

# Sports

## Ags get NCAA playoff bid despite rough SWC tourney

**From Staff and Wire Reports**  
Despite a quick removal from the Southwest Conference Baseball Tournament, the Texas Aggies got some good news Monday when they were extended an invitation to the 48-team NCAA post-season tournament.

A&M, which finished the year with a 41-20-1 record, will travel to Starkville, Miss. to face Purdue in the first round of the Midwest Regional Thursday at noon.

The Aggies enter the regional-seeded third behind Oklahoma State and top-seeded Mississippi State. Purdue, which will be making its first appearance in the tournament, carries a 36-21-1 record into post-season play.

A&M was the fourth SWC team to get a bid following Houston, Arkansas and SWC tourney champion Texas. Houston will take on Indiana State at the Central Regional in Aus-

tin, and the Longhorns will also be at home in Austin to face Lamar.

Arkansas heads to the South I Regional in Huntsville, Ala. to battle Middle Tennessee State.

A&M did not get into the playoffs the way it wanted to, however, as the Aggies dropped a close game to Arkansas and then another to Houston to exit the SWC tourney last weekend at Disch-Falk Field in Austin.

In the Arkansas game Friday afternoon, the Razorbacks got off to a quick 4-0 start against the Aggies and held off an A&M rally to preserve a 4-3 victory.

Even though A&M battered Arkansas pitchers for 13 hits, all singles, the Aggies couldn't get the runs across in the late going, stranding runners at third in the last three innings.

The Aggies cut the Razorbacks' lead to 4-3 in the eighth on hits by Chuck Knoblauch, John Byington

and Tim McWilliam, but Knoblauch was then called out at home and Eric Albright was the final put-out to end the game.

In Saturday's elimination game against the Cougars, A&M held on to an 8-5 lead until the seventh inning when the Cougars tied it. UH's four runs in the eighth sealed the win.

Houston center-fielder Lonnie Walker drove in five runs to help the Cougars, and he had four extra-base hits, including a home run, a double and two triples.

Despite the weak showing in the SWC tourney, A&M Coach Mark Johnson was pleased with the team's bid to the NCAA tourney.

"I think it's great," Johnson said. "We play for two major goals — to win conference and go to regionals — so we're happy to be going to a regional anywhere."

## Lady Aggies are Omaha-bound A&M trips Lady Techsters for Series berth

**From Staff and Wire Reports**  
The Texas A&M softball team will be on familiar ground Thursday when it takes on Central Michigan at 8:30 p.m. in the College World Series in Omaha, Neb.

The second-ranked Lady Aggies advanced to the series by sweeping Louisiana Tech in a best-of-three series last weekend at Bee Creek Park in College Station.

It will be A&M's fourth trip in five years to the World Series. The Aggies won the whole thing in 1983 and were runners-up in 1984 and 1986. The Lady Aggies missed the trip in 1985 because

they were eliminated in the regionals by Louisiana Tech.

A&M defeated No. 8 Central Michigan twice during the regular season by scores of 4-2 and 6-1.

A&M got off to a quick start in the series by capturing game one 4-0 on Friday. A&M catcher Erika Eriksson drove in two runs in the first to give the Lady Aggies a 2-0 lead, and Zina Ochoa drove in two runs in the third to give A&M the winning margin.

"We've been hitting the ball real well the last 15 or 16 games," A&M Coach Bob Brock said. "We have a lot of speed this year and it puts a lot of pressure on a team."

A&M took Saturday's game by edging the Lady Techsters 2-1. The Lady Aggies scored quickly again in the game when pitcher Shawn Andaya's sacrifice fly brought home Julie Smith, who led off the game with a double.

Mizera then cracked her seventh home run of the year to put the Lady Aggies up 2-1.

Louisiana Tech's lone run came in the seventh inning when pinch runner Sue Stewart scored on a double steal.

"I was hoping we could score early," Brock said. "We let down a couple of times, but I'm just tickled to death we were able to hold on."

## Mavs' Motta to announce today if he will be in Dallas or New York

DALLAS (AP) — Dallas Mavericks Coach Dick Motta will announce today whether he will stay with the NBA team or continue seeking a job with the New York Knicks, Mavericks majority owner Donald Carter said.

Carter also said he got an apology from Motta for any misunderstanding that resulted from recent statements Motta made to New York newspapers, and that there is no question in his mind the coach will return for an eighth season.

"He apologized for anything that hurt the Mavericks," Carter said.

"He does not want to hurt the Dallas Mavericks' organization in any way, shape or form. If he said anything to hurt them, Coach is going to apologize."

Carter met two hours Monday night with Motta, who has been

talking with the Knicks about their vacant coaching position.

The coach is scheduled to declare his intentions by 5 p.m. Motta said after the meeting that "I have no comment. I won't say anything until Wednesday. Carter's doing all the talking. Everything went pretty good."

Carter said that because he had given Motta until Friday to make his decision, the two did not discuss New York, the draft or even basketball at their meeting Monday.

"Coach Motta went to New York with my permission," Carter said. "And in the course of that trip, some of the words and actions definitely created some misunderstandings."

Carter said the meeting Monday was to go over some remarks attributed to Motta during his trip to meet with Knicks officials.

"But it was never the coach's intent to say anything negative about this city, this team or the (Dallas-Fort Worth) metroplex," Carter said.

Motta was quoted as saying he was not sure the Mavericks could win a championship and that previous draft choices the Mavericks had accumulated did not get them center they wanted.

Motta "in no way, can understand how anyone would misinterpret what he said about our center," Carter said.

"The statement he made was that we never got our center through the draft, which is correct."

Carter said someone asked him if he had invited Motta to return next season, and that "I told them that as far as I was concerned, he never left."

## Pirates overcome Astros for win

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Pittsburgh scored the go-ahead run in the seventh inning with the help of Houston shortstop Dickie Thon's error and Mike Diaz hit a solo homer as the Pirates beat the Astros 5-2 Tuesday night.

With the score tied 2-2, the Pirates loaded the bases with one out in the seventh when reliever Dave Meads, 3-1, hit Rafael Belliard with a pitch, pinch hitter Bill Almon singled and Barry Bonds walked.

Larry Andersen replaced Meads and Bobby Bonilla grounded to second. It would not have been a double play but Thon dropped Bill Doran's throw. Belliard scored and Johnny Ray's sacrifice fly scored Almon.

The Pirates added a run in the eighth. Andy Van Slyke singled and took second on Andersen's wild pickoff throw. Sid Bream's grounder advanced Van Slyke to third and Mike LaValliere singled him home.

John Smiley, 3-1, got the victory, despite squandering the 2-0 lead he inherited in the fifth inning from Pirates starter Brian Fisher. Don Robinson worked two scoreless innings for his seventh save.

Fisher checked the Astros on four hits and the Pirates led 2-0 when the rains came in the fifth. Smiley then came on to retire the first three hitters he faced until Glenn Davis hit his fifth home run of the season with two out in the sixth.

## Parish's 30 points powers Celtics by Pistons

BOSTON (AP) — Robert Parish scored 15 of his 31 points in the third quarter when Boston took control, and the Celtics went on to a 104-91 victory over the Detroit Pistons in the opener of their NBA Eastern Conference final Tuesday night.

Boston's 44-40 halftime lead dropped to 48-47 on Adrian Dantley's short shot in the lane. Then Parish scored 13 points in a 26-14 run that gave the Celtics their biggest lead of the third quarter, 74-61, with 1:05 left.

Detroit cut the margin to 75-68 going into the fourth period, but

Boston maintained a lead of from seven to 15 points the rest of the way.

Boston, which is 33-1 in its last 34 games at the Garden, will be home again for Thursday night's second game of the best-of-seven series.

Kevin McHale scored 21 points and Dennis Johnson and Larry Bird 18 each for the Celtics, who had just one day off after their seven-game conference semifinal victory over the Milwaukee Bucks. Detroit, which beat Atlanta 4-1 in the other semifinal and hadn't played since Wednesday, was led by Isiah Thomas with 18 points and Dantley with 17.

The Pistons, who lost their 15th straight game at Boston Garden since their last victory there on Dec. 19, 1982, took their biggest lead, 16-11, on Joe Dumars' short jumper with 5:06 left in the first period.

But Johnson hit consecutive baskets that started a 14-2 spurt and Jerry Sichting followed with a 15-foot jumper, giving Boston the lead for good at 17-16 with 3:30 left in the period.

Sichting played in place of injured guard Danny Ainge, who missed the game with a sprained right knee suffered in Sunday's clinching victory over Milwaukee.

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