

# Rockets outshine Nuggets, 127-119, for 5th straight win

**Associated Press**  
HOUSTON — Houston's Lewis Lloyd scored 25 points and converted a pair of key plays in the final four minutes to lead the Rockets to a

127-119 National Basketball Association victory over the Denver Nuggets Tuesday night.  
It was Houston's fifth consecutive victory and put the 7-2 Rockets one game ahead of the 6-2 Nuggets in the NBA's Midwest Division.

The Rockets moved to a 10-point, 120-110 lead with 2:22 to play after Robert Reid sank two free throws. But a pair of Alex English free throws and two consecutive three-point baskets by Mike Evans cut the lead to 120-118 with 1:21 left.

Lloyd brought the Rockets back with a basket and free throw, and Akeem Olajuwon hit a basket to put the Rockets back in control. With 4:11 to play, Olajuwon hit a basket and Lloyd stole the ensuing inbounds pass and scored.

Ralph Sampson, who fouled out of the game with 20 seconds to play, scored 24 points and Olajuwon had 20. Their performance nullified a 36-point show by Denver's English and 31 points by Lafayette Lever.

Olajuwon fueled the Rockets in the third quarter's opening five minutes, hitting seven points as the Rockets maintained the pace from their 67-56 halftime lead.

Sampson took up the slack, however, and the Rockets led 100-89 at the end of the third quarter. But then he drew his third and fourth personal fouls in less than one minute and had to leave the game.

The Nuggets, playing without starting guard Calvin Natt, jumped to a 16-13 lead midway through the first quarter and held a 32-29 advantage at the end of the period on a 10-point performance by English.

Despite another 10 English points in the second quarter, the Rockets pulled ahead at 40-38 with 8:38 to go in the half.



### Other Tuesday NBA Scores: (home team in capitals)

- DETROIT 124  
Washington 122 (ot)
- NEW YORK 103  
Phoenix 93
- MILWAUKEE 132  
CHICAGO 103
- UTAH at  
L.A. LAKERS (late)
- L.A. CLIPPERS at  
GOLDEN STATE (late)
- SACRAMENTO at  
PORTLAND (late)
- SEATTLE 109  
Dallas 90

# Lady Longhorn hoopsters find themselves No. 1 again

**Associated Press**

AUSTIN — Texas Coach Jody Conradt, whose Longhorns are the top-rated team in college women's basketball, said Tuesday being No. 1 will make life more difficult for her team.

Conradt said, however, the Lady Longhorns have so much talent that she has not settled on a starting lineup after a month of practice.

Texas, with all five starters returning, including All-Americans Kamie Ethridge and Andrea Lloyd, finished first in the preseason women's basketball poll conducted by Mel Greenberg of the Philadelphia Inquirer.

"I think this will be a good year," Conradt said. "I think it is going to be difficult again for us to deal with being No. 1. The last thing we need is to give any of our opponents another cause when they play Texas, and that's basically what happened last year."

Texas was ranked No. 1 at the close of the regular season last year but fell to Western Kentucky in the Midwest regional finals, 92-90.

"I will never get over the Western Kentucky loss because it was a very difficult one," Conradt said.

Asked if she liked being ranked No. 1, she said, "You like to be recognized. You like for your players to have that kind of vote of confidence because it gives them that feeling, but on the other hand our fans are already starting to say, 'How many times have we gotten there and we haven't been able to do it?'"

"Think about that. How many times have we had a realistic chance at winning the national championship? In my mind once last year, and yes we failed."

Conradt said she had not chosen a starting lineup because the competition is so intense.

She added, "I don't think anybody is any better than we are full-court. No team that plays run with us is going to beat us. I think we need to be better half-court."

### AP Top 20 Poll

The Top 20 teams in the Associated Press college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses and 1984-85 season record:

1. Georgia Tech (28) — 27-9
2. North Carolina (13) — 27-9
3. Michigan (13) — 26-4
4. Syracuse — 22-9
5. Kansas (4) — 26-8
6. Duke (2) — 23-8
7. Illinois (1) — 26-9
8. Georgetown (1) — 35-3
9. Louisville — 19-18
10. Auburn — 22-11
11. Kentucky — 18-13
12. Notre Dame (1) — 21-9
13. Oklahoma — 31-6
14. LSU — 19-10
15. Memphis State — 31-4
16. UA-Birmingham — 25-9
17. North Carolina State — 23-10
18. UNLV — 28-4
19. (tie) Maryland — 25-12
19. Navy — 26-6

**Others receiving votes:** Indiana, DePaul, Washington, Iowa, UCLA, Arkansas, Houston, Virginia Tech, St. John's, Pittsburgh, Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama, Villanova, Pepperdine, St. Joseph's, UTEP, Arizona, Dayton, Fresno State, Boston College, Texas A&M, Virginia, West Virginia, Ohio State, Oregon State.

# Jackets don early No. 1

## 5 ACC teams make preseason cage poll

**Associated Press**

ATLANTA — Georgia Tech's No. 1 ranking in The Associated Press preseason college basketball poll is a double-edged sword because "a tremendous amount of pressure" comes with the recognition, Yellow Jackets Coach Bobby Cremins said Tuesday.

Georgia Tech got 28 first-place votes and 1,192 points from the nationwide panel of 63 sports writers and broadcasters to edge North Carolina for the top spot. Georgia Tech beat the Tar Heels 57-54 in the Atlantic Coast Conference tournament championship game last season.

"To be honest, right now I don't know if we can live up to it. It puts a tremendous amount of pressure on us. My expectations are usually very high, but they can't go higher than the ones that have been put upon us," Cremins said.

"I just hope we can deal with it." Georgia Tech and North Carolina were among five ACC teams placed in the Top Twenty. In third place was Michigan, one of two Big Ten teams in the Top Ten.

The Tar Heels got 13 first-place votes and 1,148 points. Michigan

*"To be honest, right now I don't know if we can live up to it. It puts a tremendous amount of pressure on us." — Georgia Tech Coach Bobby Cremins*

had 13 first-place votes and 1,141 points.

The No. 4 team was Syracuse, one of two Big East teams in the Top Ten, with 936 points. No. 5 was Kansas, with four first-place votes and 847 points.

The ACC's Duke got two first-place votes and 911 points for the sixth-place ranking, and Illinois of the Big Ten got one first-place vote and 847 points for seventh place.

Georgetown of the Big East, last year's national runner-up, got one first-place vote and 824 points for eighth; No. 9 Louisville of the Metro Conference had 687; and Auburn of the Southeastern Conference rounded out the Top Ten with 670.

Last year's national champion, Villanova, was not ranked, nor was

St. John's, a fellow Big East school and Final Four participant. Both teams lost several key players to graduation.

Georgetown has been in the NCAA championship game three of the last four years, but now faces life without star center Patrick Ewing. The Hoyas were the top team in last year's preseason poll and held that spot for all but five weeks of the season.

The SEC is the only other conference to have more than two teams in the Top Twenty, with Kentucky ranked 11th and Louisiana State 14th. Kentucky will begin the season with a new coach, Eddie Sutton.

Notre Dame, the only independent in the Top Twenty, was one of seven teams to receive first-place votes. The Irish finished 12th and received one vote for the top spot.

Rounding out the Top Twenty behind Notre Dame were Oklahoma; LSU; Memphis State, a Final Four team last year; Alabama-Birmingham; North Carolina State of the ACC; Nevada-Las Vegas; and, tied for 19th, Maryland of the ACC and Navy, schools 25 miles apart.

# ACC — SEC

## Georgia Tech, LSU favored in Southeast region

**Associated Press**

After being shut out by the Big East on the last step before the NCAA basketball championships, the Atlantic Coast Conference could lead a resurgence of the South to at least one spot in the Final Four next March.

Last season, ACC champion Georgia Tech lost to Georgetown, ACC runner-up North Carolina fell to eventual champion Villanova and North Carolina State was downed by St. John's. Also, Boston College ousted fourth-place Duke in the second round of the NCAA title chase.

But Georgia Tech, Duke and North Carolina return most of the players that led them to their respective regional finals and added to those teams are blue-chip freshmen which made the ACC's recruiting year one of the nation's most successful.

Georgia Tech has been ranked as the No. 1 team in preseason by several national publications, but Coach Bobby Cremins isn't buying the hype.

"I know this sounds like a typical coach, but I've kept away from it," Cremins said. "I really can't get wrapped up in it because I know a lot of it is unrealistic."

The talent makes it hard to dispute the predictions, however. Guard Mark Price and forward John Salley lead the band of experienced players returning. Seven-footer Antoine Ford, a backup last year, replaces Yvon Joseph in the pivot and guard forward Craig Neal is back after a wrist injury. But Cremins says Georgia Tech's success could hinge on the progress of prep All-American Tom Hammonds, a 6-foot-8 Floridian sought by more than 100 schools.

"For us to be a great team, which everybody says we are, Hammonds has got to help us. He's very, very valuable," Cremins said.

There are four seniors on Duke's starting five and sixth man David Henderson also is a senior. But the big catch for Coach Mike Krzyzewski was DeMatha High School's Danny Ferry, a 6-10 star who might provide Duke with front-line depth.

North Carolina has center Brad Daugherty, forwards Kenny Smith and Steve Hale and reserve forward Warren Martin from the 27-9 team of last season. Coach Dean Smith also landed some prized prep stars, including guard Jeff Lebo and forward Steve Bucknall.

In the Southeastern Conference, Louisiana State may boast the nation's largest starting lineup even though 6-10 freshman Tito Horford left Baton Rouge. Nonetheless, Coach Dale Brown has experience returning in Nikita Wilson and John Williams, both 6-8. Don Redden is the 6-6 shooting guard and Derrick Taylor is the point guard at 6-0, although he has no solid backup.

In the front court, Zoran Jovanovich gained 50 pounds to go with his 7-1 frame to relieve Wilson from playing center. Alongside Jovanovich is 6-10 Jose Vargas.

Auburn returns all five starters from last year's Southeast Regional semifinalist and the list starts with Chuck Person, who averaged 22 points and nine rebounds per outing. Frank Ford and Gerald White should settle the backcourt for Coach Sonny Smith.

Kentucky's new head coach, Eddie Sutton, has the task of trying to improve last year's 18-13 team under Joe B. Hall. In trying to do that, the Wildcats boast All-American



College Basketball Preview

Kenny Walker, the SEC's defending scoring and rebounding champion and the first SEC player to win both titles since Tennessee's Bernard King did it in 1977.

Speaking of Tennessee, the Volunteers were a surprise semifinalist in the National Invitation Tournament last season and retain Tony White and 6-11 Doug Roth.

Louisville was hurt by an injury to guard Milt Wagner, but the Cardinals survived and advanced to the NIT championships. Memphis State, another of Villanova's victims, lost All-American Keith Lee, but has 7-foot center William Bedford, guard Andre Turner and forward Baskerville Holmes from the Final Four team.

Alabama-Birmingham and Old Dominion each return four starters from teams that reached the 64-team NCAA championship field and both are early favorites to lead the Sun Belt Conference title chase. Mike Pollio is the new head coach for perennial title challenger Virginia Commonwealth, but the team has lost six lettermen from last year's 26-6 club.

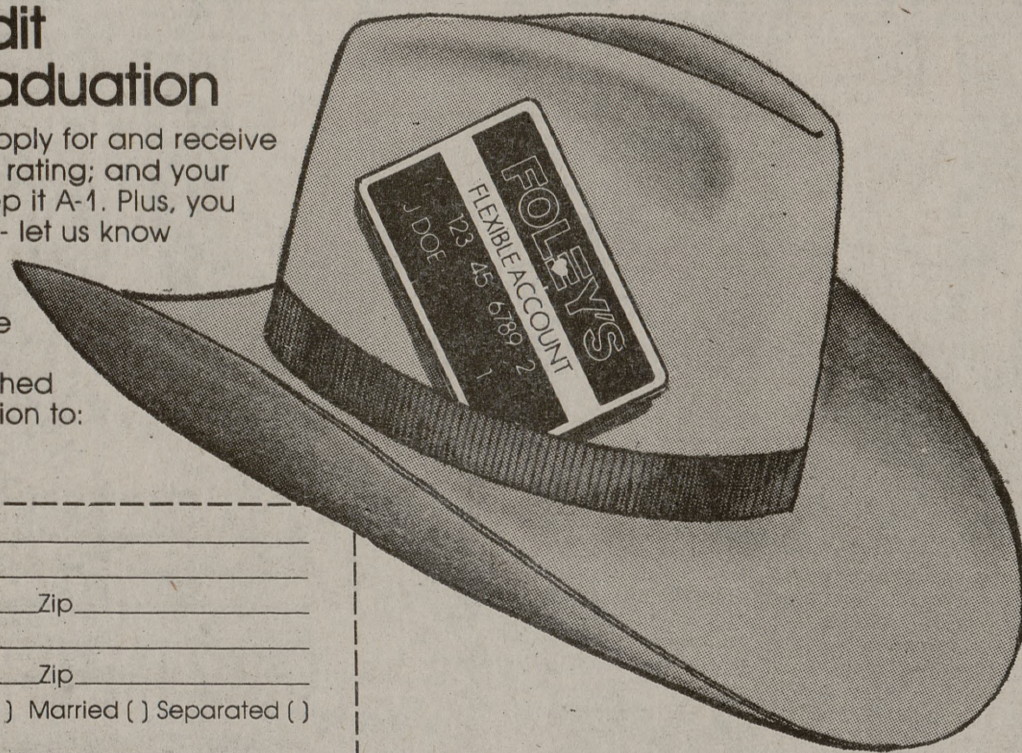
Marshall is the defending champion in the Southern Conference, and with guard Skip Henderson and forward Jeff Guthrie coming back, the Thundering Herd is the favorite to take its third straight league crown. Davidson has six seniors and offers the biggest threat to Marshall.

Middle Tennessee State is the choice of the Ohio Valley Conference. Despite finishing fifth in the 1984-85 regular season, they went on to win the OVC tournament. The top returner is Kim Cooksey, the conference's leading scorer last year.

With Jimmy Brown and Eric Boyd gone from North Carolina A&T, Coach Don Corbett's streak of four appearances in the NCAA might end this season. A good bet to succeed the Aggies will be Howard University, which has all its players back from a 16-12 team last year.

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