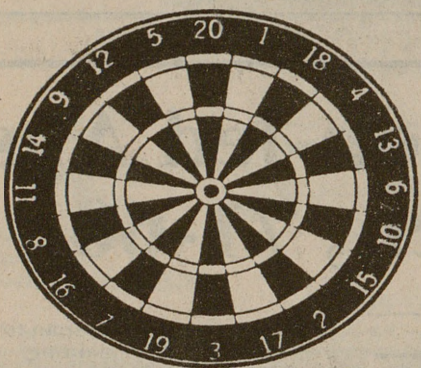


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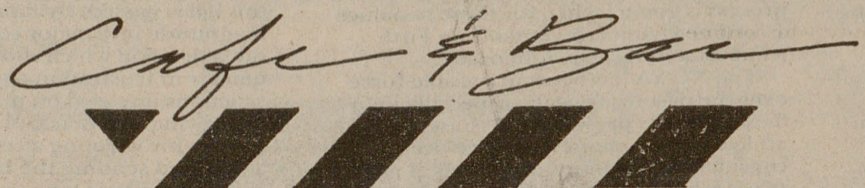


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Hogs, Houston get SWC wins

Arkansas 83, Rice 70
Lee Mayberry scored 26 points and Keith Wilson had 23 to lead the Arkansas Razorbacks to a 83-70 Southwest Conference win Wednesday night over the Rice Owls in Houston.

Dana Hardy had 20 points to lead Rice, while Kenneth Rourke and Andy Gilchrist followed with 14 points each.

Arkansas improved its record to 20-6 overall and is tied for first in the SWC with Texas with a 12-3 conference mark.

The loss snapped a four-game winning streak for the Owls, who are now 12-15 and 6-10.

The Razorbacks outscored the Owls 19-7, including nine by Mayberry, to lead 42-24 at the half.

Arkansas led 57-39 with 12:21 minutes left in the second half before Rice scored 11 straight to cut the Razorbacks' lead to seven with 8:52 left.

A pair of baskets by Mario Credit put Arkansas up 64-51, but the Owls then went on a 14-4 scoring run to cut their deficit to 69-65 with 2:59 left.

But two baskets by Wilson gave the Razorbacks a 73-65 lead with 1:18 left, and Rice was never closer than six again.

Arkansas led 8-2 early in the game on a pair of three-point shots by Wilson.

The Razorbacks led 18-8 before the Owls came back to cut the Arkansas lead to 22-17 with 8:19 left in the first period.

Houston 75, Baylor 59

Richard Hollis scored 20 points

and grabbed 11 rebounds Wednesday night in Waco to pace Houston to a 75-59 Southwest Conference victory over Baylor.

Hollis, who made all 10 of his free-throw attempts, scored 12 second-half points as the Cougars improved to 17-12 overall and 8-7 in the SWC.

Baylor, losing its ninth straight contest, drops to 5-12 overall and 1-14 in league play.

Craig Upchurch scored 19 points and grabbed seven rebounds for Houston.

Michael Hobbs led Baylor with 18 points while Kelvin Chalmers came off the bench to score 14 points and grab eight rebounds.

The teams traded leads in the opening half before the Cougars set-

ted for a 34-32 halftime lead.

Hollis' layup with 15:33 left gave the Cougars a 42-36 lead.

However, the Bears used a 14-point scoring run to cut the Houston lead to 51-50 with 7:41 remaining.

Upchurch's driving dunk with 2:25 left capped a 15-6 Houston scoring run and gave the Cougars their largest lead of the game, 66-56.

Baylor, which hit only 37 percent from the field, got no closer than 10 points in the final two minutes.

Houston, which struggled in the first half while hitting only 33 percent, bounced back in the second half on 64 percent shooting.

Arkansas meets up with Houston Sunday in Houston for the teams' final game of the SWC regular season.

Sports agents face racketeering trial

CHICAGO (AP) — A federal judge Wednesday gave the final go-ahead to the trial of two sports agents accused of using payoffs and threats to get college athletes to sign contracts with them.

After rejecting a defense attorney's request to have Norby Walters and Lloyd Bloom tried separately, U.S. District Judge George Marovich ordered jury selection to begin.

"There will be only one trial and it will involve both defendants," Marovich said.

The government contends the two New York-based agents offered dozens of college athletes money, cars, clothes, concert tickets and trips in exchange for signed — and usually post-dated — agreements giving them exclusive rights to represent the athletes in professional contract negotiations.

Walters, 58, and Bloom, 29, have both pleaded innocent to charges of racketeering, mail fraud, wire fraud and extortion in the case.

Bloom's attorney, former federal prosecutor Dan Webb, said he wanted his client tried separately from Walters because their defenses could conflict.

The trial is expected to provide an inside look at what prosecutors say is the seamy side of college sports and prosecutors' plans called for testimony from several professional athletes who dealt with the agents.

The sports world is closely monitoring the case because it raises serious questions about the structure and practice of big-money college athletics, especially lucrative football programs.

"I am only going to allow evidence in this courtroom that is relevant to the attorneys," he said to the attorneys. "You're going to put certain balls into play and I'm going to sit here and call them fair or foul."

The government says that since the athletes signed contracts with Walters and Bloom and continued to receive athletic scholarships, universities were defrauded. Under NCAA rules, the contracts made the athletes ineligible to play college sports.

The indictment also says that if the students tried to back out of the contracts, the agents often threatened the players with violence or economic harm.

Softball

(Continued from page 9)

scoring Stacey Cramer. Dawn Steele (1-1) was the losing pitcher in the first game.

The second game was a complete opposite of the first for Mitchell.

She had a much tougher time getting the SWT hitters out and seemed to show signs of fatigue.

"Dana made some mistakes, but when the runs are there it doesn't matter," A&M Head Coach Bob Brock said.

Mitchell has pitched all nine games for A&M this year due to an injury to A&M's other pitcher, Michel McSpadden. McSpadden burned her hand and won't be able to pitch for at least ten days.

Mitchell struck out just one batter in the second game and walked three. SWT also roughed her up for four hits.

However, Mitchell was able to pitch out of several jams. In the second inning with runners on second and third with no outs, Mitchell was able to get SWT to hit three straight ground balls to end the inning without any scoring.

Mitchell again got in trouble in the third when, with one out, SWT had runners at second and third.

Mitchell then got SWT to fly out to short and left to end the threat.

Mitchell saw her 33-inning scoreless streak come to an end in the fourth when freshman Kim Cash singled home Donna Umhoefer with the bases loaded. Mitchell then got Susan Elza to ground out to end the inning.

A&M opened the second game hitting the ball well as they loaded the bases. A&M scored its first run when Tory Parks scored on a fielder's choice in the first inning.

A&M scored the winning run in the third when Erika Eriksson hit her second of three doubles in game two to score Carrie Heightley with two outs in the inning.

SWT scored three runs in the top of the seventh to take a 4-2 lead, but the game was called due to rain before A&M batted in the seventh. Under NCAA rules the game reverts back to the last complete inning played (the sixth), so A&M was declared the winner, 2-1.

Debra Jones (1-1) was the losing pitcher in the nightcap.

A&M has won seven in a row since dropping a double header to the University of Texas at Arlington to open the season. During that streak A&M has outscored their opponents 27-2.

Tech

(Continued from page 9)

Thompson said. "We held our composure more tonight than we did early in the year. We might have folded earlier in the season, but we've matured a little bit."

With the win, Texas A&M avenged a 75-68 loss at College Station earlier this season.

The Aggies shot 76 percent from the field in the second half, and Coach Shelby Metcalf credited his seniors, Thompson and Dennis, with spurring the comeback.

"I felt the key point of the game was the end of the first half," he said. "That's when our seniors took a little

command. Doug and Donald hit some key buckets."

The Aggies have won three of their last four games going into their final game with Texas. Tech has lost three of their last four.

"We gave up a nice lead at the end of the first half and that really hurt us," said Myers. "I think they scored six points in the last minute and that was important."

He credited the Aggies' patient offense with cementing the win.

"The reason they were shooting better (than Tech) was because they were patient on offense and got the ball to their big guys and got good shots," said Myers.

A&M shot over 60 percent from the field for the game.

Lynn Suber had nine points for the Aggies (all in the second half) and Freddie Ricks added seven as his personal streak of double-figure scoring games ended at seven.

"Suber did what he does best — come in and score," Metcalf said. Metcalf said his team showed maturity by coming back.

"When things were going bad we might have folded, but that just shows you how far (the team) has come," he said. "The defense held us in there. They just picked it up and went a little harder and here's the results."

Metcalf and the Aggies close out the regular season Saturday night at 7:30 in G. Rollie White Coliseum against league-leading Texas.

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