

Sports

Top 2 teams in Final Four field

Duke, Kansas battle in semis to meet Louisville-LSU winner

Associated Press

Top-ranked Duke routed Navy 71-50 and second-ranked Kansas fought off North Carolina State 75-67 Sunday to earn Final Four berths against each other next Saturday in the NCAA basketball championships.

Duke, which hadn't played a ranked team or one with a dominating big man in three previous tournament games, had no trouble with 6-foot-11 David Robinson and the rest of the Midshipmen in the East Regional championship at East Rutherford, N.J.

Robinson scored 23 points and had 10 rebounds for the 17th-ranked Middies — but Johnny Dawkins had 28 points and seven rebounds and Mark Alarie added 18 points for the Blue Devils. Duke raised its record to 36-2, stretched its winning streak to 20 games and left Navy's final record at 30-5.

Then the Jayhawks, 35-3, playing in their own back yard, rode Danny Manning's 22 points and Greg Dreiling's 19 past unranked North Carolina State in the Midwest Regional final. Charles Shackelford and Chris Washburn had 20 apiece for State, which wound up 21-13.

The Duke-Kansas semifinal will be a rematch of the final in the Big Apple NIT, a preseason tournament in which the Blue Devils beat the Jayhawks 92-86.

In the other NCAA semifinal matchup at Dallas' Reunion Arena, decided by games on Saturday, seventh-ranked West champion Louisville, an 84-76 winner over unranked Auburn, will face unranked Louisiana State, which upset third-ranked Kentucky 59-57 for the Southeast title.

The national championship will be decided Monday night, March 31.

1986 National Collegiate Division I Men's BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

West Regional Championship
Saturday, March 22 at Houston

Louisville 84, Auburn 76

Southeast Regional Championship
Saturday, March 22 at Atlanta

Louisiana State 59, Kentucky 57

East Regional Championship
Sunday, March 23 at East Rutherford, N.J.

Duke 71, Navy 50

Midwest Regional Championship
Sunday, March 23 at Kansas City, Mo.

Kansas 75, North Carolina St. 67

The Final Four
At Reunion Arena, Dallas

Semifinals
Saturday, March 29

Duke, 36-2, vs. Kansas, 35-3, 3:30 or 6 p.m.

Louisiana St., 26-11, vs. Louisville, 30-7, 3:30 or 6 p.m.

Championship
Monday, March 31

Semifinal winners

Kansas outscored the Wolfpack 25-10 down the stretch in the Kemper Arena at Kansas City, Mo. Manning personally outscored State 8-1 in a run during which Kansas went from 57-52 down to 62-58 up. Then Dreiling put in a follow shot

that gave the Jayhawks a 64-58 edge with 4:40 remaining.

"I'm so happy for Greg, that we needed him in such a big game and he played great," Kansas Coach Larry Brown said.

Dawkins hit only four of 15 shots

in the first half, then canned his first seven in the second half as Duke kept Navy from getting closer than 10 points.

Louisville Coach Denny Crum, celebrating the 30-7 Cardinals' trip — his sixth — to the Final Four, said, "We've had to work very hard to get to this point. We played a tough schedule but now it's paid off for us. Our kids know not to get too excited yet. They know they've got two more games to win."

Freshman center Pervis Ellison got them within two wins of a national championship by doing the job on both ends of the court in the closing minutes against Auburn. His two blocks of Chuck Person shots, a three-point play and a pair of free throws enabled Louisville to hold off the Tigers.

Herbert Crook scored 20 points for the Cardinals. Person had a game-high 23 and was named the West Regional's Most Valuable Player.

Coach Dale Brown felt profound satisfaction at LSU's upset of Kentucky, which beat the Tigers three times in three earlier meetings this season. "I thought I did my best job of coaching and they gave their best on the floor," Brown said.

LSU held the Wildcats to two field goals in the last 5:50 — one an uncontested layup with six seconds left.

With Kentucky leading 51-47, Ricky Blanton made two consecutive layups to tie it with 4:34 to play. Don Redden's jumper put the Tigers ahead again, the Wildcats tied it again on James Blackmon's basket, then LSU took the lead for good with 2:31 to go on Blanton's two free throws.

Layups by Redden and Blanton around a pair of free throws by All-American Kenny Walker clinched the victory.

Ags take final game from Coogs, 9-1

By TOM TAGLIABUE

Sports Writer

Texas A&M whipped the 24th-ranked Houston Cougars 9-1 Sunday at Olsen Field behind the pitching of Gary Geiger and the hitting of Jeff Schow.

Geiger scattered seven hits and struck out five batters, and Schow went 3-for-5, with a home run and two singles, scored two runs and drove in three runs.

Sunday's game gave the Aggies (19-14, 2-1) two-of-three wins against the Cougars: A&M was drubbed in the opening game Saturday 15-1, but bounced back behind the pitching of Dale Barry, who led the Aggs to a 10-1 win in game two.

A&M Head Coach Mark Johnson was pleased with the Aggs' wins.

"We beat an outstanding Houston team and they're a well-coached, good-hitting ballclub," Johnson said of the 24-9 Cougars. "They're not an easy ballclub (to beat). It was a great win for us. I didn't think we could hold them that well, but I was sure tickled to death that we could."

Geiger (3-3) and Barry (4-0) both allowed only one run on seven hits

and both picked up their third complete game of the year.

A&M's offense, which was so anemic in game one, exploded for 29 runs and 23 hits in the final two games. UH, which came into the series with a team batting average of .333, collected only two runs on 14 hits.

The Cougars scored in the top of the first inning when Geiger balked in the only UH run.

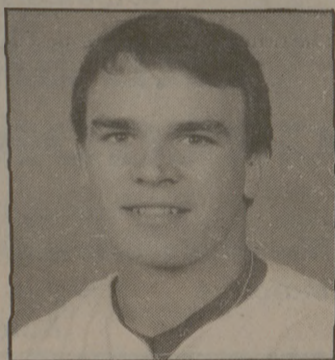
The Aggies tied the ball game in the bottom of the first when Scott Livingstone belted a one-out double

off the left field fence to score Schow, who led off the inning with a single.

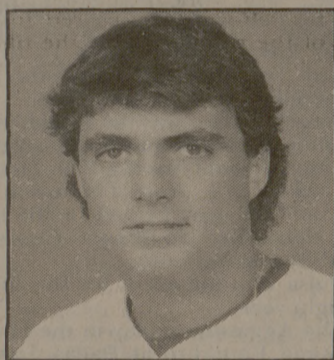
Larry Coker, who dropped his record to 5-3, came in for starter Paul Kuzniar and retired the next two batters to end the Aggie rally.

Both teams went scoreless until the sixth inning when senior first baseman Fred Gegen smacked his second homer of the season to put the Aggies ahead 2-1.

Geiger kept the Coogs off the board with the help of his defense,



Jeff Schow



Gary Geiger

including two double plays and two diving catches by Schow in left field. "I worked real hard concentrating on each pitch and being ready — thinking the ball's going to be hit to me every pitch — and it gave me the extra step I needed to make those good plays," Schow said.

A&M exploded for four runs in the seventh on two-run homers by Schow and Mike Scanlin. Schow's homer was his sixth of the season and came with Don Wren on board. Scanlin's belt was his 12th of the year — a single-season high for the senior centerfielder.

A&M added insurance runs in the eighth as Maury Martin and Schow collected RBI singles to finish the scoring barrage at 9-1.

Houston Head Coach Roland Walton said his team went stale when the Aggies came to life.

"We just all of the sudden went stale," Walton said. "It wasn't a must win, but a very important win, but our team has to face those kinds of situations early. They have to go out there knowing it's tough — we need it bad."

A&M will play Bethel College of Minnesota in a single game today at 3 p.m.

Texas begins own investigation into selling of tickets

Associated Press

DALLAS — The University of Texas has opened an in-house investigation and has notified the NCAA about allegations that football players sold complimentary tickets to boosters at prices up to \$600 per ticket, Athletic Director DeLoss Dodds said.

In a copyright story, *The Dallas Morning News* reported Sunday that former players said head coach Fred Akers was not only aware of the widespread practice but also routinely cautioned players to be careful not to get the school in trouble with the NCAA.

"Several days ago we became aware that a *Dallas Morning News* reporter was interviewing some of our former athletes for the purpose of obtaining a story that might contain allegations of possible NCAA violations," Dodds said in a prepared statement released Saturday.

"We immediately began our own investigative process with outside counsel. We have notified representatives of the NCAA enforcement division of the allegations of violations and have pledged them our full cooperation," Dodds said.

The News, during a two-month investigation, interviewed 28 former Longhorn football players whose Texas careers spanned a period from 1978 to 1986.

According to the report, 27 ex-players said ticket-selling is a UT football tradition, one that continues despite the knowledge of those involved that it is a violation of NCAA rules.

"I'm not aware of this," Akers said Friday in his Austin office. "But you don't have to make any mistake about it — I can tell you where it's going to be going from here on. It will be turned in (to

the NCAA). Yes, I'm surprised."

Citing policy, David S. Berst, the director of enforcement for the NCAA, would neither confirm nor deny there is an inquiry.

Of the 28 players interviewed by *The News*, 24 said they regularly sold their complimentary game tickets in what many players said is the best way for a UT student-athlete on scholarship to get pocket money.

Some players said they netted as much as \$4,000 a year selling their tickets. Others said they made that much just on tickets for the annual



Texas-OU game played in Dallas. "We beat the NCAA," said Tony Degrate, a standout defensive tackle from 1982 to 1984 and the winner of the 1984 Vince Lombardi Award as the nation's outstanding college lineman.

NCAA regulations allow each player to receive four complimentary tickets per game, presumably for relatives and friends. Although student-athletes used to be able to sell their complimentary tickets for face value, the NCAA ruled in 1980 that they may not sell them at any price.

Fourteen of the players interviewed recalled that Akers always warned the players to be careful when they sold their tickets — a statement Akers firmly denies.

"Well, I don't know who said that — and I don't really care — that is not true," said Akers. "They all heard the message, and that was, 'You are not to sell your tickets.'"

"And I cautioned them about being careful, who you talk to. Don't be trapped by anybody into enticing you to sell tickets. And you don't know who you're talking to — a gambler or anyone else." But the message was: "You're not to sell them (tickets)."

Nash voted SWC Coach of the Year

Texas A&M Head Swimming Coach Mel Nash was voted Southwest Conference Coach of the Year for the second time in five years by league coaches after leading the men swimmer's to a

fourth-place finish in the Swimming SWC Championships a week ago.

After completing his eligibility in 1977, Nash stayed on at Indiana University as an assistant coach.

The next season he was in Texas directing Texas-Arlington. After

two years there, Nash moved into the head job at A&M.

Nash is credited with turning around the flailing A&M program.

In 1982, his third season with the Aggies, Nash was named SWC Coach of the Year.

In addition, he recruited the Aggies' first All-American, Chris O'Neil, since 1957, he led the women to an 11th-place finish nationally last season, and has had his Aggie teams ranked in the Top 20 the past three seasons.

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