Tigers bounce Texas from NCAAs

Hoyas, Tar Heels and Wolfpack win to reach regionals

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Missouri 108, Texas 89

Missouri did unto Tom Penders what he did unto them last year with a lesson in physical basketball.

Doug Smith scored a career high 32 points and Missouri outrebounded Texas 41-30 as the sixth-ranked Tigers muscled their way into the NCAA Midwest Regionals with a 108-89 victory over the Longhorns at Reunion Arena in Dallas.

Missouri, 29-7, advances to a regional championship round for the first time since 1982. The Tigers have never been in The Final Four.

Texas, making its first NCAA playoff appearance in a decade, finished with a 25-9 record in Penders' first year.

The victory was sweet revenge for the Tigers who lost to Penders' Rhode Island team in the first round last year.

"You can see this Missouri team is on a mission," Penders said."They are as tough as anybody we've played."

Interim coach Rich Daly, who has taken over the team because Norm Stewart is recovering from cancer surgery, said the Tigers' game plan was simple.

"We felt we could get inside and on defense we extended their three-point shooting from 19 feet to 22 feet,' Daly said. "They had to stop us inside because we've got the big guys in the middle. Our game is in the paint or we lose."

Texas led briefly 25-20 but Missouri's board dominance and physical defense wore them down. The Tigers also got some good outside shooting from Lee Coward, who hit three three-point field goals in the second half.

Missouri, the Big Eight Conference tournament winner, mauled Texas, the Southwest Conference runner-up, on the offensive boards to earn a 51-41 lead at halftime. Missouri outrebounded Texas 24-13 with 11 of them offensive rebounds.

Smith, who had 16 points in the first half, got four points on follow shots. Smith had five of Missouri's 14 first half layups.

The Longhorns got only as close as six points in the second half but Missouri pulled away in the final 10 minutes behind Smith and reserve Greg Church, who scored 12 of his 14 points after intermission.

Texas was led by Travis Mays who scored 25 points, including four three-pointers, and Lance Blanks who added 20. Joey Wright scored 19.

Syracuse 65, Colorado St. 50

Stephen Thompson scored 21 points, missing only one of 11 shots from the field, as No. 7 Syracuse defeated Colorado State 65-50 Sunday in an NCAA Midwest Regional second-round game at Dallas.

Syracuse, 29-7, advances to play sixth-ranked Missouri Friday at the Midwest Regionals in Minneapolis. Colorado State ends its post-season play at 23-10.

The Orangemen widened their 38-28 halftime lead to 48-31 on a bucket by Herman Harried at the 15:24 mark.

The Rams closed the gap to eight points, at 50-42, when Matt Sharp scored with 9:45 to play, but could get no closer to the Orangemen.

Indiana 92, Texas-El Paso 69

Freshman Eric Anderson scored 24 points, and Indiana coach Bob Knight celebrated his 700th college coaching effort with a 92-69 cakewalk Sunday over Texas-El Paso in the second round of the NCAA tournament's West Regional at Tucson, Ariz.

The No. 8 Hoosiers, 27-7, seeking their second trip in three years to the Final Four, advance to next week's West Regional semifinals at Denver against No. 11 Seton Hall. Indiana won the national title in 1987.

The victory gave Knight a career record of 514-186.

Jay Edwards, who played just 7½ minutes in the first half, finished with 17. Todd Jadlow added 14 and Joe Hillman 12.

UTEP, 26-7, was led by Tim Hardaway with 20 points. Greg Foster scored 18 and reserve Mark McCall 12.

Indiana erased any question of a UTEP comeback by outscoring the Miners 14-2 to start the second half.

No. 5 N. Carolina 88, UCLA 81

Playing without the suspended J.R. Reid, North Carolina overcame a 10-point UCLA lead in the first half and advanced to its ninth straight Final 16. The Tar Heels, 29-7, trailed 51-41 late in the first half and took their first lead of the second half when Kevin Madden made two free throws to make the score 76-75 with five minutes left. Madden finished with a team-high 22 points.

The victory was Coach Dean Smith's 667th, tying him for sixth on the all-time list with former UCLA coach John Wooden.

No.2 Georgetown 81, Notre Dame 74

The second-ranked and top-seeded Georgetown Hoyas survived another hair-raising upset bid Sunday in the NCAA tournament, beating Notre Dame 81-74 after trailing at halftime in an East Regional second round game at Providence, R.I.

Charles Smith scored 28 of his 34 points in the second half for Georgetown, which squeaked past last-seeded Princeton 50-49 in an East Regional first-round game that

See NCAA/Page 8

Aggies stay hot

By Tom Kehoe

SPORTS WRITER

11th-ranked Oklahoma State ended Texas A&M's 25-game winning streak with a 5-3 upset Sunday afternoon at the Dixie Classic in Shreveport, La.

The loss marred what was an otherwise outstanding week for the Aggies as they swept through their own tournament and racked up some impressive offensive numbers.

A&M tore through the field of the inaugural Aggie Invitational with a 6-0 record as they upped their season total to 24-0 and sustained their top national ranking.

It was the Aggies' first taste of top flight competition this season as the field included the University of Kentucky, the University of Maine and the University of Iowa.

All three have made appearances in the NCAA tournament in recent years.

A&M was led by tournament most valuable player Travis Williams. The freshman from Austin collected 13 hits in 22 at bats.

Williams started the tournament at designated hitter but switched to third base when A&M's leading hitter, John Byington, was injured in the first game.

Byington's injury may have caused Coach Mark Johnson some distress but Williams' play helped to sooth him.

"We lost our top hitter for five of the six games and I don't know if John could have matched what Travis did," Johnson said.

A&M's ace reliver, Scott Centala, led the pitching corps as he collected two wins in the tournament. He worked five innings over three games as he struck out seven and allowed just one hit.

The first two games of the tournament were down to the wire for the Aggies.

In A&M's first contest, Maine had a one run lead and one out in the bottom of the ninth inning when Byington came to the plate with runners on first and second. He stroked a single as A&M came from behind to win 6-5.

The Aggies' second game was scheduled for seven innings. Kentucky led 2-1 in the bottom of the seventh when Chuck Knoblauch drilled a double off the centerfield wall that scored Trey Witte and Terry Taylor for a 3-2 Aggie win.

The final game of the tournament saw A&M blow out Maine 16-4 as the Aggies collected 21 hits.

Aggie Baseball

- **Score:** No.11-ranked Oklahoma State 5, No.1 A&M 3.
- **Record:** 25-1.
- **Next Game:** Friday at Texas Tech.

SWC should consider increasing student interest in tourney

Doug Walker
Sports Editor

What did you do on your spring break?

I spent the first part of it with Uncle Jed, granny and the rest of the clan at the Southwest Conference Post-Season Classic.

A better title would be "The Hillbilly Invitational."

Reunion Arena made its annual transformation into Barnhill South as at least 13,000 of the 16,240 seats sold for the tournament were occupied by Arkansas fans.

I could go on and on about how these loud, obnoxious Arkansans irritated me. However, I'm not going to do that. The simple fact is that the SWC owes these people a great debt and would not be able to have a basketball tournament without them.

Sure, I got a little tired of hearing them call the Hogs whenever I stepped out of my hotel room. But their enthusiasm gave the tournament the only electricity and atmosphere it had.

Without the Arkansans, the tournament would have been boring and pointless. Arkansas provided most all the fans, the best team, the best pep band, and the best cheerleaders.

It made me wonder why no other basketball team in the SWC has anything to compare with the Razorbacks.

As I pondered this, the Aggies were trying to come back against the Hogs in the second half of their semi-final loss. As A&M moved closer, the noise increased.

It was impressive and intimidating.

The Arkansas people deserve everything they get. They pay their money and make time to travel to the tournament when most of the fans of SWC schools don't even consider it. But this presents some problems for the league.

If anyone else in the SWC wants to compete with the Hogs in the tournament in the near future, they'd better consider getting off the couch and going to the tournament.

Otherwise, the tourney might just as well be moved to Fayetteville.

The SWC tournament lacks the atmosphere of a league tourney because of the domination of the Arkansas fans. The atmosphere is enthusiastic alright, but the enthusiasm is one-sided. If Arkansas had lost in the early rounds, the conference would have lost concession profits and had a half-empty arena to show off on ESPN during the Sunday afternoon final.

The SWC should move to get students more involved in the tournament to create a setting showing the diversity of the schools in the league. The league could bite the financial bullet and do something out of goodwill to help create basketball interest among students.

A good way to help the atmosphere and create the ineterest would be to create student sections at the tourney in which students from the teams involved can purchase tickets at a reduced rate.

The league could set up a deal with each school to provide a package deal for students to arrange travel, lodging and game tickets.

It would provide a good alternative to the normal spring break plans and would only take up the first day or two of the break. Reunion Arena is within walking distance of the West End which has several clubs and restaurants where a lot of us go anyway.

The quality of SWC basketball will continue to improve in the coming years and the fan interest will improve. But the conference would do itself a favor by extending an offer to the students.

The teams would probably appreciate it as well.

A normal trip to Fayetteville to play the Hogs will seem like a trip to the opera for some of these guys considering that the home court of the Razorbacks, Barnhill Arena, seats less than 10,000 and couldn't have been any louder than Reunion.

A&M gave the Hogs their only test in the tournament. The Hogs dropped the Aggies 94-84 in a game in which the Aggies were close until less than two minutes remained.

With a little crowd support, who knows what could've happened?

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