

# Sports

## Arkansas, Baylor, SMU SWC hoop favorites

DALLAS (AP) — The Arkansas Razorbacks are the preseason Southwest Conference basketball favorites based on a deep, talented team that has had two years to learn Coach Nolan Richardson's system.

"You have to look at Arkansas, SMU, and Baylor as the early favorites based on returning players and recruiting," Texas Coach Bob Weltlich said.

However, Weltlich said it should be another wild year like last season, when lightly regarded Texas A&M won the SWC Post-Season Classic to earn a spot in the NCAA Playoffs.

The SWC didn't fare well in the NCAA and NIT playoffs last year.

Texas A&M lost to Duke 58-51, Texas Christian fell to Notre Dame 58-57, and Houston lost to Kansas 66-55 last March in the first round of the road to the Final Four. Arkansas-Little Rock edged Baylor 42-41 in the first round of the NIT.

Baylor Coach Gene Iba believes the SWC will bounce back strong.

"I think you will see one or possibly two teams in our league that might be as good as most teams around," said Iba. "I see Arkansas having more overall talent from top to bottom than they have had in quite a few years."

Iba said his team could be much improved. The Bears proved it by whipping the Czechoslovakian National team recently in an exhibition game.

Guard Michael Williams and center Darryl Middleton give the Bears a strong offensive tandem.

Richardson said the Razorbacks will return 12 lettermen and he hopes 6-11 center Andrew Lang can become a dominating force.

"We need to get strong inside play from Andrew and our new point guards must come through," Richardson said. "We should have a good running team."

He tried to deflect some of the attention directed at the Razorbacks.

"SMU is a team everyone needs to look out for. They should be very good," Richardson said.

SMU Coach Dave Bliss is excited about a Carlton McKinney-led team

that could be very potent.

"We're quicker and blessed with more athletic talent," Bliss says. "We have more options in what we can do offensively and defensively."

McKinney hit double figures in 25 of 29 games last season and was the SWC's leading scorer, averaging 20 points.

Houston Coach Pat Foster has lost Rickie Winslow and Greg Anderson, the last two members of the Cougars' famed Phi Slamma Jama era.

However, 7-foot-1 center Rolando Ferreira, a Brazilian with an excellent shooting touch to go with his rebounding strength, makes Houston a factor in the race.

Texas A&M and Texas Tech also could surprise.

Coach Shelby Metcalf of the Aggies said, "You'll need a scorecard to know this team this season. We'll have a lot of new players."

"There is a talent gap between SMU and Arkansas and the rest of their league. They have some horses," Metcalf added.

Texas Tech Coach Gerald Myers, who has perhaps the best guard in the SWC in Sean Gay, said, "the league as a whole will be much stronger than last season. Arkansas, Baylor and SMU should be the best."

Texas Christian, last year's regular season champion, could be down in the second division.

"We don't have a lot of experience and we're small," said new Coach Moe Iba, who replaced the retired Jim Killingsworth. "We're a big question mark."

New Rice Coach Scott Thompson said it will take awhile for the Owls to get going. He replaces Tommy Suitts.

"Anytime you have a new program and you're putting in a new system, you worry about how the players will adjust," he said. "I know we have to develop a winning attitude."

You have to give Thompson at least a "C" for courage. He scheduled the undermanned Owls for a December date with mighty Georgetown on the Hoyas home court.

## UT volleyball team dominates A&M Lady Aggies finish home season on sour note

By Tammy Hedgpeth  
Sports Writer

The tradition continues.

The Texas A&M volleyball team did not break its losing streak against the University of Texas Wednesday night in G. Rollie White Coliseum. The Lady Longhorns downed the Lady Aggies in three straight games 15-6, 15-12, 15-2.

The match marked the final home match for the Lady Aggies and senior Michelle Whitwell.

"I don't think it's set in yet," Whitwell said, "We still have games to play just not at home. It will be sometime later when I know I won't suit up again and be out there playing with the A&M team."

The loss was not out of a lack of effort; the Lady Aggies were simply overpowered by the seventh-ranked Lady Longhorns.

"They are a very good team," A&M Head Coach Al Givens said. "Offensively, they overpowered us. They have two middles who are so experienced and we were not able to stop them."

"We wanted to stop them from scoring more than one point in a rotation and we were not able to do that. We could not get on track to where we could do that."

Junior Cheri Steensma led the attack for the Lady Aggies by recording 10 kills out of 27 attempts. Sophomore Kelli Kellen added eight kills.

The defense was paced by

sophomore Yvonne Van Brandt who had 14 digs and 24 assists of 70 attempts for an assist percentage of .343.

"Tonight was their night," Van Brandt said. "I'm disappointed for us because we didn't play well. I think we just came into the match knowing we did not have anything to lose. But it's better when you go down and play well than when you just go down."

The Lady Aggies are sporting an overall record of 15-19 and a Southwest Conference mark of 4-6 after winning six of their last eight matches.

"I think a lot of us are disappointed," Van Brandt said, "but yet we're still proud to be a part of A&M."

The Lady Longhorns faced their only challenge of the match in the second game when the Lady Aggies extended their only lead of the match to 12-10.

"In the second game we had our moments," Van Brandt said. "We just didn't capitalize on it. They gave us every opportunity to go ahead and win that game. If we had won, it would have changed some momentum."

"Today, they were a better team than we were," Givens said. "but that doesn't mean it has to remain that way. I think next year Texas A&M will be the team to beat."

Van Brandt agreed.

"Next year, I think A&M is going to be a contender for the Southwest Conference title."

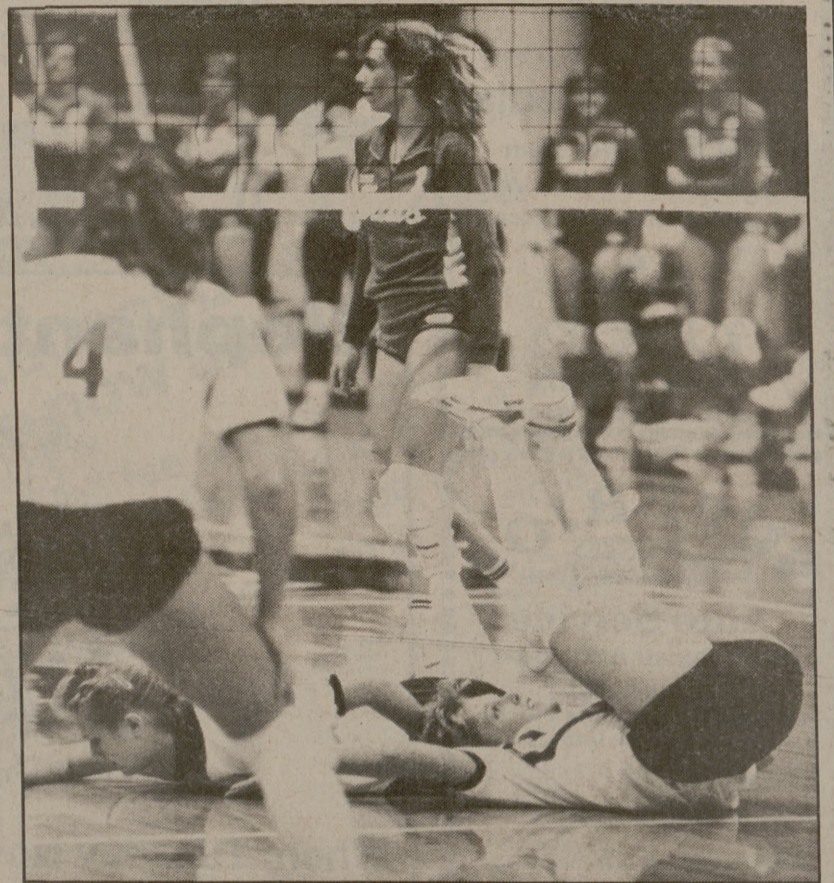


Photo by Robert W. Rizzo

Texas A&M's Dena Zalesky (left) and Krista Hierholzer hit the ground after colliding during the match which was won in three games by Texas Wednesday night in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

## Aguirre leads late Maverick run as Dallas beats Clippers

DALLAS (AP) — Mark Aguirre scored five points during a 9-2 run midway through the fourth quarter Wednesday night to lift the Dallas Mavericks to a 97-87 NBA victory over the Los Angeles Clippers.

Dallas trailed 79-78 with 7:50 to play, but Derek Harper hit a 12-foot jump shot to give the Mavericks a lead they didn't relinquish.

Aguirre hit a free throw and got credit for two baskets on goal-tending calls against the Clippers during the two-minute run, which boosted the Mavericks' advantage to 89-81.

Michael Cage, who led the Clippers with 23 points, scored six straight points to put Los Angeles within 89-87 with 2:25 to play.

But Roy Tarpley hit a pair of free

throws, Aguirre scored on a layup and Tarpley muscled in a layup to bump Dallas' lead to 95-87 with 1:22 left.

Aguirre led the Mavericks with 31 points. Rolando Blackman added 19 and Harper finished with 16.

Harper scored seven points during a 16-2 Dallas run early in the third quarter, turning a 52-45 deficit

into a 61-54 lead with 7:24 left in the third quarter.

The Clippers led by as many as 13 in the second quarter before the Mavericks went on a 10-4 run in the final 2:21 to narrow Los Angeles' halftime lead to 50-43.

Dallas held an opponent to less than 100 points for the third time in seven games this season.

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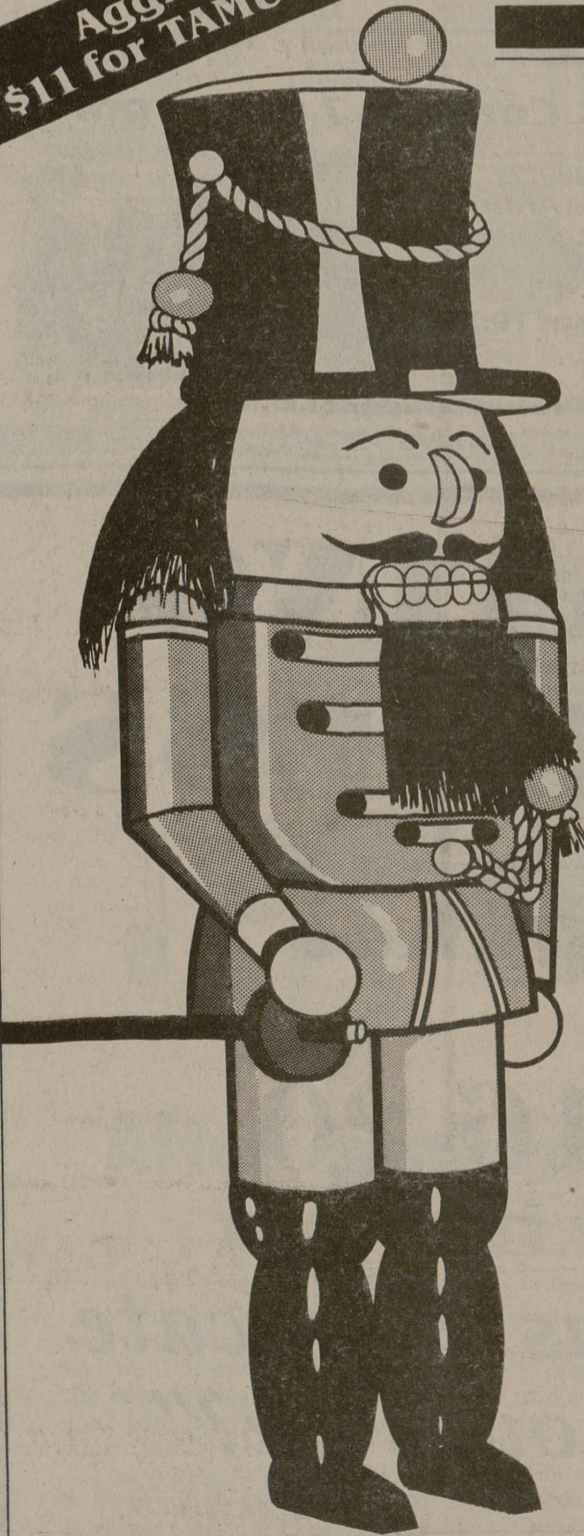
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