

TCU slams Marshall in NCAA first round

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Carven Holcombe waited until after No. 19 Texas Christian played Marshall to tell TCU Coach Jim Killingsworth that he felt "very weak" from the flu.

By that time the damage had been done — to Marshall.

Holcombe, the Southwest Conference player of the year, scored 30 points to lead TCU to an easy 76-60 victory over Marshall in the opening round of the NCAA basketball tournament's East Regional. Despite his illness, Holcombe made 14 of 17 shots from the field and played all 40 minutes. It did, however, keep him away from a post-game press conference.

"He told me in the dressing room after the game that he was very weak from the flu," Killingsworth said. "I had no idea he was sick, but I'm not surprised he didn't tell me because he probably thought I'd limit his playing time."

"He'd have to be on his deathbed before he would tell me he felt bad," Killingsworth said. "Carven is the Southwest Conference MVP and I think he showed why. He's played like this all year."

"They patiently, methodically whipped us," Marshall Coach Rick Hickabay said. "And Holcombe was tremendous. We put three guys on him and none of them could slow him down."

"After we clinched the (SWC) title

we thought it was open season on the basket," Killingsworth said. "Today we finally played good defense and showed patience on offense."

TCU, 24-6, making its first appearance in the tournament since 1971, took control of the game midway through the first half. TCU scored 12 consecutive points to turn a 16-12 deficit into a 24-16 advantage. Holcombe and Larry Richard each scored five points in the run.

TCU, the SWC regular-season champion and the No. 4 seed in the regional, expanded the lead to 13 points late in the half before settling for a 38-27 halftime advantage. The Horned Frogs shot 73 percent from the field in the half and forced Marshall into 11 turnovers.

Marshall, the Southern Conference champion, closed within 48-41 with 14 minutes left, but TCU responded with an 8-1 run to push the lead back to 14 points. Marshall, 25-6, couldn't get closer than nine points the rest of the way.

The Thundering Herd, who entered the game having won 20 of their last 21 games, is now 0-5 in NCAA play.

Carl Lott added 14 points for TCU, which bounced back from a loss to Texas A&M a week ago in the opening round of the SWC tournament.

Dwayne Lewis led Marshall with 17 points and Skip Henderson added 14.

Upsets sparse in early NCAA action

From the Associated Press

While top-ranked Nevada-Las Vegas opened its bid for an NCAA basketball title with an unsurprising 95-70 thrashing of Idaho State in a first-round game of the West Regional, lightly regarded Xavier stunned 14th-ranked Missouri 70-69 in the Southeast Regional.

Freddie Banks got all seven of his baskets from 3-point range and finished with 23 points as UNLV, 34-1, strolled past the bottom seed in the West Regional. Gary Graham added 18

points for UNLV, which led by 26 points in the second half.

"Our kids had a hard time adjusting to the altitude (at Salt Lake City) because our game is so based on quickness," UNLV Coach Jerry Tarkanian said.

Alabama was at it again Thursday, giving North Carolina A&T an 88-71 shellacking in the Southeast Regional, and New Orleans stopped Brigham Young 83-79.

In the East Regional, Texas Christian eliminated Marshall 76-60 and Notre Dame stormed away in the late going for an 84-

71 victory over Middle Tennessee.

No. 17 Duke, in jeopardy of joining Missouri as a Midwest Regional upset victim, rode Kevin Strickland's 20 points to a 58-51 defeat of Texas A&M. And, in the other West Regional game, Kansas State needed an overtime to get by Georgia 82-79 as Mitch Richmond scored 34 points.

In night games, Navy, 26-5, faced Michigan, 19-11, and No. 2 North Carolina, 29-3, met Pennsylvania, 13-13, in East Regional

play at Charlotte, N.C. Illinois, 23-7, went against Austin Peay, 19-11, and Providence, 21-8, squared off with Alabama-Birmingham, 21-10, in the Southeast Regional at Birmingham, Ala.

In the Midwest Regional Thursday night, it was Auburn, 17-12, against San Diego, 24-5, and No. 3 Indiana, 24-4, against Fairfield, 15-15. UCLA, 24-6, met Central Michigan, 22-7, and Virginia, 21-9, took on Wyoming, 22-9, in the West Regional at Salt Lake City.

Controversial call dooms Baylor in NIT action

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) — James Dawn made two free throws after time had expired to give the University of Arkansas at Little Rock a 42-41 victory over Baylor on Thursday in the first round of the National Invitation Tournament, and Baylor Coach Gene Iba was furious.

Iba accused the timekeeper of deliberately delaying the buzzer.

"If you have to come down here and deal with classless people who will look you in the eye and tell you something like that, there's no use going to the NIT," Iba said.

He said that timekeeper Ray Rainey said, "I did it and I enjoyed it."

Rainey denied making such a statement.

"I think it's sour grapes," UALR Coach Mike Newell said. "I think I'm above that, to make comments like that, or about that."

Iba said that if any coach called him and asked him about competing in the NIT, he would tell him it's not worth it. He then referred to Nolan Richardson, coach of the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, another NIT team. "I'm going to call Nolan tomorrow and if they put him down here, I'd tell him not to come."

Iba said there was no way that Dawn could catch the ball and pull up for a jumper in a fraction of a second.

"It doesn't take a fraction of a second to inbound the ball, and he fouled him as soon as James shot," Newell said. "Both teams made some

silly mistakes. I thought that was a silly mistake for their young man to jump out there and foul in front of the official. He shouldn't have expected not to get the call in front of the official."

Darryl Middleton put Baylor on top 41-40 when he made one of two free throws with 24 seconds remaining.

UALR, champion of the Trans America Athletic Conference, called time with 14 seconds left. Daron Hoges missed from the baseline and Curtis Kidd missed on the follow. Frank Williams rebounded Kidd's miss but went to the floor and was whistled for traveling. The clock showed all zeroes, but the horn had not sounded.

The Trojans threw the ball in to

Dawn on the baseline, and he was fouled by McLemore as he missed a jump shot.

UALR, 24-9, led 21-20 at the half. The Trojans led by three points on three occasions in the second half and the Bears, 18-13 and runner-up in the Southwest Conference, held a two-point lead on five occasions.

Middleton, Baylor's main man down the stretch, got inside for a basket that made it 40-38 with 3:04 left. The Trojans shot an airball and then failed to convert on a fast break before Paul Springer hit a jump shot with 1:07 that tied it at 40.

Middleton led all scorers with 15. Curtis Kidd paced the Trojans with 11. Both teams shot less than 35 percent from the field.

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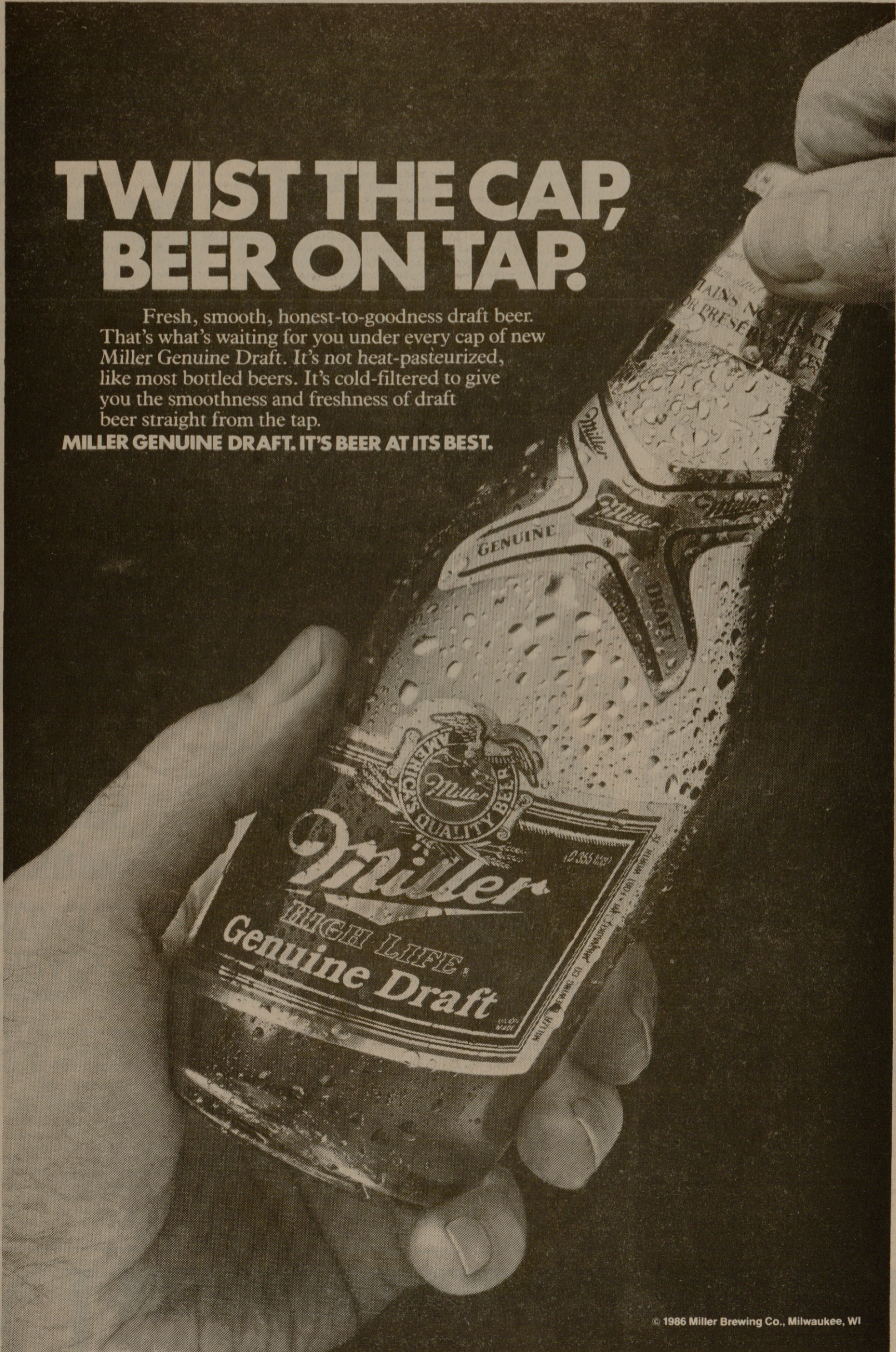
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