

# Delta Devils pray for inspiration

## Mississippi Valley State needs miracle against Duke

Associated Press

If the Delta Devils of Mississippi Valley State are looking for inspiration, they might consider the Flying Dutchmen of Lebanon Valley.

Mississippi Valley, the little school whose mailing address is "Highway 82, Ita Bena, MS, 38941," is receiving an untold amount of national attention because it has to play top-ranked Duke on Thursday in the opening round of the NCAA basketball tournament.

The history of the NCAA tournament is littered with the broken dreams of unassuming little schools which found themselves vying for the national championship and all too quickly found themselves out of the running, with no more than a "Thanks for coming and drive home safely."

Rarely does a team of Mississippi Valley's stature survive a first-round meeting with a team as powerful as the Dukes of the world. Last year, for example, little Lehigh was pictured as being fed to the lions—accurately, as it turned out. The Hoyas

### NCAA Basketball Tourney

of Georgetown licked their collective chops and swallowed Lehigh 68-43. Ahh, but once every so often . . .

In 1953, Lebanon Valley, now a Division III member of the Middle Atlantic Conference, was invited to the NCAA tournament. The Flying Dutchmen were decided underdogs against Fordham, but the kids from Annville, Pa., knocked off the big boys from the Bronx, N.Y., 80-67.

The dream died in the next round when Louisiana State beat Lebanon Valley 89-76.

Mississippi Valley Coach Lafayette Stribling is delighted to be pursuing the dream this year.

"We're not going in there with the attitude that we can't win," Stribling said. "We respect all, but fear none. I've always said that before you can be successful you have got to overcome obstacles."

Yes — but what about playing Duke? "We are proud to be here, to be a

part of the NCAA tournament. And playing a team like Duke is another honor."

Yes — but what are the Delta Devils' chances of winning?

"We'll pray a lot," Stribling said. In Thursday's two other East Regional first-round games at Greensboro, Oklahoma plays Northeastern and Virginia Tech vs. DePaul.

In the Southeast Regional first-round games Thursday at Baton Rouge, La., it's Georgia Tech vs. Marist, Virginia Tech vs. defending champion Villanova, Memphis State vs. Ball State and Purdue vs. LSU.

In Midwest Regional opening-round play at Dayton, Ohio, it's Jacksonville vs. Temple, No. 1 seed Kansas vs. North Carolina A&T, 1985 runnerup Georgetown vs. Texas Tech and Michigan State vs. Washington.

And in the West Regional first round at Ogden, Utah, it's Louisville vs. Drexel, Bradley vs. Texas-El Paso, Alabama-Birmingham vs. Missouri and North Carolina vs. Utah.

# Kings subdue Mavs in overtime, 127-120

Associated Press

DALLAS — Sacramento's Reggie Theus hit six free throws and a basket in overtime Wednesday night to lift the Kings to a 127-120 NBA overtime victory over the Dallas Mavericks, who had beaten them eight straight times.

Rolando Blackman's two free throws tied the game at 109-all in regulation with 41 seconds left, and Eddie Johnson missed a short jumper to give Dallas a chance to run down the clock for the final shot.

But Jay Vincent's jump shot hit the rim at the buzzer.

The Kings took immediate command in overtime with Theus' eight points, giving him 32 for the game.

Blackman had a game-high 46 points for Dallas, which was without the services of leading scorer Mark Aguirre, who missed his second straight game with the flu.

Johnson added 31 points for the Kings, while Vincent had 20 for Dallas.

The Kings hit 19 of 24 shots in the first quarter and the 79-percent shooting staked them to a 38-26 lead.

Sacramento built the margin to 16 points midway through the second

### NBA Roundup

#### Other Wednesday Scores:

(home team in capitals)

Atlanta 113  
NEW JERSEY 97

PHILADELPHIA 105  
New York 95

Washington 128  
CLEVELAND 114

DETROIT 111  
Indiana 101

Phoenix 127  
MILWAUKEE 126 (OT)

Golden State at  
UTAH (late)

Seattle at  
L.A. CLIPPERS (late)

quarter before Dallas cut it to a 61-51 deficit at halftime.

Dallas finally grabbed the lead for the first time in the third period on a James Donaldson dunk; then the game saw-sawed back and forth until the overtime.

# 5-run inning powers Twins past Astros

Associated Press

KISSIMMEE, Fla. — Mark Davidson hit a grand slam home run, and Kent Hrbek added a two-run homer to power the Minnesota Twins to a 7-4 exhibition victory over the Houston Astros Wednesday.

Davidson's homer highlighted a five-run seventh inning against Jeff Heathcock.

Hrbek's homer came off Houston starter Nolan Ryan in the first inning.

Bert Blyleven allowed only one hit over the first four innings to earn the victory.

Ron Davis pitched two scoreless innings to collect the save.

Troy Asenir capped a four-run Houston uprising in the seventh with a two-run homer.

### Braves 6, Rangers 5

POMPANO BEACH, Fla. — Omar Moreno's two-out, two-run homer capped a four-run ninth inning comeback as Atlanta beat Texas 6-5 in an exhibition baseball game Wednesday.

The loss was the Rangers' first of the spring against three victories. Texas was playing a second, split squad game against the Yankees at Fort Lauderdale Wednesday night.

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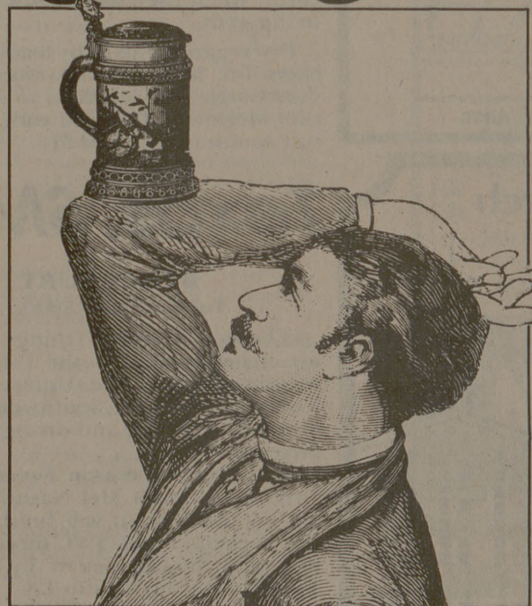
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# St. Patrick deserves more than a day. J.T. McCord's giving him a week.



A plentiful supply of green beer encourages demonstrations of daring and dexterity during St. Patrick's Week at J.T. McCord's.

Being a good Irishman, J.T. McCord feels that St. Patrick is entitled to more than a single day of tribute. After an ugly incident with a power-painter, some green latex enamel and a busload of Japanese tourists, he settled for a less extreme St. Patrick's Day celebration — St. Patrick's Week.

We're honoring St. Patrick with green beer and green drinks from March 10 through March 17. That old Irish favorite — Rueben sandwich and fries — is only \$3.99 all week long. And on March 17, we're giving away three green satin jackets for the traditional wearin' of the viridescent shiny stuff.

We realize this doesn't overcome the problem of ignoring St. Patrick for most of the year. But it does give you six more days of green beer than you'd have otherwise, and that's a start.

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