

Friday, January 27, 1989

## Mid-season nears, SWC race heats up

FORT WORTH (AP) — The Southwest Conference basketball race neared the midway mark without an unblemished team thanks to Tom Penders' run-and-gun Texas Longhorns.

Texas, the nation's sixth highest scoring team, proved Wednesday night that a good offense can demolish a good defense in college basketball.

The Longhorns ran away from the defense-minded Texas Christian Horned Frogs 94-84 to create a virtual three-way tie for the league lead.

TCU, which will be idle until next

Coliseum.

TCU was last in the conference in free throw shooting and could hit only 11 of 27 against Texas.

"I knew it would reach up and bite us sooner or later," said TCU coach Moe Iba. "And it bit us good."

Penders, who brought his high scoring offense from Rhode Island, said the 'Horns did their job by getting the game into the 90-point area.

"We got the game into the 90's and that's where we wanted it," Penders said. "This is really a big win for us. To win on the road by 10 in this league is really something. This was a character builder for us."

Until Wednesday night, TCU hadn't allowed an SWC team more than 64 points.

Travis Mays scored 25 points for the Longhorns, including four three-point baskets.

"We're the worst free throw shooting team in the league and I knew some night it would come back to haunt us," Iba said. "I thought one of the keys was that Texas got us out of running any kind of offense."

Iba added: "Texas is a real nice team. They've got some fine athletes and did an excellent job of doing what they wanted to do."

Iba said the loss to Texas at home almost negated the Horned Frogs' four victories on the road against SWC opposition.

"Maybe this will wake us up. Maybe we thought we were getting too good."

Arkansas hosts Rice on Saturday night and Texas entertains Southern Methodist on Sunday. Victories by the Hogs and 'Horns would throw the SWC into a three-way tie at the top.

### A&M v Texas Tech

- **What:** The Texas A&M men's and women's basketball teams host Texas Tech in Southwest Conference basketball action.
- **When:** Saturday. The women's game tips off at 1 p.m. while the men's game starts at 7:30 p.m.
- **Where:** G. Rollic White Coliseum.
- **Radio/TV:** The women's game will be broadcast by WTAW-AM 1150 with Chuck Clements calling the action. The men's game can be heard on KTAM-AM 1240 with Chuck Cooperstein handling the play-by-play and Duke Keith on color commentary.

Wednesday, is 6-1 while Texas and Arkansas are 5-1.

The Horned Frogs' biggest weakness, poor free throw shooting, contributed to the loss before a sellout crowd of 7,200 fan in Daniel-Meyer

## Stulce continues Ag shotput legacy

### Plans to get college degree, then look toward 1992 Olympics

By Jerry Bolz

ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Profile: Mike Stulce

Last year when Mike Stulce won the NCAA outdoor shotputting championships as a freshman, it was clear that he was something special.

Then the fact surfaced that it was only the third year that he had truly pursued the sport — something special

the sport blossomed, during his senior year, his performances improved.

Stulce said you have to be serious about shotputting to compete for A&M. A&M realized he was serious when he uncorked a throw his senior year that ranked him fourth in the nation.

The University of Houston and Texas were already on Stulce's trail. But, fortunately for A&M, the Aggies' draw was pulling harder on the high school All-American.

Stulce's success in high school had a lot to do with Hayes, who was willing to put as much time and help in as Stulce needed. Hayes had also coached another high school All-American, sprinter Tony Jones, who also chose Aggieland.

Fortunately for Stulce, the quality of coaching didn't drop a bit when coming to A&M. Throw Coach Robert Parker has taken Stulce under his wing in much the same way Hayes did. And the results are the same — progress.

Stulce dominated the Southwest Conference outdoor season by taking first in six of the nine meets. But the climax of the season was his victory at the NCAAs.

He was only the second freshman, and the youngest ever (age 18) to win the event. He was also the first Aggie to be the top collegiate shotputter since Matson in 1967.

He also qualified for the Olympic Trials, but chose to compete in the Junior World Championships in Canada. He said the international experience was better for him at the time.

Stulce also gives much credit for his success to Strength and Conditioning Coach Keith Kephart, who has put an increased amount of time and effort into Stulce.

"I've never met anyone with as much knowledge as him," he said. "He understands the physics prin-

cial just doesn't do it.

There are no words to describe it. And with the better part of three seasons to go at A&M, you can bet on a lot more such moments before he graduates.

Stulce got into shotputting not because of great interest in the sport, but to keep himself in shape for football at St. Pius High School in Houston.

He had injured a knee in football his sophomore year and track coach Archie Hayes convinced him to give the solo sport a try. When Stulce's doctor suggested he not go back to the gridiron, his interest in shotputting grew.

But it's not that Stulce was switching to track only because football was out of the picture — he didn't feel as if he was forced to compete in a lesser sport. His love for shotputting grew quickly.

The environment of shotputting fit Stulce's personality like a glove.

"I'm not really that sociable," he said. "I like to kind of keep to myself — just do things on my own, I guess you could say."

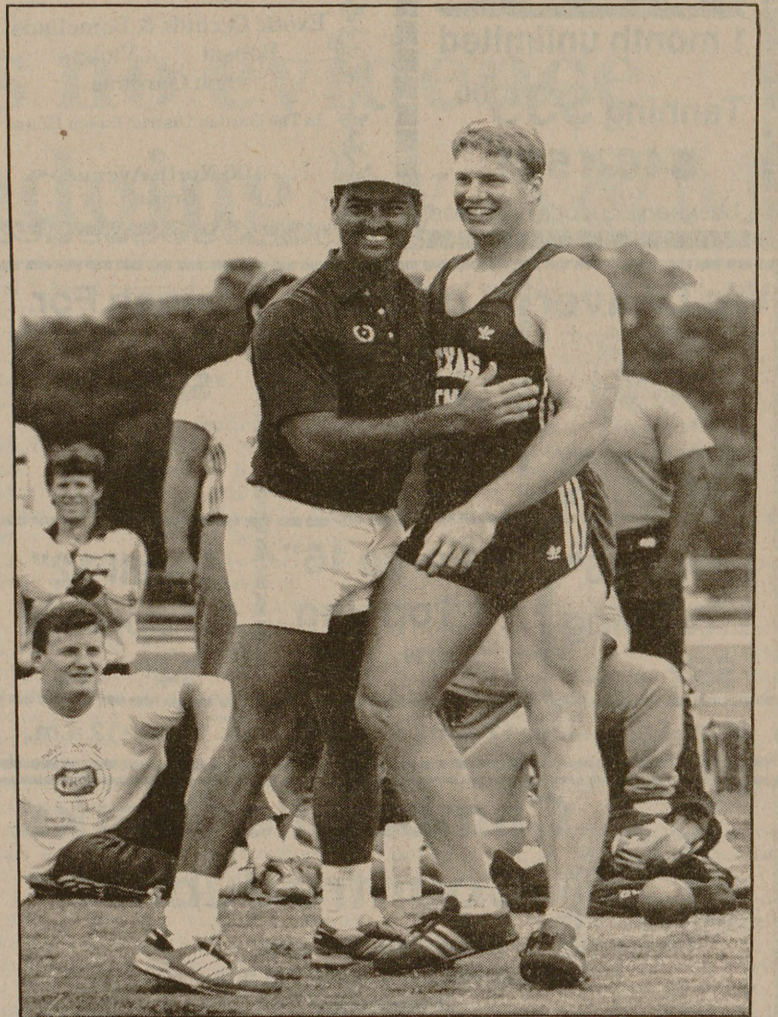
"(In shotputting) you get to do a lot of things on your own. You win by winning it yourself and not by having to cover for everybody else."

In coming to A&M, Stulce has put himself in a position for comparison with former Aggie shotputting greats Randy Matson and Randy Barnes, both Olympic medalists.

But Stulce isn't driven by a desire to beat these guys. He doesn't deny that it would be a great accomplishment to beat their school bests, but it's not his drive.

The big goal he has is to just compete against himself. That attitude kind of reminds one of the countless hours Matson spent out on Kyle Field by himself.

In high school, Stulce was one of very few students to put a lot of time into track. When his enjoyment for



Mike Stulce with A&M Throw Coach Robert Parker

At 6-4, 265 pounds, Stulce has the strength, although he says his top throwing weight is a lean 275. Size is important to Stulce, but he insists that he needs to have a quality weight, with low body fat and good tone.

"Most people think of shotputting as whoever's the biggest and strongest — the biggest hulk — can win... but having the technique helps you to get the most of your strength."

— Mike Stulce, A&M shot putter

It's allowed me to get one heck of a lot stronger, and better technique."

the ring and throw on instinct. Stulce is a thinker — considering everything that needs to be done, while keeping his cool and being constantly under control.

"Several times I've stepped in the ring and just gone blank," he said. "Being focused and under control is the main thing you want to do."

Stulce said he reached a time as a shotputter when everything just came together. For him, that time came when he first threw over 62 feet.

"You reach a certain barrier and it's like something snaps," he said. "Once those things come together you can throw farther."

"A lot of it is confidence in your-

See Stulce/Page 8

## A&M almost finished with Smith investigation

Texas A&M is almost finished with an internal investigation of its football program, but school officials say they won't release results until after the first day results can sign.

"Anything that should come out from this point should come from the school," said David Berst, the NCAA's chief enforcement officer. "But I don't think anything will come out before then (Feb. 8)."

National signing day is Feb. 8. The internal investigation be-

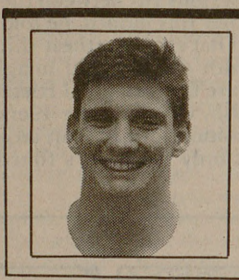
gan in the wake of allegations revealed in a story by the Dallas Morning News that former head coach and athletic director Jackie Sherrill paid a former player "hush money."

Sherrill has since resigned, and two assistants previously sanctioned by the NCAA have been fired.

School officials have said they hope the changes in personnel and action taken by president William Mobley will prevent any additional NCAA sanctions.

## Now that the Super Bowl is over, knock off the soap opera!

In the wake of the most recent Super Bowl, almost as many dramas have evolved after the game than occurred during the 60 minutes of football played in Joe Robbie Stadium Sunday.



Tom Kehoe Sports Writer

Two stories competed for the center stage.

The first of these actually broke on Sunday morning. It was the Stanley Wilson Story. Wilson was found by Bengals' staff members in his hotel room in a daze after he had missed a team meeting that Saturday.

A source close to the team said that he had found Wilson "crumpled on the floor," with cocaine lying next to him. When those who discovered him went to call an ambulance, Wilson took flight and was not seen until Wednesday.

This event in itself was not at all surprising. Wilson had been suspended for the entire 1985 and '87 seasons for violating the NFL substance-abuse policy. And, if you believe Brian Bosworth's book, his problem may date back to his Oklahoma Sooners days.

What was surprising was that he transgressed the day before the biggest game of his life. But Bengals coach Sam Wyche put the unfortunate event in proper perspective.

"The tragedy for Stanley Wilson is not in a football sense," Wyche said. "That was a precious life lost."

It is encouraging that a coach who had so much on the line, just THE world championship of professional football, could suppress his own concerns and feel for the human side of an unfortunate human tragedy.

But that's just the first big drama to come out of the football events in Miami.

Coming in at 1A on the list of big news is: Bill Walsh, will he retire or won't he?

At this point in the week, who cares?

This story started out lame and by now it is just tired. We should all have such problems.

"Let's see. Should I retire now with three world championships and a reputation as a football genius or should I return next year and make 1.3 million dollars."

You've got to admit, it's a real dilemma. Give it up. Hit the links. Cruise the beach. Or: Get back to work like the rest of us.

Then there's the huge story that broke yesterday about Roger Craig and Tom Rathman lining up in the wrong places on the game-winning play.

Now that's the kind of news that merits a really big "Who cares?"

But the biggest "who cares" story of all lies on the horizon.

Yes, they're actually going to play the Pro

Bowl again this year.

I hate to imagine how few of the NFL's elite would show up if the game weren't played in Hawaii. How many would play, risk injury and get a free trip for their family if the game was played in Dallas.

At least it would give the locals a chance to see their first real professional football game since SMU got the deep six.

A real indicator of how unimportant the Slow Bowl is that the big boys allowed themselves to be outbid for the TV rights by ESPN.

What a lineup the cable crusaders must have planned.

First, there'll be seniors Tarpon fishing, then a seniors LPGA tournament then the Blow Bowl, because you know Lawrence Taylor was voted to a starting position. I can hardly wait.

**HELP BUILD A NEW TRADITION**

The Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity announces its new beginnings at Texas A&M. We are looking for men who want to leave their mark at A&M, men willing to accept a challenge.

* Jan. 28	DATE PARTY	8-1 a.m.
	Pi Kapp House	
* Jan. 29	SMOKER	7-10 p.m.
	Pi Kapp House	
Jan. 30	BID HOUSE	5 p.m.
	MSC 224	
Jan 30	GENERAL MEETING	8 P.M.
	BLOCKER 105	

If you are interested in starting a new fraternity, a chapter of Pi Kappa Phi please call:

<b>Bryan Hutson</b> 696-5962	<b>Bruce Hyvl</b> 846-5647	<b>Pi Kapp House</b> 822-1301
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