

Oliveras only A&M veteran of NCAAs

By TOM TAGLIABUE
Sports Writer

Texas A&M senior triple jumper Francisco Oliveras leads the Texas A&M men's track and field team into the NCAA indoor championships this weekend in Oklahoma City.

Oliveras is the only current team member who has competed in an NCAA championship before. Last year, he placed seventh at the NCAA outdoor meet.

Along with Oliveras, A&M Track Coach Charlie Thomas sends freshman shot putter Randy Barnes, junior long jumper Ian James and freshman sprinters Stanley Kerr, Kendrick Wesley and Maurice Holt into the NCAAs.

Barnes, who was a second place finisher at the Southwest Conference indoor meet, qualified for the NCAAs at his first indoor meet ever. He won the shot and qualified with a put of 63 feet, 3/4 inches. That mark was the season's best for Barnes.

James qualified for the NCAA meet in early February when he leaped 25 feet, 2 3/4 inches at the Dallas Times Herald Invitational.

Kerr, who was an upset winner in the 60-yard dash at the SWC indoors February 15, qualified with a time of 6.22.

Wesley and Holt both qualified in the 500-yard dash in the NCAA meet just a week ago at the "Last Chance" meet in Arizona.

While those six NCAA qualifiers are in Oklahoma City, some 20 other men's team members will travel to Houston to compete in A&M's first outdoor meet of the season at the Rice Invitational.

Both the men's and women's team will compete March 21-22 at the Texas Southern Relays in Houston. It will be the first outdoor meet of the year where both the men's and women's teams will be represented.

No. 1 Duke, Georgia Tech survive scares

Associated Press

Top-ranked Duke and No. 6 Georgia Tech had surprising battles Thursday as both struggled to victory in the opening round of the NCAA basketball tournament.

Duke needed 27 points from Johnny Dawkins, including 20 in the second half, to come from behind after the intermission and defeat little-known Mississippi Valley State 85-78, while Georgia Tech beat back unexpectedly tough Marist 68-53.

"I knew we would present Duke with some defensive problems," MVU Coach Lafayette Stribling said. "You (the media) thought we were just a little team that got here by luck. I said before there were 63 underdogs (in the 64-team tournament), but I think you were trying to put me under the underdogs."

In other day games Thursday, Temple defeated Jacksonville 61-50 in overtime, Louisville stopped Drexel 93-73, No. 2 Kansas crushed North Carolina A&T 71-46, Villanova downed Virginia Tech 71-62 and Old Dominion defeated West Virginia 72-64.

In night games, No. 12 Memphis State routed Ball State 95-63; 15th-ranked Oklahoma downed Northeastern 80-74; No. 18 Michigan State edged Washington 72-70; Alabama-Birmingham nipped Missouri 66-64, and DePaul beat Virginia 72-68.

In later night games, it was Purdue vs. Louisiana State, and No. 8 North Carolina vs. Utah.

Duke, now 33-3, was down by seven points on two occasions, the last time at 44-37 at the start of the

second half of the East Regional game at Greensboro, N.C. Mississippi Valley was down 69-67 before Duke finally pulled away with an eight-point run in which Dawkins scored six.

"I didn't think we were prepared for the quickness they had at all posi-

NCAA Tournament

tions," Duke Coach Mike Krzyzewski said.

Consecutive baskets by Frank Smith and Keith Thomas gave Old Dominion the lead for good at 38-35 in the Monarchs' victory over West Virginia, 22-11.

Old Dominion, 23-7, led by Kenny Gattison's game-high 27 points, will now meet Duke on Saturday.

Mark Price scored 20 points as Georgia Tech, 26-6, used a 12-0 spurt over a four-minute span in the second half to pull away from Marist, 19-12, in the Southeast Regional at Baton Rouge, La.

Marist, making its first NCAA tournament appearance, took a 40-37 lead over Georgia Tech early in the second half before the Regional's top-seeded team made its run.

Defending national champion Villanova, 23-13, got 20 points from Harold Jensen and held off a late surge by Virginia Tech, 22-9, for its victory.

Appearing in its seventh straight NCAA tournament, Villanova will play Georgia Tech on Saturday.

In the Midwest Regional at Dayton, Ohio, sophomore center Tim Perry scored six points in overtime

to lead Temple, 25-5, past Jacksonville, 21-10.

Perry, who missed the front end of a bonus situation with three seconds remaining that would have given Temple the victory in regulation, scored the Owls' first point in the overtime.

Second-ranked Kansas, 32-3, had four players in double figures, led by Danny Manning with 15, and never threatened in coasting past North Carolina A&T, 19-8.

The top seed in the Midwest regional, Kansas will meet Temple Saturday.

Senior forward Billy Thompson scored a game-high 24 points and grabbed 10 rebounds as No. 10 Louisville, 27-7, pulled away in the second half against Drexel, 19-12, in the West Regional at Ogden, Utah.

Texas edges by New Mexico; BYU outlasts SMU

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a 30-point effort. Guard Kelvin Scarborough added 17 points and eight assists, but the Lobos could not offset Texas' balanced attack.

A tip-in basket by Davis with 4:40 left gave the Longhorns the lead for good. Brown countered with a free throw but Brownlee then hit back-to-back baskets and New Mexico could get no closer than 68-66 on a driving layup by Scarborough with seven seconds left.

UT's Wayne Thomas hit the first of two free throws with six seconds left to ensure Texas' advance to the

second round of the NIT.

Texas, making its first appearance in the NIT since it won the tournament in 1980, is now 19-11. New Mexico finished the season at 17-14.

Brigham Young 67, SMU 63

PROVO, Utah — Brigham Young junior center Tom Gneiting scored 20 points, including a pair of critical free throws, to lead the Cougars past Southern Methodist 67-63 in the first round of the NIT Thursday night.

Gneiting sank a pair of free throws with 12 seconds remaining to

break a 63-63 tie and advance BYU to the second round of the tournament.

The Mustangs, led by Kevin Lewis' game-high 27 points, had a chance at overtime when SMU guard Scott Johnson missed a field goal with five seconds left and Lewis rebounded. But Lewis' turnaround jumper inside the key missed and the rebound was pulled down by BYU's Jeff Chatman, who was fouled and sank two free throws to end the game.

SMU trailed 41-36 at halftime, but battled back to tie the game 63-63 on

a free throw by Mustang guard Butch Moore.

Moore hit the first shot and missed the second after a disputed blocking foul with 57 seconds left, but his missed shot was grabbed by Johnny Fuller who tipped it in.

The victory gives BYU a 16-14 overall record, while SMU drops to 18-11.

George Mason 65, Lamar 63

BEAUMONT — Senior Ricky Wilson hit a 50-foot jumper with two seconds left to give George Mason a 65-63 win over Lamar Thursday night in the first round of the NIT.

Lamar led 36-29 at intermission and by as many as nine points in the second half.

But Wilson scored 15 second-half points to lead a Patriots' comeback.

With 8:49 to play Kenny Sanders, who lead George Mason with 22 points and 13 assists, connected on a short baseline shot to tie the score at 50.

The Cardinals stretched the lead to six points, 60-54, with five minutes left on a bucket by Greg Anderson.

With 3:06 to play, Wilson connected on a three-point play to narrow the Cardinals' lead to 60-59.

Bird on target for Celtics in 135-119 victory over Spurs

Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — Forward Larry Bird missed just two shots and finished with 33 points in leading the Boston Celtics to a 135-119 NBA victory over the San Antonio Spurs Thursday night.

Bird — whose only misses were a free throw and a three-point attempt — made four three-point shots, eight field goals and five free throws.

The rest of the Celtics didn't miss much in the first half either as they raced to an 80-69 lead.

Boston hit 32 of 40 attempts before the intermission for a blistering 80 percent from the field. Bird led the visitors' first-half barrage, scoring 31 points and grabbing seven rebounds.

San Antonio, which has lost 10 of its last 11 games, was led by Mike Mitchell's 30 points.

The Spurs played without three injured starters. Bird left all four of the Spurs who attempted to guard him shaking their heads.

After the six-year veteran nailed his club record-setting fourth three-point attempt, Spurs forward Jeff

Lamp looked at a screaming Coach Cotton Fitzsimmons and said, shrugging, "I just can't cover him out there, coach."

Rockets 126, Trail Blazers 118

HOUSTON — Playing without starting point guard John Lucas and center Akeem Olajuwon, the Houston Rockets' relied on Ralph Sampson's 32 points and 17 rebounds in a 126-118 victory over the Portland Trail Blazers Thursday night.

Lucas did not dress after skipping a team practice on Wednesday. In his absence, Allen Leavell scored 22 points and rookie Steve Harris scored 13 points.

Clyde Drexler led five Blazers in double figures with 26 points as Portland, 33-35, lost its ninth-straight road game.

With 2:40 left in the third period, Houston led 84-77, as Lewis Lloyd hit for 13 of his 17 points. The Rockets' margin expanded to 94-81 when Robert Reid hit three jump shots and stole a pass resulting in two Jim Petersen free throws.

NBA Roundup

Other Thursday Scores:

CHICAGO 112
Denver 102

L.A. LAKERS 105
Seattle 92

Late Wednesday Scores:

Golden State 118
UTAH 111

L.A. CLIPPERS 100
Seattle 96

A&M men in 3rd at SWC meet

AUSTIN — The Texas A&M men's swimming team finds itself in fourth place after the first day of the Southwest Conference swim meet Thursday.

Texas, the defending SWC champion, leads the pack with 263.5 points. SMU is second with 263.5, followed by Arkansas with 150.5, A&M with 92, Texas Tech with 78.5, TU with 76 and Rice with 24.

UT, paced by Brian Cisma's conference record in the 500 yard freestyle, took victories in all four events to move into the lead.

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