

Sports

Ags beat UH twice, place third in SWC

From Staff and Wire Reports
The Texas A&M baseball team clinched third place in the Southwest Conference by taking two of three games from the University of Houston last weekend in Houston.

The 12th-ranked Aggies only needed to win one game, and they did just that in Friday's opener, clubbing the Cougars 12-3. A&M and UH split Saturday's double-header, as the Cougars edged the Aggies 4-3 in the first game, and the Aggies stormed back to take the second game 10-4.

The third-place finish for A&M means it will face Arkansas, which finished second, in the first round of the SWC Post-Season Baseball Tournament May 15 at Disch-Falk Field in Austin. Conference champion Texas will face UH.

The Aggies ended the season with a 41-18-1 record. They finished 14-7 in conference.

In Friday's game, A&M made short work of six Cougar pitchers, battering them for 14 hits. A&M's Gary Geiger won his seventh consecutive game to up his record to 11-2, and Scott Livingston hit his 18th home run of the year, a towering grand slam, to propel the Aggies to victory.

In Saturday's opener, UH pitcher Jody Supak saw his team jump out to a 4-0 lead and fight off an A&M rally to preserve the win.

A&M designated hitter John Byington began the rally with a two-run home run in the sixth inning to trim UH's lead to 4-2.

The Aggies started sluggishly in the second game, as the Cougars got off to a 2-1 lead after the first inning.

A&M took the lead in the second inning when Albright hit his first home run of the year to knock in two runs.

SWC schools successful despite controversy

By Doug Hall
Senior Sports Writer

Editor's note: This is a preview of a five-part series comparing the athletic departments of the Southwest Conference. The series will run through the week and conclude one week from Wednesday with a look at Texas A&M.

The Southwest Conference. Nine institutions of higher learning. Five are public universities and four are private. Three have enrollment of over 30,000 and three are under 10,000.

All nine have athletic departments. Six, however, are currently under some type of investigation or indictment by the NCAA for reported illegal activities in recruiting, payoffs and slush funds.

The SWC: Schools Without Class, Schools Will Cheat, Schools Without Credibility, all are labels that have been tagged on this group since Texas Christian, Texas, Texas A&M, Houston, Southern Methodist and Texas Tech have come under the NCAA's gun.

But despite having the unusual distinction of having two-thirds of its

members under investigation, the athletic departments around the SWC have produced winners for many years.

And according to athletic department officials around the conference, each school is currently making improvements in its individual programs and each continues to put forth a winning program.

SWC Commissioner Fred Jacoby said although the conference's reputation has been hurt in wake of the recent controversies, each school has a chance to correct its problems and rebound even stronger.

"Very definitely (the scandals) have affected the conference," Jacoby said. "But there are no two cases that are similar. Each one has to be weighed and evaluated on its own."

"Those who have been affected are currently making adjustments to correct those problems. In each problem, there is also an opportunity. Those schools have a chance to strengthen their programs."

Jacoby also said having eight of the nine schools in one state can be a disadvantage. For example, the Big 10 includes 10 schools in seven dif-

ferent states. Not more than two of the schools are in the same state.

Additionally, he said, the four private institutions in the SWC must allot significantly more money for athletic scholarships than their state-supported counterparts.

In the Big 10, only Northwestern is a non-state-supported institution.

A third area in which Jacoby said the SWC is unique is in the diversity of enrollment size throughout the conference.

"When Texas A&M has 36,000 students and Rice has only 3,000," Jacoby said, "there is just no way they can generate the same kind of support or attendance."

Over the last academic year, though, SWC fans have had good reason to support their respective teams.

During the 1986-87 football season, Texas A&M, Arkansas and Baylor all finished in the wire services' Top-20 polls. In basketball, TCU's 24-7 record placed them 18th in the final AP poll and took them to the second round of the NCAA tournament before losing by a point to Notre Dame.

Southwest Conference baseball is

as strong as any conference in the nation. Perennial powerhouse Texas, which went to the NCAA final four in Omaha, Neb. last year, is once again ranked No. 1 in the country.

In the current polls, Arkansas is No. 4 in the nation and Texas A&M is No. 13.

In women's basketball and volleyball, Texas again holds a stronghold over the rest of the SWC. Similarly, Arkansas dominates men's track, having won four of the last five SWC championships.

Why do the SWC schools excel at athletics?

Consider the state of Texas' size, the large number of athletes it produces, the emphasis that has traditionally been placed on athletics in the South, and the proportionately large number of dollars spent on athletics by SWC schools. All of these are factors that produce successful results.

But in the wake of the recent turmoil surrounding numerous SWC members, will the conference still be able to produce the type of winners in the future that it has in the past?

Tuesday — Arkansas and Baylor.

Milwaukee ends career of 76ers' Erving

Thanks largely to Craig Hodges, Sunday was the last day of the Philadelphia 76ers' season and the final game of Julius Erving's career.

The Milwaukee guard scored all 14 of his points in the fourth quarter, including six on a pair of 3-point baskets, to lead the Bucks to a 102-89 victory over the 76ers in the deciding fifth game of an opening-round NBA Eastern Conference playoff series.

In other games Sunday, Golden State won its first-round Western Conference series by beating Utah 118-113 in Game 5 and Detroit beat Atlanta 112-111 in the opening game of an Eastern Conference semifinal series.

Golden State opens its conference semifinal series against the Los Angeles Lakers Tuesday night at Inglewood, Calif.

Erving scored 24 points in the final game of his 16-season profes-

sional career. He was given a rousing ovation by Milwaukee fans when he left the game with 40 seconds remaining.

Jack Sikma led the Bucks with 18 points and 21 rebounds, and John Lucas added 17 points.

Milwaukee played the second half without Coach Don Nelson, who was ejected in the second quarter after receiving two technical fouls for arguing with referee Earl Strom. Assistant Coach Del Harris took over his duties.

Pistons 112, Hawks 111

Isiah Thomas scored 30 points, including the deciding free throw with 16 seconds remaining, to lift the visiting Pistons.

The Hawks had a chance to win after Thomas' free throw, but Dominique Wilkins misfired on a 15-footer and Randy Wittman missed a rebound attempt before time expired.

Thomas, who made 11 of 16 shots from the field, was fouled driving for the basket with 16 seconds left. He missed the first free throw, but made the second.

Warriors 118, Jazz 113

Joe Barry Carroll scored 24 points and Larry Smith tipped in a rebound with 17 seconds left to spark Golden State.

The Warriors became the first team in 31 years to overcome a 2-0 deficit in a five-game NBA series.

The Jazz, who trailed by 22 in the third quarter, closed within 114-111 on a basket and free throw by Mark Eaton in the closing minutes.

Smith, who finished with 12 points, padded the Warriors' lead to 116-111 when he tipped in a rebound. Eric "Sleepy" Floyd then stole Kelly Tripucka's in-bounds pass to finish Utah's comeback.

Sonics' Williams and Ellis arrested after fight in Houston night club

HOUSTON (AP) — Two Seattle SuperSonics players were arrested and jailed briefly Sunday after one of them punched an assistant manager in the face at a crowded night club, police said.

Kevin Williams and Dale Ellis were at the Ocean Club shortly after midnight when Williams began arguing with assistant manager Scott Shelton and slugged him with a glancing blow, police spokesman Dan W. Turner said.

Two off-duty Houston police officers working as security guards at the club rushed over, saw Williams strike Shelton and

then pulled the two men apart, Turner said.

Ellis then approached the table and tried to talk to the officers as Williams struggled with them, Turner said.

Both were hauled off and handcuffed in one of the club's private offices. Williams was charged with misdemeanor resisting arrest, and Ellis with misdemeanor hindering arrest, Turner said.

Ellis was allowed to call the Sonics coach Bernie Bickerstaff from the club.

"The coach knew before they left that they were going to jail," Turner said. "The pair was jailed a short time and bail of

\$500 each was posted Sunday."

Turner said he didn't know what the fight was about, nor whether any other Sonics teammates were in the club when the incident occurred about 12:45 a.m. No one else was injured in the struggle.

An employee at the Ocean Club referred all calls to Jeff Meinecke, the club's general manager, but he could not immediately be reached for comment.

The Sonics had defeated the Houston Rockets 111-106 hours before in game one of the NBA playoff second-round series. Ellis has been voted the NBA's most-improved player this year.

The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi

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