

# Sports

## Olajuwon denies claims that he abandoned fiancée

HOUSTON (AP) — Houston Rockets center Akeem Olajuwon has denied claims in a lawsuit by his former girlfriend that he backed out of a promise to marry her after she became pregnant.

The denial that Olajuwon promised to marry Lita Spencer came in a formal response Tuesday to the claims in her lawsuit.

That suit, filed Aug. 26, said Olajuwon beat Spencer and was planning to play basketball in Italy, taking his assets with him.

Richard Miller, her attorney, said Olajuwon's answer was expected.

"We filed the original suit (Aug. 3) with the hope it would provide an opportunity for him (Olajuwon) to come forward and deal with us (out of court)," Miller said. "That didn't happen, so we filed an amended suit."

Olajuwon's attorneys have two more weeks to respond to the amended suit.

Spencer's lawsuit claimed that Olajuwon took back his promise to marry her when she was seven months pregnant with their daughter, born July 6. Spencer claims the 7-foot NBA all-star wanted a taller woman to bear his children.

Olajuwon has said he will hold a news conference before the basketball season starts in October to discuss his recent problems, which include Spencer's suits; a suit by a television cameraman allegedly cut in a scuffle at Olajuwon's residence while trying to videotape and interview him; and his attempts to renegotiate his \$23.5 million Rockets contract.

He reportedly wants another \$9 million, the amount Spencer seeks in her amended suit.

I knew it would happen, but I just kept on watching.

In spite of all my instincts, I couldn't pry myself away from the television set.

I hoped the Astros would do exactly what they're not known for — make a great comeback to win the National League's Western Division.

Then it happened.

With two runners on base Dodger outfielder John Shelby belted a Mike Scott fastball over the right field fence to give the Dodgers a 4-1 lead they would never lose.

"It's over," I thought. But, I guess the race for the NL West pennant was really decided long ago.

The Dodgers, realizing their farm system is not what it used to be, went out and bought the



**Doug Walker**

pennant during the offseason.

Los Angeles acquired several free agents in the offseason and traded for pitching help in August while the Astros made no major moves to shore up an anemic offense.

Dodgers Executive Vice-President and Player Personnel Director Fred Claire began by making a three-way deal involving the Oakland Athletics and New York Mets in which the Dodgers relief pitchers Jay Howell and Jesse Orosco with shortstop Alfredo Griffin in exchange for pitcher Bob Welch.

The Astros didn't really need help in the pitching area.

However, they recently acquired 38-year old starting pitcher Bob Forsch from St. Louis for Denny Walling in a deal that probably helped neither team. The Astros need a power hitter — not another pitcher.

Meanwhile, Howell has been effective for the Dodgers as a closer with 17 saves while compiling an earned run average of 2.34.

Claire then did something the Dodgers have

historically frowned upon by delving into the free agent market and acquiring outfielders Kirk Gibson and Mike Davis.

While Davis has been non-productive, Gibson has become a team leader with his hard-nosed style of play and his impressive numbers at the plate.

He leads the team in four offensive categories: batting average (.297), doubles (28), home runs (23) and runs scored (96).

Gibson also is among the league leaders in run production (runs plus RBI plus home runs) with 136.

The Astros have needed someone to help Glenn Davis carry the burden of the offense for two years now and have failed to get someone to fill the job.

The mid-season acquisition of third baseman Buddy Bell from Cincinnati has helped some, but getting cinnati has helped some, but getting one more slugger might be just what the Astros need.

See Walker, page 11

## Aggie cross country teams take 1st, 3rd at A&M meet

By Doug Walker  
Assistant Sports Editor

The Texas Aggie women's cross country "A" squad took the team title while the men's team placed third, as the A&M cross country team opened its season Thursday by hosting the Texas A&M Invitational meet at the A&M golf course.

The women competed in a three-mile race while the men raced over a five-mile course.

The Aggie women's team was divided into two squads with the "B" squad finishing third.

The Aggie "A" squad, which scored a meet-low 25 points, was led by Becky Drees who finished third in the three-mile run in a time of 17 minutes, 38.4 seconds.

Julie Soukup was close behind in fourth in 18:05.8 while Melissa Weaver and Yvonne Rode finished seventh and eighth respectively.

Jennifer Zubkus (11th) and Kristin Lorson (12th) rounded the "A" squad finishers for A&M.

Amy Gibbons, Robin Creamer and Michelle Stafford were the top

finishers for the "B" team which finished with 89 points.

Other Aggie "B" team performers were Marla Fitt, Ginger Hoot, Jennifer Merrill, Lisa Harvey and Denise Arriola.

"I'm really happy with the women's finish," Colburn said. "It was a great effort for only working seven days."

"They're not in great shape but it was a great effort by all of them."

Louisiana State took first in the men's division by edging Baylor by one point.

A&M was a distant third with 71 points.

Emmett Rhoden was the top Aggie finisher in eighth place.

Other Aggie finishers included James Hammitt (13th), Ralph Meyer (14th) and James Schroeter (15th).

"The men showed a lot of hustle, but you could really tell we were hurting from lack of work," Colburn said. "But it was nothing that hard work and sweat won't fix."

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Baylor at Kansas	Bears by 14	Bears by 8	Bears by 6	Bears by 7	Bears by 11	Bears by 21	Bears by 13
Tulsa at Arkansas	Hogs by 14	Hogs by 21	Hogs by 10	Hogs by 7	Hogs by 24	Hogs by 27	Hogs by 24
Indiana at Rice	Hoosiers by 10	Hoosiers by 10	Hoosiers by 4	Hoosiers by 7	Hoosiers by 3	Hoosiers by 14	Owls by 1
Texas Tech at Arizona	Wildcats by 17	Wildcats by 7	Wildcats by 7	Wildcats by 14	Wildcats by 7	Wildcats by 3	Tech by 3
Nebraska at UCLA	Huskers by 10	Huskers by 10	Huskers by 4	Huskers by 7	Huskers by 7	Huskers by 8	Bruins by 1
Michigan at Notre Dame	Irish by 3	Irish by 3	Wolverines by 7	Wolverines by 7	Wolverines by 10	Irish by 2	Wolverines by 10
Oklahoma at N. Carolina	Sooners by 21	Sooners by 17	Sooners by 20	Sooners by 20	Sooners by 20	Sooners by 24	Sooners by 10
Syracuse at Ohio State	Buckeyes by 7	Buckeyes by 4	Buckeyes by 8	Buckeyes by 20	Buckeyes by 12	Buckeyes by 10	Buckeyes by 7
USC at Stanford	Trojans by 10	Trojans by 21	Trojans by 6	Trojans by 10	Trojans by 23	Trojans by 12	Trojans by 18
Cowboys at Cardinals	Cards by 3	Cardinals by 2	Cardinals by 6	Cowboys by 2	Cowboys by 6	Cowboys by 10	Raiders by 1
Raiders at Oilers	Raiders by 7	Oilers by 3	Oilers by 3	Raiders by 7	Raiders by 4	Raiders by 6	Cowboys by 10
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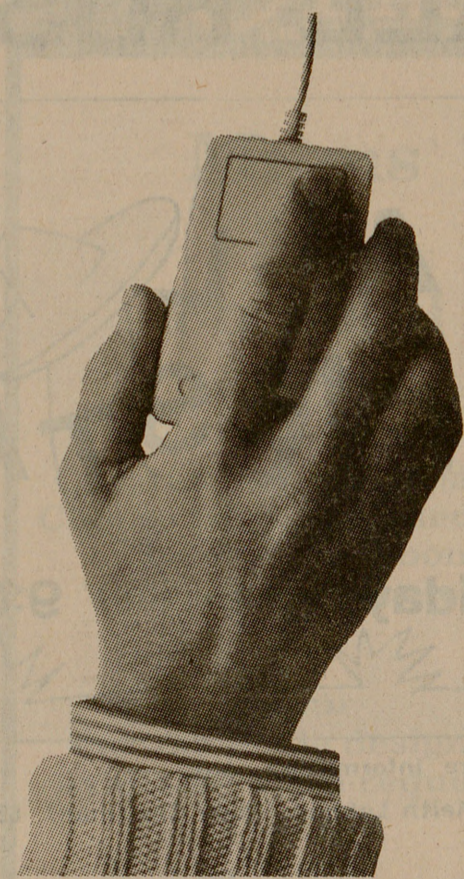
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