

Thursday, April 27, 1989

## Hogs in driver's seat to SWC title

Conference race could change drastically in next two weeks

By Doug Walker

SPORTS EDITOR

With two weekends of action remaining, the Southwest Conference baseball race appears to be a two-team contest between Arkansas and Texas A&M.

The SWC champion will probably be decided May 4-5 when Arkansas visits Olsen Field for a three-game series with the Aggies.

The fifth-ranked Razorbacks (40-6, 14-1 in the SWC) are trying to become the first team other than Texas or Texas A&M to win a Southwest Conference regular season title since Texas Christian did it in 1956. The Horned Frogs tied for the title in 1966, '67 and '72.

Arkansas also is hoping to become the first SWC school to win outright titles in the three big sports (football, basketball and baseball) since Texas did it in the 1973-74 school year.

A&M took titles in the three sports in the 1985-86 school year but shared the basketball and baseball championships.

Arkansas, Texas and A&M have six games remaining on their SWC slates.

If the Razorbacks are to win their first SWC baseball title, they will have to earn it the hard way.

They host ninth-ranked Texas (42-12, 11-4) in Fayetteville this weekend before making the trip to College Station, where they swept the Aggies two years ago.

Pitching has been a key factor in

the rise of the Razorbacks, who have lowered their team earned-run average from a whopping 5.43 in 1988 to just 2.77 this year. Mike Oquist (8-2, 5-0 in the SWC) and Peter Praetner (3-0 in the SWC) have led the staff.

Offensively, Bubba Carpenter, Scott Pose and Greg D'Alexander have led the way.

Carpenter leads the team in batting average with a .427 mark and is hitting .513 in the conference. Pose (.399) and D'Alexander (.381) follow close behind for a team hitting at a .327 pace in SWC action.

D'Alexander has been the star in conference play. He's hitting .455 (second in league play) while leading the league in hits in SWC play with 25.

Texas has a shot at the title if it

can sweep the Razorbacks this weekend. A sweep would tie Texas with Arkansas while A&M, even with a sweep of Houston this weekend, would have to produce against the Razorbacks.

Slugging right fielder Scott Bryant has led the Longhorns at the plate with a phenomenal 96 runs batted in with 16 home runs and a league-leading 23 doubles. In SWC action, Bryant has eight doubles, three home runs and 24 RBIs.

Texas closes the season with a home series against TCU while Arkansas and the Aggies will be squaring off.

A&M (46-3, 13-2), which fell from the top of the national rankings this

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## Mackenzie, Lee named all-conference golfers

FROM STAFF & WIRE REPORTS

Aggie senior Roy Mackenzie and junior Randy Lee were selected to the 1989 All-Southwest Conference golf team by a vote of the conference coaches, it was announced Wednesday.

Mackenzie made the squad for the third consecutive year.

Lee was one of seven unanimous picks to the team and paired with Mackenzie in a tie for fifth-place at the SWC Championships last week at Columbia Lakes. A&M finished sixth as a team.

Mackenzie, an honorable mention All-America in 1987, won the Woodlands Invitational during the fall and Lee took first individually at the Border Olympics this spring.

A&M Head Coach Bob Ellis was understandably proud of both Lee and Mackenzie.

"I'm very proud of Randy and Roy for making the all-conference team," Ellis said. "They have been our leaders all season and were deserving of the honor."

"This was the third consecutive year that Roy's been selected, which is an indication of how much he's contributed to our program."

Texas, the SWC champion, placed four players on the All-SWC team.

Brian Nelson, Brad Agee, Kyle Jerome and Omar Uresti represented the Longhorns on the squad.

Houston, with Zoran Zorkic and Greg Cox making the squad, was the only other SWC school to put more than one player on the team. Rice's Mark Pfingston, the SWC individual champion, also made the team.

## Strong pairings may make overdone NBA playoffs enjoyable

If it's late April, it must be time for the NBA playoffs, that yearly ritual which includes too many teams and is about eight games too long.

This year's playoff picture could shape up to be one of the more enjoyable in recent years, as the strength of teams like Cleveland and New York in the East and Phoenix and Golden State in the West have improved to the point of actually making the first-round pairings interesting.

### The Eastern Conference

**Detroit vs. Boston:** I'm sure the Celtic faithful will be quick to point out that Dennis Johnson hasn't played in two weeks and Robert Parrish and Reggie Lewis are also both ailing with various injuries. But this year the entire Celtic team would have to be healthy as well as receive help from a 28-year-old Bill Russell to have even a slim chance against the Pistons.

Detroit has proven that last year's run for the championship wasn't a fluke and they are once again poised and ready to be there again. Maybe Mark Aguirre will get a shot at a championship series this year.

The Celtics proved this year that playing in the "Garden" wasn't always an automatic win as should be the case in the Detroit series. The Pistons will sweep it.



Steven Merritt  
Assistant Sports Editor

**New York vs. Philadelphia:** This series could be the case of the team that peaked too early vs. the team that couldn't take advantage of it.

The Knicks have struggled toward the end of the season, winning 10 of their final 21 games, a slide which could hurt New York down the stretch in the playoffs. Charles Barkley should have a big series for the Sixers. He averaged 30 points per game and 11 rebounds against the Knicks and should have no trouble in containing Charles Oakley.

Philadelphia won the season series, 4-2, but two wins does not a playoff series victory make. Even if the Knicks appear to be running out of steam, they will outlast

Philadelphia 3-2.

**Cleveland vs. Chicago:** This series will be fun to watch primarily because of the play of Michael Jordan and Cleveland's Ron Harper.

Mark Price is listed as doubtful for Friday's game, but Larry Nance and Brad Daugherty should be back to provide the rebounding edge Cleveland has held over the Bulls so far this season.

Chicago defeated the Cavaliers in five games last year in the first round on excellent performances by Jordan and former Bull Charles Oakley. The Cavaliers swept this season's series 6-0, but they will not do it in the opening round, as the Bulls should win one at home to drop the series 3-1.

**Atlanta vs. Milwaukee:** The Hawks have to be by far the hottest team in the NBA at the close of the regular season, winning 12 of their last 14 and eight in a row at home. Atlanta seems to have found a starting five that is complimentary in many areas.

The addition of Moses Malone has greatly improved the offensive rebounding for the Hawks, and his scoring contribution hasn't hurt either. Milwaukee center Jack Sikma will have his hands full with Malone. Atlanta isn't lacking on the defensive end

either, as the insertion of former SMU Mustang Jon Koncak in late March has boosted team totals in blocked shots and defensive rebounds. The play of Dominique Wilkins speaks for itself. Hawks sweep it, 3-0.

### Western Conference

**Los Angeles Lakers vs. Portland:** The Trail Blazers have no advantage. The Lakers swept the season series 5-0. The only perspiration the Lakers might experience will be in the shoot-around prior to each game. LA sweeps it, 3-0.

**Utah vs. Golden State:** Good matchup. Utah allowed only 12 opponents to shoot 50 percent or more during the season and the Warriors did it twice. Golden State also scored the most points, 131, against the Jazz during the season and the teams split the season series 2-2.

A big concern for the Jazz will be controlling the play of Chris Mullin and Mitch Richmond, who averaged 26 and 22 points per game against Utah. Manute Boll, who has finally realized that he will never be an offensive threat in the NBA, has instead responded well as a shot blocker, and could be a rebounding problem for Mark Eaton. Eaton is no offensive prize either.

The Warriors will definitely have to disrupt the John Stockton/Karl Malone point-scoring tandem, which combined for a 40 point per-game average against the Warriors and is one of the best in the NBA. It will be close, but the Jazz will win it 3-2.

**Phoenix vs. Denver:** Phoenix, a lottery team just a year ago, is now the NBA's No. 1 scoring team and completely dominated the Nuggets in their season series, winning three of four. The Suns averaged 127 points and, playing against the Nuggets, outscored Denver by an average of 16 per game. Phoenix should take full advantage of Denver's poor 9-32 road record.

Phoenix is led by guard Kevin Johnson, who averaged 20 points per game against the Nuggets and is more than Michael Adams can handle. The Nuggets should win one at McNichols Arena, but the Suns will win the series 3-1 and have an excellent chance to upset the balance of power in the West.

**Seattle vs. Houston:** The Rockets have been the picture of inconsistency thus far in the 1988-89 season and predicting a sure victory over the Sonics is a toss-up. I'm not going to predict this one because who knows which Rockets team will show up.

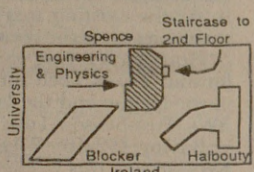
## Final Exam Review Sessions

Acct. 229	Sunday 4/30-New Material Tuesday 5/2-Old Tests Wednesday 5/3-Old Tests	All Classes 8:30-11:30 p.m. ENPH 214
Acct. 230	Monday 5/1-Test 1 Review Tuesday 5/2-Test 2 Review Wednesday 5/3-Test 3 Review Thursday 5/4-New Material Review for final	All Classes 8:00-11:00 p.m. ENPH 213
Chem. 228	Sunday 4/30-Ch. 12-14 Monday 5/1-Ch.19-20 Tuesday 5/2-Ch.21-23 Wednesday 5/3-Ch. 24-end	7:30-10:30 p.m. ENPH 215
Math 157	Sunday 4/30-New Material Monday 5/1-Review for Final Wednesday 5/3-Review for Final	6:00-8:00 p.m. ANIN 317
Phys. 208	Monday 5/1-Review for Final Wednesday 5/3-Review for Final	8:00-10:00 p.m. ENPH 216
Phys. 219	Tuesday 5/2-Review for Final Thursday 5/4-Review for Final	8:00-10:00 p.m. ENPH 216

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