

Sports

SWC is full of surprises SWC race defying experts in early going

By Jerry Bolz
Assistant Sports Editor

Sixteen games into the season the A&M men's basketball team is almost right on course for last year's 16-15 season record. However, there are some big surprises in the rest of the Southwest Conference.

The biggest shock of all is at the top of the standings — Texas Christian.

After last season's dismal 9-19 (3-13 in SWC) record, most predictions for the Horned Frogs were for more of the same this year.

Rebuilding under second-year coach Moe Iba, TCU's 5-0 start makes them work a second look.

The Frogs are led by junior transfers Rich Antee and Craig Sibley, and senior John Lewis. Guard Danny Hughes is guiding the team as the main ball handler.

On the surface, there is nothing about TCU that truly stands out. They seem to be just one of those teams every year that works together and works well as a team.

The Aggies had that type of a team two years ago when they had a strong late-season spurt and blewout everyone in the SWC tournament before losing to Duke in the NCAA tourney.

A noteworthy fact about the Frogs this

season is that they are made up mostly of transfer students. Although they have five true freshmen, there is only one sophomore on the team, and five of the six juniors are transfers.

TCU's roster seems to be moving in a direction much like the Aggies', who have transferred in nine of 14 team members. But, somehow, the Frogs have been able to get all the mechanics working well enough to go 12-5.

Most of the talk about the slumping Aggies has pointed to a high amount of turnovers. A little figuring, however, shows an average of 17.2 per game during the first seven games (6-1) and only a slightly higher 17.9 average the last nine outings (2-7).

The problem seems to be more the level of competition and the fact that only two of the last nine games were played in Aggieland.

During the slump, A&M played national powers Nevada-Las Vegas and Oklahoma as well as above-average Oklahoma State and Arkansas. Losing to Southern Methodist in Dallas was no surprise, since Kato Armstrong was still on the team and led the game with 25 points.

SMU takes second in wild SWC sto-

ries this year. After starting out with their annual victory over a national power, (this year's victim was North Carolina State), the Mustangs lost last year's sixth man Todd Alexander for personal reasons and All SWC guard Armstrong for academic reasons.

First-year Coach John Shumate has the Ponies at 2-1 in the conference with a shot at 1-3 Rice tonight. However, the loss of Alexander and Armstrong is showing up in a 6-6 overall record, even though they have played some tough opponents.

Another first-year coach, Tom Penders, has the Longhorns of Texas starting strong this year. After their victory over Tech Wednesday, the Longhorns have a share of the conference lead with TCU and Arkansas, losing only to the Razorbacks.

Arkansas is tough again this season. Currently at 10-4 (4-1 in SWC) the Hogs are trying to outdo a good 21-9 record last year.

Whether or not they can manage another 20-win season lies mostly in the hands of juniors Ron Huery and Mario Credit. If they can pull it off, Coach Nolan Richardson will certainly be a more accepted part of Fayetteville.

Proposition 42 supporters standing by their position

Associated Press

Despite a storm of protest since its passage last week, Proposition 42, the controversial NCAA rule that would bar awarding athletic scholarships to high school graduates who fail to meet certain standards, has at least a few supporters.

Grady Bogue, interim chancellor of Louisiana State University, said, "A student who fails to obtain an athletic scholarship is not deprived of a college education. We have junior colleges and public colleges and universities that educate thousands of poor and minority students every year."

Proposition 48, which went into effect three years ago, limits athletic eligibility for freshman to those who come into school with a 2.0 high school academic average and a score of at least 700 on the Scholastic Aptitude Test or 15 on the American College Test.

Students able to meet only one of the requirements still could enter school on an athletic scholarship, but a "partial qualifier" would be ineligible for sports participation as a freshman and would have only three years of eligibility remaining. Proposition 42, the new rule which would take effect Aug. 1, 1990, closes the "partial qualifier" loophole in Proposition 48.

Many coaches, athletic directors and administrators have reacted angrily to the new rule, saying it is biased against minorities. Others call Proposition 42 racist.

Bogue's opinion is opposite that of LSU basketball coach Dale Brown, who has spoken in opposition to Proposition 42 since its passage last Wednesday by a vote of 163-154 during the NCAA's national convention at San Francisco.

"It seems a strange perspective that assumes that poor students and minority students are only enrolled on basketball and football teams," Bogue said Wednesday in New Orleans.

"We have thousands of them enrolled in this school that are doing well in college. You cannot conclude that this rule does damage to the poor and minorities. It affects only a small percentage of them."

"I don't know if a basketball

player who doesn't get a scholarship will go to college or not, but I do know that if they want to, they can."

Athletic officials at the University of Colorado also are among the few who have come out publicly in favor of Proposition 42.

Colorado faculty representative William Baughn, whose school voted for Proposition 42, said, "I'd like to see young people ready to come to a university. The standards are minimal. They can go to community colleges to make the grades and still play two years at a Division I school."

Georgetown basketball coach John Thompson brought national attention to the issue by walking out of a game in protest of the new standards.

"I disagree wholeheartedly with Thompson," Baughn said. "It's not aimed at blacks; it's to get people ready for college."

A handful of Colorado athletes, all minorities, received scholarships under Proposition 48 guidelines, and have made satisfactory academic progress, Baughn said.

"Sometimes you do have successes," Baughn said. "But I'm not sure these young people would not have been better off going to a community college first."

Colorado basketball coach Tom Miller said he "could live with" Proposition 42 as long as schools are given enough time to prepare for it.

"I don't think the standards are so high you can't achieve what it takes," he said, citing the 1,100 average on the SAT for the Colorado student body.

Meanwhile, officials of four Maryland colleges that voted in favor of Proposition 42 said Wednesday the rule should be repealed or revised.

Representatives of Maryland, Maryland-Eastern Shore, Maryland-Baltimore County and Towson State announced their change of stance after an appeal from Maryland's Legislative Black Caucus.

Helen Giles-Gee, assistant to the president at Towson State, said the university has reconsidered its position. She said the representative who cast Towson State's vote misunderstood the impact of the rule change on other colleges.

A statement by the Black Caucus

said the new rule "would prevent institutions from recruiting individuals who may perform well scholastically but who may perform poorly on standardized tests."

Black coaches and administrators have been particularly opposed to Proposition 48 because they believe the standardized entrance exams are racially and culturally biased.

But Bogue said, "I find it puzzling that folks attack the standardized tests, which are least likely to be biased because they have review panels with minority members that work to remove bias, but have nothing to say about the thousands of other tests that instructors administer in schools that have equal impact on a student."

Proposition 42 was written and sponsored by the Southeastern Conference, which had voted to phase it in unilaterally among its 10 member schools even if the NCAA as a whole didn't follow suit.

Charles Knapp, president of the University of Georgia, earlier this week called the proposal "a modest step in some ways, but an important step." He said there were "a lot better ways of promoting cultural diversity on campus besides athletic scholarships," such as hiring more faculty and providing more academic scholarships.

Emphasis on athletic scholarships as a major vehicle for blacks to attend college lends credence to charges of exploitation, he said.

Knapp also said standardized tests are "imperfect measures, but they are used by all colleges and universities across the country to assist the admissions process."

"In my view, it is not a matter of cultural bias, but rather a matter of a young minority student, particularly blacks, coming into tests with less preparation than majority students," Knapp said. "We've clearly got an educational crisis in this country. That has been pointed out again and again in reports like 'Nation at Risk.' And we are seeing that reflected, rather than a demonstrated cultural bias, on SAT tests."

"Obviously, I don't believe it (the SAT test) is racist, and a majority of presidents of institutions that passed (Proposition 42) in San Francisco don't believe it is racist."

TCU, Texas pick up SWC wins

Associated Press

TCU 55, Houston 54

Freshman center Reggie Smith scored seven of Texas Christian's last nine points and 17 overall to lead the Horned Frogs to a 55-54 Southwest Conference win over the Houston Cougars Wednesday night.

With 1:25 remaining, Houston tied it at 52-52 on a Chris Morris free throw, only his second successful foul shot in eight attempts. A 3-point play by Smith made it 55-52 with 1:03 to go.

Houston's Derrick Daniels missed the front end of a 1-1 with three seconds left to seal the victory for TCU, now 12-5 and 5-0 in conference play. Houston dropped to 9-7 and 1-3 after losing three straight conference games by a total of five points.

Hollis led Houston with 16 points.

Houston hit only six of its first 18 shots in the second half and TCU recaptured the lead 52-51 on a fast-break layup by Tony Edmond with three minutes to play.

Texas 90, Texas Tech 86
Travis Mays scored 35 points and Texas held off a furious Texas Tech rally for a 90-86 Southwest Conference victory Wednesday night.

The Longhorns improved to 13-3, 4-1 in the SWC. Texas Tech is 6-9, 1-3.

Mays and Lance Blanks, who added 26 points, staked the Longhorns to a 17-point halftime lead that grew to 21 points early in the second half.

Jerry Mason, who led the Red Raiders with 22 points, scored

seven points during the 10-point run.

Texas countered with a 12-6 run for a 90-83 lead with 15 seconds remaining.

The game drew a crowd of 13,233, the Longhorns' largest of the season.

Florida St. 112, Arkansas 105
Reserve Derrick Mitchell, who had a chance to win the game in regulation, scored all seven of his points in overtime to lead 14th-ranked Florida State over Arkansas 112-105 Wednesday night.

A 62 percent free throw shooter for the season, Mitchell made both ends of a one-and-one to give the Seminoles a 102-100 lead with 4:14 left in overtime.

McCloud, who scored a game-high 28, had hit a 3-pointer to tie it at 100 with 59 seconds left.

Does Thompson really want to abolish Proposition 42?

He has a dream, but does he really know what it is?

Georgetown basketball coach John Thompson has a dream and he let the world know about it by walking out before the start of last Saturday night's basketball game between Georgetown and Boston College.

Thompson dreams of getting rid of Proposition 42.

Proposition 42 is a continuation of the controversial Proposition 48 passed a few years ago. Under Proposition 48 an incoming freshman is ruled ineligible to play or practice in sports if he doesn't meet the NCAA academic qualifications.

To be eligible a player must score at least a 700 on the SAT or 15 on the ACT. He must also have at least a 2.0 grade point average in high school.

Proposition 42 goes a step further.

If a player does not meet the requirements, not only can he not play or practice, he is also ineligible to receive any scholarship or financial aid from the university.

Proposition 42 was approved by the NCAA this month. Thompson contends that the new rule is discriminating against minorities, especially blacks.

Thompson doesn't like this rule because he says that a majority of the Proposition 48 casualties are blacks.

Thompson is only half right. The NCAA has reported that since the rule went into effect, 600 blacks have been declared ineligible under Proposition 48. This represents 90 percent of all Proposition 48 casualties.

Thompson is wrong when he says that

these students have nowhere to go for financial aid. These students are still eligible for government-sponsored Pell Grants and guaranteed student loans.

Thompson has set off a racial bomb that will not be defused easily. When one of the winningest basketball coaches in America, the most recent Olympic coach, walks out of a game before his team is to play, people notice. In fact, Thompson got a standing ovation from the crowd.

However, this time I think Thompson may have leapt before he looked.

Proposition 42 is just a continuation of the NCAA's recent efforts to clean up college athletics. It makes perfect sense not to give a scholarship to a student who cannot meet the requirements for that scholarship.

If a student is not playing a sport, why would you give him a sports scholarship? It

is sort of like paying someone to work for you and then not requiring him to work. If anyone knows of a job like that, let me know so I can apply and get something for nothing.

Thompson contends the rule discriminates because the criteria used to determine eligibility are discriminatory in nature. He is not alone. Many contend the SAT and the ACT are racially biased. They contend that blacks and other minorities score lower because the tests are biased against them.

If that is the case, then let's see some scores that prove that lower minority scores are directly related to biased questions — not other environmental factors such as income, parental support, living accommodations, etc.

Are these factors in determining how a student not only answers a question, but

how he reads it? Is the wording of the question biased in any way? I remember taking those tests and there were a lot of words I didn't know, but it wasn't because of the color of my skin. It was my lack of exposure to them.

These were words that just weren't spoken at my school or taught there. I went to a predominantly black high school and I didn't have any trouble meeting the minimum standards.

Proposition 42 is a definite step in the right direction. We should not be giving students scholarships if they can't meet the requirements. Thompson and the rest of the college coaches need to remember that they are dealing with student-athletes.

The word "student" comes first for a reason. Proposition 42 is right in line with that reason.

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