twelfth Man kickoff team will be held Wednesday, Feb. 20 at 3 p.m. under the stands on the west side of Kyle Field, next to the football locker room.

**A&M Wrestling Club wins second State Collegiate Championship**

The Texas A&M Wrestling Club won its second State Collegiate Wrestling Championship this past weekend at Southwest Texas State in San Marcos.

All seven members of the A&M team reached the finals and split three individual first-places with SWTSU. The final team standings were: A&M, 69 points; SWTSU, 64.5; Texas, 26; Texas Christian, 14; and Texas-San Antonio, 2.

A&M Coach Cliff Walton said the Ags were led by numerous outstanding performances, particularly by junior Gerry Holthaus in the 150 pound class. Holthaus pinned two wrestlers, one in just 24 seconds, on his way to the individual title and Most Valuable Wrestler award, selected by the coaches and officials.

**Ag volleyball team places second in USVBA tournament**

The Texas A&M volleyball team finished second in a Lone Star Region USVBA tournament held over the weekend in San Marcos. A&M's new crop of players defeated those from Texas twice during the tourney. The team lost to a team sponsored by Bud Light, which consisted of former Longhorn players.

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