



Richard Tijerina
Sports Editor

Ags readying for hostile Autry crowd

The dream team: Jordan-Olajuwon could have been

OK, the Houston Rockets are stuck in fifth place in the Western Conference Midwest Division with a 23-29 record. If things keep up, they'll be hoping for a top lottery draft choice. So now it's time to dream.

There are too many 'what ifs' to contemplate about the Rockets. Just four years ago, they were on the verge of becoming the next great basketball dynasty. They had just beaten the Lakers, and took the Celtics to six games for the NBA title.

But several injuries, drug problems, trades and coaching changes later, the Rockets are back to square one. Since we're dreaming here, let's talk about him. The Dream. Akeem Olajuwon is basketball's greatest center. Houston managed to land the No. 1 pick in the NBA Draft two years in a row, and picked up Ralph Sampson, who was All-University in college and Olajuwon.

But what if Akeem, the greatest center in the NBA, had been paired with Michael Jordan, the greatest guard in the NBA?

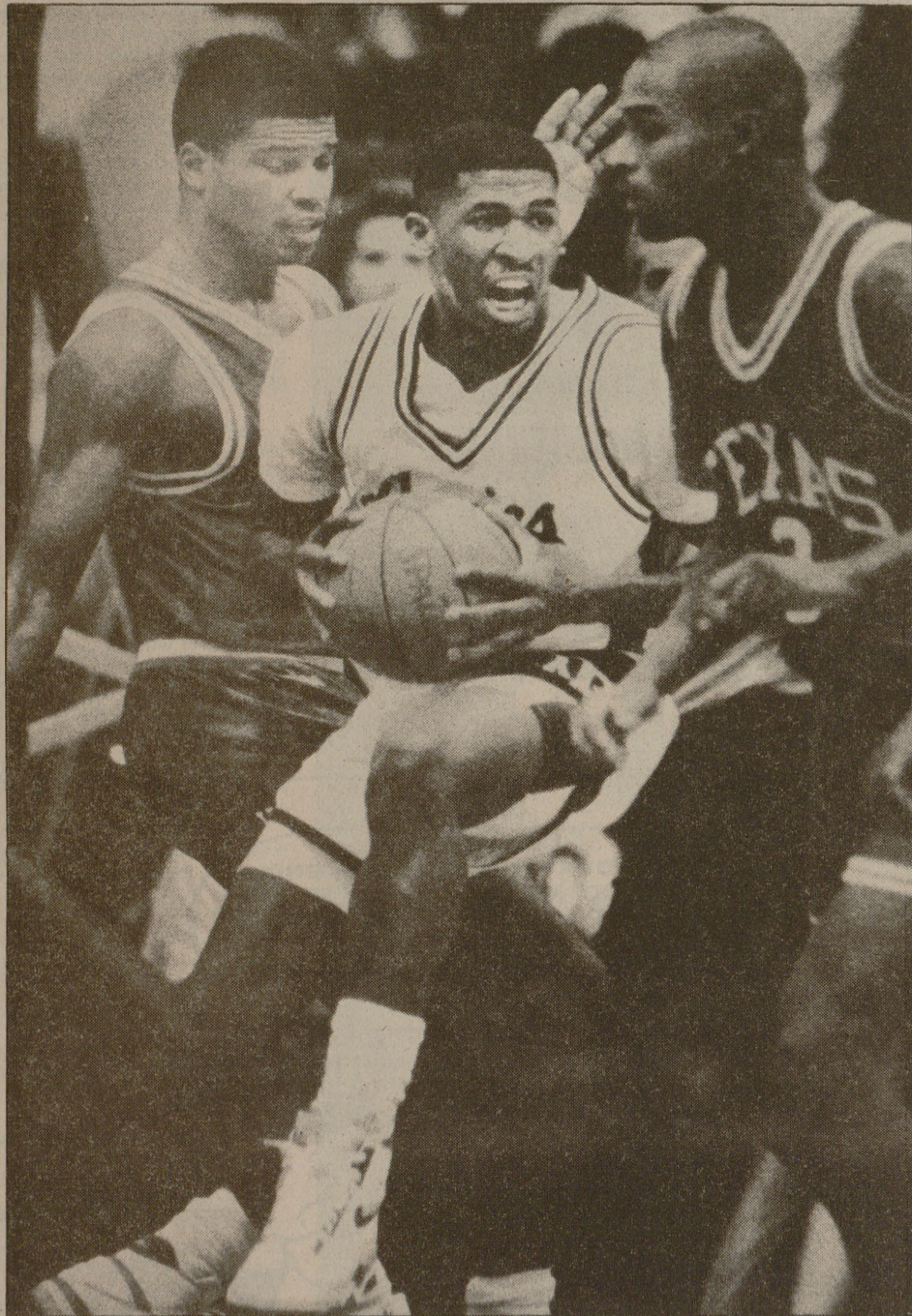
In our stranger than fiction department, it could have been.

The Rockets already had Sampson, who had a promising rookie year and seemed poised to bring the club back to respectability. Now they found themselves with the No. 1 draft choice again the next year.

The top two prospects were Olajuwon out of the University of Houston, and Jordan from North Carolina.

Former Houston coach Bill Fitch

See Tijerina/Page 9



By **CLAY RASMUSSEN**
Of The Battalion Staff

Texas A&M men's basketball coach John Thornton just came back from a 114-100 loss to Arkansas in a place he calls "Fayette-Nam." But if he thought Barnhill Arena was bad, just wait until he steps into Autry Court.

The Aggies travel to Houston Saturday to battle the Rice Owls. A&M is 5-8 in Southwest Conference play, 12-15 overall. Rice is also 5-8 after losing to Southern Methodist Wednesday.

Tipoff is scheduled for 7:35 p.m.

Among Thornton's concerns for Saturday's game is neutralizing a rampant Rice

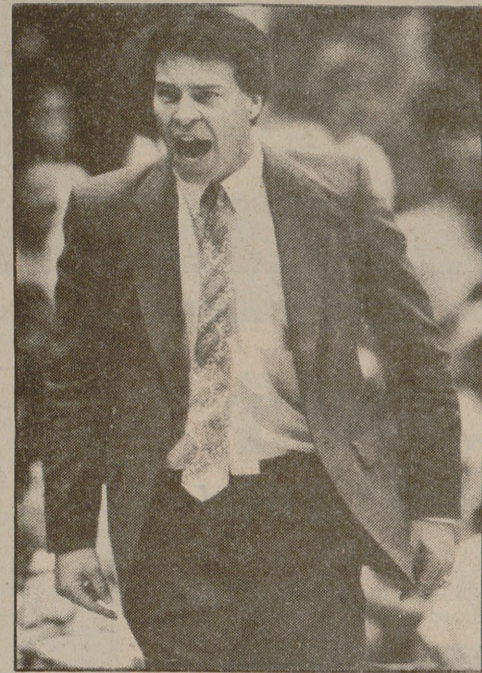
crowd.

"The main thing will be to keep the Rice students out of our huddle," Thornton said. "I think they're there just to unnerve you. Last year our guys didn't know what to expect, but this year they'll be ready."

The Aggies are veterans of noisy crowds after battling the Razorbacks at Barnhill Arena, but Thornton said the Rice fans are of a different breed.

"Arkansas' crowd is a basketball crowd and while that's intimidating, they're not vicious or crude," Thornton said. "They're in control, and while Rice is orchestrated, they're a little less sophisticated."

It's a situation A&M will have to endure as the Aggies enter the second half of the Thornton Era.



Photos by Mike C. Mulvey

A&M basketball coach John Thornton (above) has guided the Aggies to 3-5 SWC record. Senior forward Ray Little (left) leads the Aggies against Rice this weekend.

Thornton's first game as head coach came just over a month ago after Shelby Metcalf was relieved of his coaching duties. Thornton's debut was against a red-hot 4-1 Rice team at G. Rollie White Coliseum.

In a game dedicated to Metcalf, the Aggies pulled out an emotional 89-82 victory.

Although the Owls are on a three game losing streak and A&M is playing some of its best basketball of the year, Thornton said the Aggies need to come together as a team.

"There is no (Kareem Abdul) Jabbar on our team," Thornton said. "We don't have one guy that can go out there and dominate the team. If we're not emotionally and mentally ready to go out and play as a team, then we're just average."

The Aggies must cut down on costly turnovers. In their loss to Arkansas, the Razorbacks scored 18 points on 10 A&M turnovers in the first half.

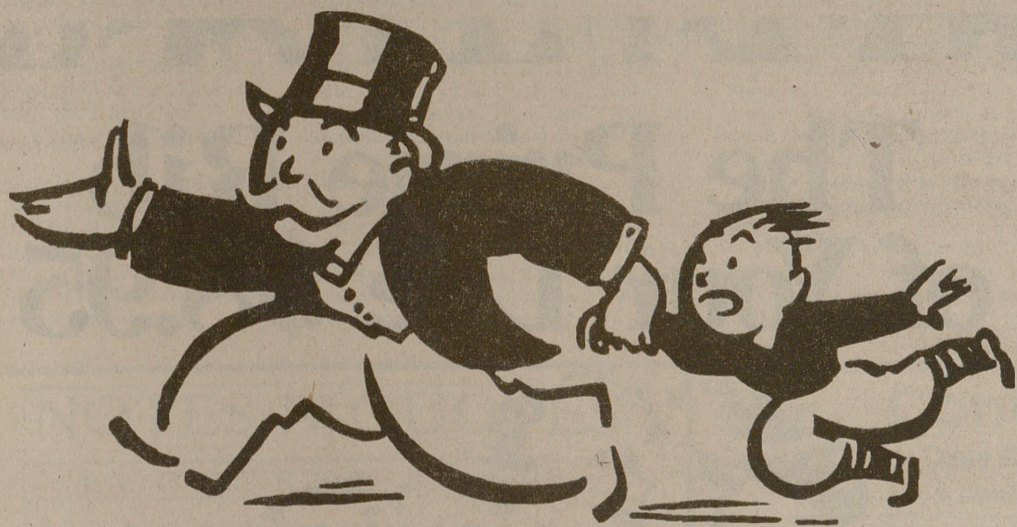
"Another thing I've emphasized the last few games is quality possessions," Thornton said. "If we can push the ball downcourt and score, great. But if we can't, then let's turn that possession into something that we can capitalize on."

Although Rice doesn't possess the big men or ability to pressure an offense for 40 minutes, the Owl's defense will alternate between falling back and pressuring A&M's offense.

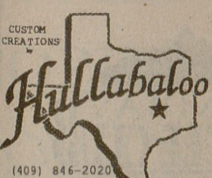
"Rice has the ability to put the pressure on us like Arkansas, but it's more of a spot thing, not 40 minutes of relentless pressure," Thornton said.

"They will try to pressure us then fall back. If they pick up on the fact that an up tempo game is our strong suit, then they'll back off."

Roll the Dice and Play the Game
MSC ALL NIGHT FAIR
and
Hullabaloo Custom Creations
present
Advance to Boardwalk



March 3, 1990 8p.m. - 2 a.m.
DUNCAN DINING CENTER
Admission: \$1



NOTES-N-QUOTES
LECTURE NOTES
112 Nagle Street 846-2255



MONOPOLY game equipment with permission from Parker Brothers © 1936

The Advantage is yours
with a Battalion Classified.

Call 845-0569

THE SANDSTONE CENTER **COUNSELING**

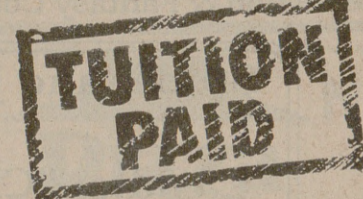
(409) 690-3030 OR 1-800-421-6322

Eating Disorders?
Depression? Stress? Anxiety?
Relationship Problems?
Drug or Alcohol Problem?

Free
Confidential Consultation
24 Hours Every Day

4201 Texas Avenue South, College Station, Texas 77845

GO TO MEDICAL SCHOOL



Find out how you can have your medical school tuition, required books and fees paid in full—plus earn more than \$700 a month while you attend school.

Clip and mail the coupon below, and we'll send you full details on the Armed Forces Health Professions Scholarship Program.

We'll tell you how you could qualify for a Physician's Scholarship from the Army, Navy or Air Force.

If selected, you'll not only beat the high cost of medical school, you'll also gain valuable medical experience serving on active duty 45 days each school year as a commissioned officer in the Reserves.

After graduation, you'll serve three years or more—depending on the Service you select and the level of scholarship assistance you receive—as a respected Armed Forces physician. You'll also get good pay, regular hours, great benefits and the chance to work with a variety of patients and the latest medical technology.

If you meet the age requirements noted below for the Service of your choice—and want to cut the expense of medical school—send for more information today.

YES! Send me full details on how the Armed Forces Health Professions Scholarship Program can help cut my medical school expenses. I meet the age requirements noted below. I understand I am under no obligation.

Mail this coupon to: Armed Forces Scholarships, P.O. Box 2865
Huntington Station, NY 11746-2102 9016

Check up to three: Army (18-35 years of age) Navy (21-36 years of age) Air Force (18-34 years of age)

Please print all information clearly and completely

Name: _____ Apt. # _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____ Area Code: _____ Number: _____ Soc. Sec. No. _____
College: _____ Birth Date: _____
Field of Study: _____ Graduation Date: _____

The information you voluntarily provide will be used for recruiting purposes only. The more complete it is, the better we can respond to your request. (Authority: 10 USC 503)