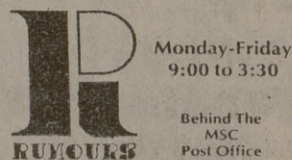


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**Stars & Stripes wins,
regains Cup for U.S.**

FREMANTLE, Australia (AP) — The America's Cup is America's again, and Dennis Conner now can be remembered as the first man to regain the Cup instead of the first to lose it.

"It's a great moment for America, a great moment for the Stars & Stripes team," Conner said after guiding the 12-meter yacht Stars & Stripes past Kookaburra III Wednesday and completing a 4-0 sweep for sailing's most prized trophy.

"And a great moment for Dennis Conner."

His blue-hulled boat with the red and white lettering won the final race easily, by one minute, 59 seconds. The gunshot signifying that Stars & Stripes had crossed the finish line, its huge American flag waving, was the signal for the victory celebration.

A mass of jubilant spectators lined the shore, shouting and smiling as the returning conquerors weaved through a flotilla of boats that flooded the harbor. More than three years ago, Conner made a similar but very different trip.

It was an early evening on Sept. 26, 1983 when he stood aboard Liberty in the darkness of the Newport, R.I., waterfront as his beaten boat came back from the course, the American flag flying at half-staff from his mast.

Australia II had just ended sport's longest winning streak — the 132-year American monopoly on the symbol of sailing supremacy. Conner became the first U.S. skipper to lose the Cup, and it filled him with determination to make the trophy's stay Down Under a short one.

He undertook a \$20 million, 2½ year campaign to bring the Cup back, this time sailing for the San Diego Yacht Club rather than the New York Yacht Club, which had held the Cup for those 132 years.

Three new boats were built. Planning and practice consumed thousands of hours. Conner survived more than three months of trials

among 13 challenging boats from six nations. He and Stars & Stripes beat New Zealand 4-1 in the January semifinal, which the Kiwi boat entered with a 37-1 record.

Kookaburra III, meanwhile, eliminated Australia IV, the Alan Bond boat that defeated Conner in Newport.

At 44 and in his fourth Cup final, Conner had an edge in experience over Kookaburra III skipper Iain Murray, in his first final at age 28.

Now, after 1,227 days as an Australian possession, the Cup is going back to the United States.

Murray, who would like to be design coordinator in his syndicate's next challenge, hopes to return the favor.

"What goes up," he said, "must come down."

Conner, winning Cup skipper on Freedom in 1980, knows the feeling. "I have a great feeling of empathy for the job he's in and the way he's feeling right now," Conner said.

At a news conference the day he lost the Cup, Conner fought unsuccessfully to hold back tears. At Wednesday's news conference, he smiled frequently.

"It'll probably all sink in tomorrow or the next day or the week after," he said. "Right now we're savoring it."

It was the 18th American sweep in the 26 Cup competitions, and the first since Ted Turner won with Courageous in 1977.

Stars & Stripes won in light, moderate and heavy winds during the final series. It won 14 of the 16 upwind legs; it won five of the eight downwind legs in which Kookaburra III was thought to be strong; it led after every leg of the eight-leg, 24.1-mile races on the Indian Ocean.

Stars & Stripes won the first three races by 1:41, 1:10 and 1:46. Its clinching victory, in moderate to heavy southwest winds of 16 to 20 knots, had the biggest margin.

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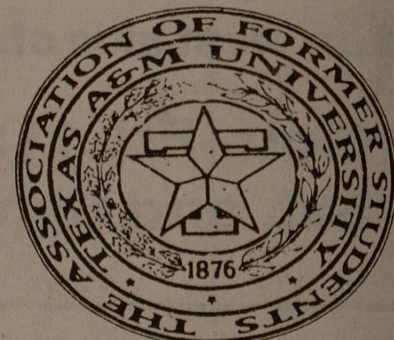
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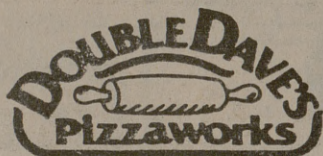
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**Aggies travel to SMU
to begin 2nd season**

By Doug Hall
Sports Writer

With a 4-4 Southwest Conference mid-season record, it's do-or-die time for the Texas A&M basketball team.

The Aggies, who begin their second round of SWC play tonight when they travel to SMU for a showdown against the 2-7 Mustangs, are trying to end a three-game losing streak that began 16 days ago with a devastating loss to Rice.

Texas A&M Head Coach Shelby Metcalf said he hasn't changed his team's strategy in order to break the losing streak, which includes the Aggies' 87-69 loss to Arkansas and the 71-70 loss to Baylor on Jan. 28., but that his staff has tried to keep this week's practices upbeat.

But even with a positive attitude and an eight-day layoff, Metcalf said SMU, which is fresh off a 75-73 upset over Baylor, is not a team to take lightly.

"They will definitely be mentally ready to play," Metcalf said. "We're going to have to go up there and play hard."

In the first meeting of the two teams this season, the Aggies escaped with a narrow 2-point victory, 61-59, when Winston Crite grabbed a John Trezvant air-ball and drilled the winner home at the buzzer.

Combine that fact with the Aggies' less-than-spectacular 1-5 road record, and Moody Coliseum suddenly becomes a formidable place to play, despite the Mustangs' 10-10 season record.

"SMU is a very tough team," said Metcalf, who is currently in

his 24th season with the Aggies. "Personnel-wise, they are probably right up there with TCU. I think Arkansas has the most talent in the league, but it's really only their first year to play together as a team."

After SMU defeated second-place Baylor last Saturday in Waco, Bears Coach Gene Iba said, "SMU played like everyone in our league knew they would sooner or later."

The Mustangs, who have the highest winning percentage in the SWC over the last three years, are led by sophomore guard Kato Armstrong, who hit 26 points against Baylor including a game-clinching four-point play, and 6-9 center Terry Williams who was 5-7 from the floor on Saturday.

"They have a bunch of fine shooters," Metcalf said. "But if I had to pick one player to key on it would be Terry Williams. Armstrong and (junior forward Carlton) McKinney are great shooters, though. You can't slough-off on Williams because they will hurt you from outside."

When asked if players might be looking forward to Sunday's home-court showdown with TCU, Metcalf replied, "Oh no, we just want to go up there and have some success on the road. We just barely beat them here at the buzzer. I don't think that will happen at all."

The winner of tonight's 7:30 game will also move into the lead of 68-year rivalry between the two schools. After playing each other 114 times, the series record is even at 57 wins apiece.

**Baylor upsets TCU 66-63
to end Frog winning streak**

WACO (AP) — Baylor guard Michael Williams scored four late baskets including a slam dunk with a second to play Wednesday night to carry the Bears to a 66-63 Southwest Conference basketball upset of 15th-ranked Texas Christian, snapping the Horned Frogs 14-game winning streak.

TCU suffered its first SWC loss in 10 games and dropped to 19-4 overall. The Bears improved to 7-3 and 12-8.

Williams didn't score a point in the second half until he hit three straight baskets to give the Bears a 61-58 lead with 1:03 to play.

Mark Buchanan's two free throws with 32 seconds left gave the Bears a 64-58 lead.

TCU's Jamie Dixon, who had seven three-point field goals, hit a three-pointer and two free throws to bring the Horned Frogs to within a point.

Robert McLemore then stole a

TCU in-bounds pass and fed the ball to Williams for the slam dunk which gave the Bears revenge for an earlier 71-56 loss in Fort Worth.

Williams finished with 15 points for Baylor while Dixon had a game-high 23 points for the Horned Frogs.

Buchanan had 12 points while Larry Richards added 16 for TCU. The Horned Frogs, who played without flu-stricken starting center Tony Papa, struggled against Baylor's changing and confusing defenses in the first half.

TCU led 31-29 at intermission when team leading scorer Carven Holcombe made a basket and a free throw in the final minute. Holcombe had to constantly fight through the Bears' double-teaming defense but had 10 points in the first 20 minutes.

Holcombe, who was averaging 17 points in SWC play, had 15 points for TCU.