

Sports

Baylor basketball hit again Bears ineligible to compete in SWC tourney

Associated Press

DALLAS — The Baylor men's basketball team will not be eligible to participate in the 1986 Southwest Conference postseason basketball tournament in Dallas because of NCAA probation, the SWC Executive Committee decided on Monday.

Baylor is under NCAA probation for rules violations and is also ineligible for the national tournament this season. The penalties include a ban on postseason play and a reduction in scholarships. The Bears can be on television this year.

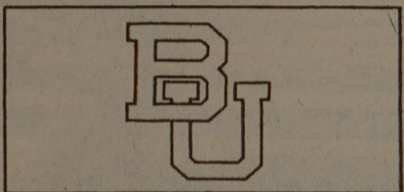
The Southwest Conference has a rule prohibiting its members from competing for the conference championship under such circumstances. The NCAA considers a postseason conference tournament as part of the regular season and had no objections to the Bears qualifying for it.

SWC Commissioner Fred Jacoby said Baylor had asked for an interpretation of the conference rule covering SWC tournament participation after the NCAA sanctions went into effect last week.

The SWC Executive Committee made the interpretation during a conference telephone call Monday.

The SWC postseason tournament will be held Friday through Sunday, March 7-9, at Dallas' Reunion Arena.

Since it encompasses an eight-team format, the other eight schools



now automatically qualify for the first round of games on Friday, March 7.

Baylor has a 1-8 SWC record and is tied with Rice for last-place in the SWC.

Baylor Coach Gene Iba said, "I'm very disappointed with the executive committee's decision. We feel very strongly their decision is wrong."

"We have adhered to the NCAA penalties 100 percent and now the conference is adding to these. Al-

though I haven't been in the league that long, I don't ever remember them doing this."

Iba said his players were using the possibility of the postseason tournament as an incentive.

"I thought we played OK against Texas A&M, but I wonder how long we will be able to do this if things like this keep happening to our players," he said. "I really don't know what kind of motivation we will have for the remainder of the year and I don't think that's right. Ever since our situation with the NCAA started you haven't heard me say much but I think this is unjust."

"Our players feel they have paid for their wrongdoings. If they (the SWC) are worried about us beating someone in the tournament then maybe some of those teams don't belong there."

Athletic Director Bill Menefee said he regretted the SWC decision.

"We had hopes that since the NCAA had not ruled us ineligible to compete in the conference tournament that we would be able to do so if we qualified," said Menefee.

Lady Ags set objectives for battle with Bearkats

By DOUG HALL
Sports Writer

Texas A&M Coach Lynn Hickey will have three objectives in mind for her Lady Aggies when they face Sam Houston State in a non-conference game tonight at 7:30 in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

No. 1 is to win, No. 2 is to regroup after playing nine Southwest Conference games, and No. 3 is to build some much-needed confidence among her young players.

"Every team in the conference has a week where they only have one (SWC) game," Hickey said. "When we looked at the schedule, we decided at this time it would be better not to take a break. It certainly won't hurt us."

So instead of having a week in between last Saturday's 70-44 victory over Baylor and this Saturday's SMU game, Hickey chose to play the 9-10 Bearkats.

Although Hickey readily admits the Bearkats aren't a team that should give her 11-9 squad trouble, she said there's more than just a victory at stake for the Lady Ags.

"Sam Houston is a team that is probably the caliber of a Baylor, or Rice, or maybe even better," Hickey said. "We should win, but it probably won't be a runaway."

"Besides, we need some confidence building right now. We did our share of playing Top 10 teams earlier this season (when the Ags played nationally-ranked LSU, Oklahoma and Louisiana Tech)."

Hickey's concern over the Lady Ags' confidence stems from struggling through January to a 5-4 conference start with a team that has 10 new names on its '85-86 roster.

The Bearkats are led by their front court tandem of LaVoyne Nelson and Rosalyn Wilt, who have combined for almost 30 points a game.

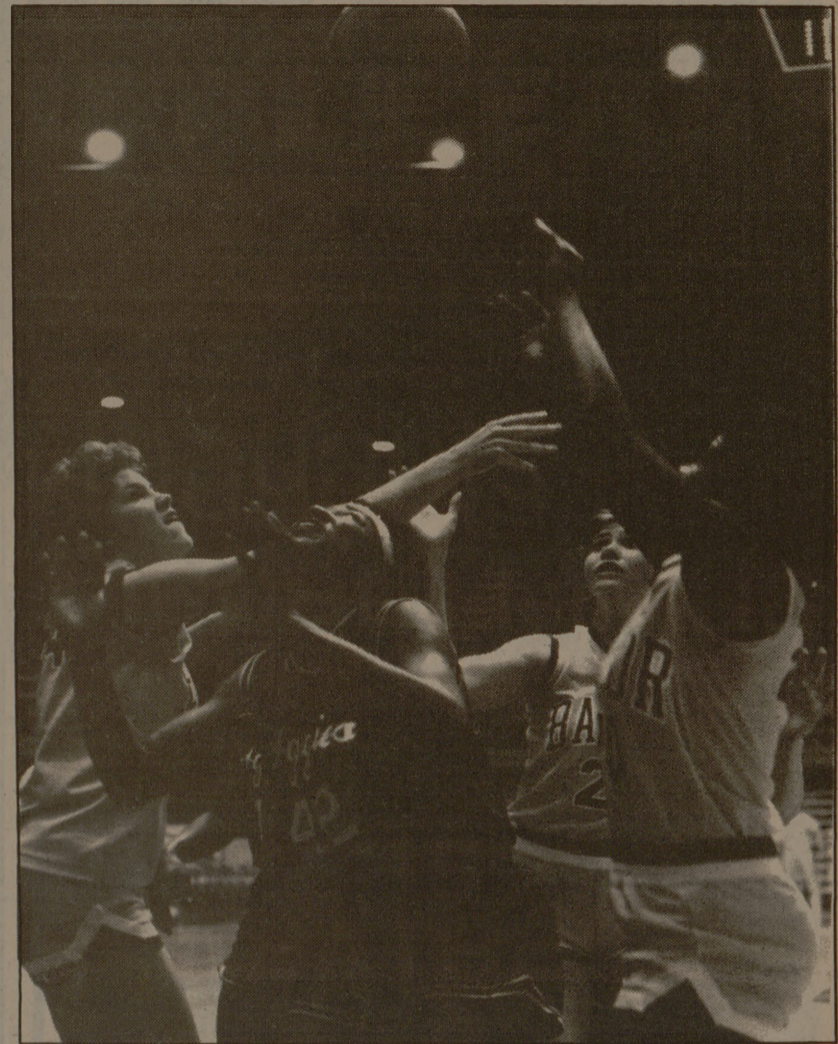


Photo by ANTHONY S. CASPER
A&M's Nette Garrett (42) finds herself surrounded by three Baylor Bears last Saturday. A&M hosts Sam Houston State tonight at 7:30.

Junior forward Paula Crutcher, who led all players in the Baylor game with 19 points and 14 rebounds, said the Lady Ags will use the Sam Houston State game to continue improving their overall game.

"We're going in with the same

things that have brought us this far," said Crutcher, who transferred to A&M after two years at Grayson Junior College. "We don't have anything new to throw at them. We'll just work on the things we do and try to improve them."

Tar Heels still No. 1 despite 1st loss

Associated Press

North Carolina, which suffered its first defeat of the season last week, remained atop The Associated Press' college basketball poll, although the Tar Heels were not the unanimous choice for the first time in three weeks.

After winning their first 21 games of the season, the Tar Heels fell at Virginia 86-73 last Thursday, then beat Clemson 85-67 Saturday. They received 58 first-place votes and 1,235 points from the nationwide panel of sportswriters and broadcasters.

Georgia Tech, 17-2, which received three first-place votes and 1,118 points, moved up one notch to second, followed by Memphis State, like North Carolina, unbeaten until last week.

The Tigers, 20-1, lost on the road at Virginia Tech 76-72 Saturday and fell one spot in the voting with the only other first-place vote and 1,091 points, 29 more than No. 4 Duke, 20-2.

Oklahoma, 20-1, moved from sixth to fifth, followed by Kansas, 20-3, which had been fourth but suffered a 77-74 loss at Iowa State last week. Michigan, 19-2, jumped from ninth to seventh with 860 points, 41 more than Syracuse, 17-2, which jumped from its 11th-place ranking last week with a 68-64 victory over St. John's.

Nevada-Las Vegas, 21-2, improved one place from last week, while St. John's, 20-3 and seventh last week, rounded out the Top 10.

Georgetown, which defeated Louisiana State 74-72 on national television Sunday, led the Second 10, followed by Kentucky, Bradley, Notre Dame, Virginia Tech, Louisville, Texas-El Paso, Indiana, Western Kentucky and Alabama.

Last week's Second 10 was Syracuse, Georgetown, Bradley, Notre Dame, Indiana, Virginia Tech, Louisiana State, Louisville, Texas-El Paso and Richmond.

Western Kentucky, 17-3 and leaders in the Sun Belt Conference race, and Alabama, 15-4 and in second place behind Kentucky in the Southeastern Conference, are both making their first appearance in the Top 20 this season.

Louisiana State and Richmond fell out of the rankings.

Louisiana State, 16-6, lost three games last week — two to ranked teams. Then-No. 8 Kentucky beat the Tigers on a buzzer shot 54-52, Georgia coasted to an easy 92-76 victory over Louisiana State, and the Tigers fell to Georgetown Sunday.

Richmond, which last week made its first appearance in the Top 20 since 1954, dropped two of three games to fall to 17-3.

Juniors Seniors

Vets, Meds, & Grads

Last Chance to have your picture taken for the '86 Aggieland

Photos will be taken until
February 7 at Yearbook
Associates Studio, above Campus
Photo Center at Northgate.
Office hours 8:30-12:00, 1:00-4:30

No pictures will be taken
at the Pavillion
this year

The Myriad Challenges of THE MIDDLE EAST

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