

Sports

Can anybody win this SWC tournament?

Aggies face Razorbacks tonight

By CHAREAN WILLIAMS
Assistant Sports Editor

It took three Texas A&M losses in the middle of the season, two TCU losses at the end of the season and a loss by Texas on the final day of the '85-86 Southwest Conference season to reach nowhere.

Nothing was settled in the SWC's regular season. After last Sunday the standings looked almost the same as they did before it all began.

Three teams — TCU, A&M and Texas — stood at the top, while everyone else was within reaching distance, a loss or two off the pace.

No one was good enough to win the title outright. And not many teams were bad enough to lose it outright.

So eight of the conference's nine teams will fight it out in the annual single elimination tournament which begins today in Dallas' Reunion Arena — the SWC Post-Season Classic.

The only difference this year is that there's no clear-cut favorite.

You can just about scratch Rice and Arkansas off the betting card

Men's Basketball

unless you like taking chances on long shots.

But then again, there were some strange occurrences in the SWC this past season. Things could become even stranger as the tourney unfolds:

SMU vs. Texas Tech — SMU (10-6 SWC, 18-9 overall) always seems to have the talent, but never the wins to prove it. This year was no exception.

The Mustangs have won two in a row over Rice and Houston. They are led by All-SWC selection Kevin Lewis who averaged 19.6 points and 5.0 rebounds per game.

The Red Raiders (9-7, 14-13) are the defending SWC champions, however, two missed dunks that could have won games typify Tech's current season.

In the last three games, the Red Raiders just might be considered the hottest team in the league. They almost single-handedly created the tri-championship by upsetting the two first-place teams, TCU and Texas.

And with a 57-44 win over the Mustangs on Feb. 22, the Red Raiders go into the tourney with a three-game win streak.

That particular game, the second meeting between the two teams, was disastrous for the 'Stangs. In the first half, SMU missed its first 11 field goal attempts. At intermission, Tech led 30-18 by virtue of the Mustangs' 5-for-22 shooting.

Prediction: Tech by 3.

TCU vs. Rice — TCU (12-4, 20-7) was a shoo-in to win the SWC title. A miracle shot by Jamie Dixon at the buzzer gave the Horned Frogs a 55-54 win over Texas and sole possession of first place with only two games to go.

The Frogs needed just one win in their last two games.

However, TCU fell off its lily pad and into the SWC's murky water, losing two straight to Tech and Houston.

TCU, perhaps the most well-coached team in the league, came up with only a share of first place.

Carl Lott was named All-SWC after averaging 14.1 points and 4.1 rebounds per game. Carven Holcombe made the second team with his 12.0 scoring average.

The only way Rice (2-14, 9-18) made the tourney was by default. Baylor, who finished above the Owls in the SWC standings was declared ineligible for postseason play because it is on NCAA probation.

Greg Hines is possibly the Owls' only scoring threat. He was named second team All-SWC after averaging 16.1 points and 5.7 rebounds per game.

Prediction: TCU by 13.

A&M vs. Arkansas — A&M (12-4, 18-10) was the best team in the conference in the first round with a 7-1 mark.

However, the Aggies had a three-game skid, losing to SMU, TCU and Texas and seemed to be out of the regular season chase.

With help from Tech and Houston, A&M escaped Dodge City with a share of the championship and the longest winning streak in the conference going into postseason play.

Tech, Houston, Rice and Arkansas were the Aggies' last four victims.

A&M guard Don Marbury, the league's leading scorer, averaged 22.5 points per game. Meanwhile, A&M's inside game of Winston Crite and Jimmie Gilbert combined to av-



Photo by DEAN SAITO

A&M's Winston Crite (left) attempts to make passing difficult for Arkansas' Eric Poerschke.

The Aggies and Razorbacks square off tonight at 6:08 in the first round of the SWC tourney.

Top-ranked Texas rips Houston in 2nd half

Associated Press

DALLAS — The No. 1-ranked Texas Lady Longhorns, powered by four players who scored in double digits, broke open a close game with a 20-8 burst in the second half to defeat Houston 81-64 Thursday night.

With the victory, Texas ups its spotless record to 28-0 and advances into the tournament finals to meet Texas Tech Saturday night at Southern Methodist's Moody Coliseum.

Houston ends its season at 19-10.

Beverly Williams scored 18 points, Fran Harris 14, Clarissa Davis 12 and Gay Hemphill 11 for the Lady Longhorns. Williams also added eight rebounds.

After falling behind, 4-0 in the game's first minute, Texas outscored the Lady Cougars over the next six minutes by a 15-4 mar-

gin, eventually leading at the half, 33-27.

The Lady Longhorns never trailed in the second half, and at one point had a 22-point lead.

Texas Tech 58, Arkansas 48

Sharon Cain scored 17 points and had eight rebounds as Texas Tech defeated the Arkansas Lady Razorbacks, 58-48, Thursday night to advance to the final round of the Southwest Conference Women's Postseason Basketball Championship.

The win ups Texas Tech's record to 21-7, while Arkansas closes out the season at 22-7.

Tracy Webb scored 11 points for the Lady Razorbacks.

The Lady Red Raiders held a 26-20 halftime lead, then proceeded to outscore Arkansas by an 18-6 margin to open a 44-26 lead with less than 9:00 remaining in the game.

Women's Basketball

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