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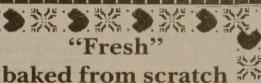
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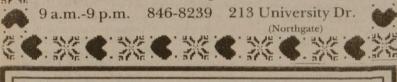
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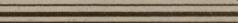
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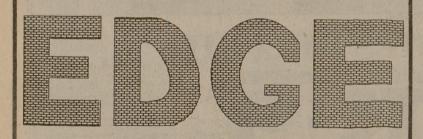




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Thomas humbled by honor

The Battalion

FROM STAFF & WIRE REPORTS

Texas A&M track coach Charlie Thomas, whose 31-year tenure at A&M is the second longest of any Southwest Conference coach in any sport, will be inducted into the pres-tigious Drake Relays Coaches Hall of Fame Thursday.

'It's quite humbling to be honored by your peers at such a class event as the Drake Relays," Thomas said. We've been going to the Drake Relays every year for as long as I can remember and it's always been one of the highlights of the season. This honor is something I'll always be proud of and will always treasure."

In his career at A&M, Thomas has coached eight Olympic athletes and six world record holders.

The Hall of Fame, which was es-tablished in 1977, includes such past

coaches as Knute Rockne of Notre Dame and Clyde Littlefield of Texas, whose 40-year coaching ten-ure is the longest of any SWC coach. Joining Thomas as 1989 inductees

will be Baylor's Clyde Hart and the late Frank Sevigne, the former track

coach of Nebraska.

They will be honored at a banquet
Thursday and also during the Friday afternoon session of the Drake Relays in Iowa.

Five high school and junior college track athletes signed national letters-of-intent Wednesday to attend A&M, including three women Thrower Dwight Johnson of Cen-

tral Arizona Junior College, a 6-1, 230-pounder from Tempe, Ariz., is a JUCO All-America in the javelin, discus and shotput. Distance runner Steve Davis of

Cypress Creek High School, a 6-1, 140-pounder from Houston, is a two-time district champion in cross country and the 1600-meter run. He won the district title last year in the 3200-meter run.

Johnson's and Davis' signings bring the total number of A&M men signees to five. Sprinters Gregory Williams and Derick Thomas of Southwest Christian JC and shotput-ter Steve Collier of Blinn JC all signed earlier this month. The three women signees

sprinter Franchette Holmes of Mobile, Ala., sprinter Michelle Williams of Bronx, N.Y., and heptathlete Kalleen Madden of Yoakum — are the first Lady Aggie signees of the sea-

Holmes, a transfer from Florida State, ran on the Lady Seminoles' national champion 400-meter relay team in 1987

maican national team and was highly
recruited by Texas, LSU, Alabama

Bruce Crampton hope to do something no one else has in the tournaand Southern California.

"Michelle is a great prospect who will help us tremendously in the relays and the sprints," he said. "She titles." should be a top scorer for us at conference and at nationals.'

should be a top contender in the



Pelluer might leave Cowboys

IRVING (AP) — Quarterback camp. There are no starters right Steve Pelluer, who doesn't have a now. That has to be earned. contract, refused to show for the Dallas Cowboys' mini-camp on Wednesday and Coach Jimmy Johnson considered trading him.

"I want positive people who are willing to put it on the line 100 per-cent for the Cowboys," Johnson said. If not, we'll have someone else in the position.

Troy Aikman, the former UCLA quarterback who recently signed a six-year contract for \$11.037 million, was in camp and took a ribbing from some of the veteran players

"I didn't mind the jokes," Aikman said. "It's a fun thing to be kidded about. Pelluer said he didn't miss camp

because of Aikman's salary. "I don't want to be treated as a back-up the rest of my career," Pelluer said. "Maybe I'll have to ask to

be traded." Pelluer played out his five-year contract last season. He was making

\$600,000. Johnson said he had talked to Pelluer and would do so again but emphasized, "The people in my plans

are the ones who work in training

"I think Steve will be a productive player with the Cowboys if we get things worked out. We'll take into consideration his feelings and try to resolve things. What's going to happen would be difficult to predict."

Offensive guard Crawford Ker, who doesn't have a contract, also missed the start of three days of

'We'll talk to Ker's agent and see what we can get worked out," Johnson said

the Cowboys' front office as new owner Jerry Jones continued his shakeout. Treasurer Don Wilson, who had been with the team since 1971, was fired in a one paragraph letter.
"I was kind of surprised," said

Wilson. "That's the way it goes around here.

Also, Joe Bailey, who had been former club president Tex "I think we'll trade him and lbe Schramm's right hand man for 17 lieve he wants to go," Rohrer said years, announced he was leaving the team to join Schramm with the International Football League.

Bailey had negotiated the club's contracts, a task now taken over by

"The opportunity with the new league was difficult to pass up," Bai ley said. "It has an exciting future

There was little resentment among the veteran players over Aik man's contract.

"That's good for him," said rur ning back Herschel Walker, who on the fourth year of a five year of tract at about \$1 million per season "I'm not going to try to renegotion now. Herschel Walker signed acc tract because he was happy and body twisted my arm. If I'm i There were more rumblings in happy then it's my fault that I made e Cowboys' front office as new a bad deal. This is business."

> Aikman, who was busy learning Johnson's playbook and makin friends, said, "I'm being kidde about the money but it hasn't hit me yet that I'm rich. Linebacker Jeff Rohrer predicted

lieve he wants to go," Rohrer said "We'll probably get a good player for

Ker was asking \$400,000 for next year and a new car 'Crawford needs to get to camp,'

Johnson said.

Legends pair goes for 3rd straight

am in 1987. AUSTIN (AP) — Defending Williams is a member of the Ja-champions Orville Moody and ment that helped start the Senior

Moody, the 1969 U.S. Open champion, and his Australian part-Thomas said Madden, who has a ner won the 1987 tournament by personal best of 4,555 points in the four strokes after shooting a course heptathlon and has leaped 5-8 in the high jump, is one of the top female track prospects in Texas. He said she Tommy Aaron and Lou Graham.

second time, they're slimmer. The \$500,000 for the regular tour third time, it's reduced again. But I ment and \$150,000 in the Legend want you to know there's a way to do ary Champions division for play it and we're going to do it."

Gene Littler and Don January,

who will be paired together again in this year's better ball tournament, are the only three-time Legends winners. Littler won in 1981 teamed with Bob Rosburg, and in 1985 and 1986 with January. January's first win came in 1982, while paired with Sam Snead.

"To win it once, the odds are \$650,000 in the 12th Legends tour- who will be paired with Doug Sand slim," Crampton said. "To win it the nament that begins Thursday, with ers.

Among other teams slated for the regular division in the tournament are Arnold Palmer and Miller Barber; Dow Finsterwald and one of Senior Tour's hottest players, Do Bies; Lee Elder and Chi Chi Rodr guez, Billy Casper and Gay Brewer plus Aaron and Graham. Besides Bies, the other fir

Players will split a total of Legends invitee is Larry Mowr

NBA teams start trek for 1989 title tonight

ASSOCIATED PRESS

After playing 1,025 games to eliminate only a third of its teams, the NBA begins its playoffs Thursday night with a team that finished four games under .500 playing the defending champion.

The Portland Trail Blazers, who

were 39-43 and lost all five regular season games to the Los Angeles Lakers, will open the series at the Forum in Inglewood, Calif., as the Lakers launch their bid for a third straight title.

"This is the year you can get beat in any round," Magic Johnson of the Lakers said. "We realize that. Whatever happens, we've just got to deal

with it. We're ready.'

Blazers, said the series is not the mis- New York Knicks. match it appears to be

"We don't want to let them get a quick start on us," Adelman said. "We've played them even during the second half of most of the games, but they've gotten a big jump on us in the first half."

In other games Thursday night, Philadelphia is at New York, Mil-waukee at Atlanta and Golden State Four more series open Friday

when Chicago is at Cleveland, Boston at Detroit, Houston at Seattle, and Denver at Phoenix. In a series that's rated close,

Charles Barkley of the 76ers said he capable of playing and we'll be fine, Rick Adelman, coach of the Trail would rather not have to play the

> playoffs against Miami, and then maybe take the Clippers in the second round," he said. "But we'll take the Knicks. I'm not saying we will beat them; I'm saying that we can beat them. New York won the Atlantic Divi-

sion by six games over the second-place 76ers, but the Knicks struggled to a 5-5 record in April and in one stretch lost five of eight games at Madison Square Garden, including two losses to Philadelphia. "We've got to play the way we're it's a disadvantage.

confident. But believe me, we won "If I had my choice, I'd start the take the Sixers lightly." Utah coach Jerry Sloan said his team was ready for Golden State.

> "I don't fear them — I respect them," he said. "I have a great dea of respect for Golden State and want our players to respect them. Atlanta beat Milwaukee in all si

Mark Jackson of the Knicks said

'We're going into the playoffs ve

of its meetings during the season.
"I don't think we're overly cod because of it," Dominique Wilkins the Hawks said. "We understar what we have to do, but I don't think

SWC

(Continued from page 7)

week after an eight-week stay, can't afford to look ahead to the Arkansas

The third-ranked Aggies have to travel to Houston to play the Cougars this weekend.

Without a doubt, offense is the reason A&M has its second-highest total of victories for a season behind last year's total of 52. A&M boasts five of the top 10 hit-

ters in conference play as well as four of the top 10 in overall action. For the season, including nonconference play, Aggie John Byington leads the SWC in hitting with a .433 batting average. Kirk Thompson (.395), Chuck Knoblauch (.392) and Andy Duke (.367) are other Ag-

gies among the leaders.

In SWC play, Mike Easley (.415)
joins Byington (.403), Thompson

SWC home runs) and Knoblauch (.364) in the top five. Houston (40-12, 6-9) was swept by

Texas last weekend in Austin. The

SWC Baseball Standings

(9)Texas at (5)Arkansas (3)Texas A&M at Houston TCU at Baylor Rice at Texas Tech

Cougars also were swept by the Razorbacks earlier this season. However, that was in Arkansas. The Aggies will be the first contender to

where Houston is 35-2 this season.

Junior first baseman Fred Hinojosa is the player to watch for Houston. He's batting .385 in SWC play with four home runs and 15 RBIs. He's closing in on three Houston ca-

Hinojosa needs only four RBIs to tie the career mark of 112, 10 games to tie the existing mark of 173 and seven hits to tie the record of 179

Houston is trying to hold off Baylor and Texas Tech for fourth place in the league and the last spot in the tourney. Rice (28-27, 4-14) the only team mathematically dimensional triangles of the control SWC Post-Season Tournament.

Baylor (32-16, 7-11) finishes its SWC season this weekend by hosting be held May 17-19 at Olsen Field TCU. The Bears have slumped after a good start in conference play. A good series this weekend would virament berth. will feature the league's top fow teams in a battle for an NCAA town nament berth.

(.397), Terry Taylor (.367 with five play the Cougars at Cougar Field tually assure them of the final total ney berth. If they slip, Tech may b there to overtake them. Tech (28-20, 5-10) has rebounded

from an 0-9 SWC start to win five their last six behind the hitting David Harris. Harris is hitting.

nated for the tournament.

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