

### Ags to meet Longhorns in SWC Classic

#### STAFF & WIRE REPORTS

The Texas A&M men's basketball team will get its third shot at knocking off conference rival Texas.

The Longhorns' 84-79 loss Monday night to second place Houston forces Texas to play the Aggies in the first round of the Southwest Conference Postseason Classic.

Houston center Carl Herrera scored 29 points and Byron Smith's 3-point basket with 1:34 to play gave Houston the lead for good.

Houston, 23-6 for the season and 13-3 in the SWC, finished second in the Southwest Conference standings and will face Rice in the first round of the SWC tournament.

Texas is now 20-7 and 12-4 in SWC play.

Houston trailed in the second half until Byron Smith stole the ball from Travis Mays and hit a 3-point basket for a 68-65 Houston lead with 6:55 left in the game.

Upchurch followed with a fast break basket for a 70-65 Houston lead, it's biggest of the game to that point.

Texas came back and took a 74-72 lead with 2:03 to go on two free throws by Mays.

Smith's 3-point shot gave Houston the lead for good and Herrera's three-point play with 59 seconds left, clinched it.

Mays scored 19 points to lead the Longhorns.

Locksley Collie's dunk with six seconds to go gave the Longhorns a 43-41 lead in the tightly played first half.

The Longhorns led for most of the first half, but the Cougars rallied from a 39-32 deficit and tied the score at 41-41 with 34 seconds left in the half.

## Loyola mourns loss of Gathers

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Hank Gathers, the college basketball star who collapsed in the heat of competition and died, was mourned Monday as an inspiration on and off the court by teammates and his coach, who said, "Whatever we were, we were Hank's team."

Gathers, 23, a fifth-year senior and center for the Loyola Marymount University Lions, crumpled Sunday night soon after sinking a thunderous slam dunk in the first half of a tournament game against the University of Portland (Ore.).

"We called him 'Bank man' because we went to him for everything," said Coach Paul Westhead. "We went to him for rebounds, we went to him for points, we went to him for life."

"He was a walking thunderbolt."

Gathers, who was considered a certain pick in the first round of the National Basketball Association draft, was pronounced dead at Daniel Freeman Marina Hospital.

Autopsy results were unavailable Monday, but doctors said he'd been treated after a similar collapse in December for an irregular heart rhythm.

Gathers, a 6-foot-7, 210-pound center from Philadelphia, became the second player in NCAA Division I history to lead the nation in scoring (32.7 average) and rebounding (13.7 average) last year. The feat was first accomplished by Wichita State's Xavier McDaniel five years ago.

Gathers also was 11th on the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I single-season scoring list, with 1,015 points last season.

After the first collapse, he missed two games, but began taking medication and was cleared to play again. Gathers persuaded doctors to cut back on his medication, and said he felt himself strengthening.

Teammate Jeff Fryer said Monday that Gathers had done something unusual before the game that turned out to be his last. He ran on the track to warm up rather than jumping rope as usual.

"We thought he was crazy," Fryer said, adding, "That was Hank."

Just 6½ minutes into the West Coast Conference tournament game, Gathers slam-dunked for his eighth point, giving 22nd-ranked Loyola Marymount a 25-13 lead over Portland.

He was heading back to his regular spot in the Lions' press when he dropped to the floor.

Loyola doctors rushed onto the court. After a few moments, Gathers tried to get up, struggling to his knees. But then he began to suffer what appeared to be a seizure.

His mother, Lucille, ran onto the court, followed by his aunt, Carole Livingston. Their screams and cries rang through Albert Gersten Pavilion as a stunned crowd of about 3,000 watched in silence.

The tournament was cancelled and Loyola Marymount, a Los Angeles school, was declared the league champion by virtue of its 13-1 regular-season record in conference games.

Gathers' death prompted CBS to postpone a scheduled broadcast of "Malcolm Takes a Shot," a drama for children about a high school basketball star stricken with an epileptic seizure in the final seconds of a game.

Teammates and coach had trouble talking about Gathers at a news conference Monday.

"Hank represents the little kid in all of us because to Hank Gathers basketball was play, and we all want to play," Westhead said. "Basketball was free play, and Hank Gathers was the best in playing freely."

Longtime friend and teammate Bo Kimble came west with Gathers after graduating from Dobbins Tech in Philadelphia in 1985. The pair went to the University of Southern California for a year, then transferred to Loyola Marymount, where they were the main ingredients in college basketball's highest-scoring team the last three seasons.

Trying to share his memories with reporters, Kimble was overcome by emotion and had to be helped from the podium.

## Olajuwon 'centerpiece' in Rocket win Robinson not enough in Spurs' 109-105 loss

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Akeem Olajuwon scored 14 of his 37 points in the fourth quarter, including the go-ahead jumper with 39 seconds remaining, to lead the Houston Rockets to 109-105 victory Monday night over the San Antonio Spurs.

Olajuwon's 15-foot fadeaway broke a tie at 105. Mitchell Wiggins added two free throws with 11 seconds left to give the Rockets their

sixth victory in 30 road games this season.

San Antonio, which had won four of its previous six games, was led by David Robinson with 29 points and Terry Cummings with 28.

The Spurs led by 82-70 with 2:26 left in the third quarter after outscoring the Rockets 39-24 in the period.

But Houston used a 10-2 spurt

midway through the fourth period to pull to 92-90 with 7:11 left. Olajuwon and Mike Woodson had four points apiece during the surge.

San Antonio still led 101-98 with 3:13 left, but a 7-2 rally gave Houston a 105-103 lead with 1:39 to play. A jumper by Willie Anderson tied the game for San Antonio.

Olajuwon scored 19 first-half points to help Houston take a 54-49 lead at the break.

### Champion sires 142 winners

## Sail On Bunny continues winning ways

KRESS (AP) — You've seen it a thousand times. A great athlete retires and becomes coach to make a lot of great little athletes. The story's pretty much the same in Kress — except the retiree isn't a coach.

But that hasn't stopped Sail On Bunny from making a lot of great little racehorses.

Ranked 17th in all-time earnings among quarter horses, Sail On Bunny retired eight years ago as a shining 2-year-old star. He is now the stellar attraction at Billy Boggs Stallion Station, a Kress-based breeding facility.

"He was one of the fastest horses alive," Boggs said of the 10-year-old equestrian prize. "And he's a good sire horse."

Bunny is a Top 20 sire of winners. The chestnut stallion has sired 339 foals and 142 of those have been winners.

But it is his remarkable 1982 track performance that now brings in racing enthusiasts with their stud fees.

"He is the best horse that's ever stood at this place," Boggs said, "and there've been a lot of good horses standing here."

In 10 starts, he was first across the finish line six times, second three times and third once. His career earnings total \$908,982.

One of his early races could have ended the colt's running days. In

April 1982, Bunny collided with another horse coming out of the gate at the Sun Country Futurity Trials at Sunland Park in New Mexico.

Injured and bruised, he still was strong enough to finish in the No. 2 position.

But the injury persisted as Bunny was sent to Los Alamitos, Calif., where he was preparing for the \$715,000 Kindergarten Stakes.

Trainer Jack Cascio called in two veterinarians — one to work on a

possible bone splint in Bunny's leg, the other to treat his injured shoulder. The bone splint received state-of-the-art laser therapy. The shoulder was treated with the centuries-old practice of acupuncture.

All the attention paid off, and Bunny won the Kindergarten Junie 19.

"We had to change the shoes the other day and the fellow told me, 'You'd better hold on to those shoes, they're going to be worth a lot of money someday.' I don't know whether they will or not, but with a horse as great as that, you never can tell."

— Billy Boggs, owner, Billy Boggs Stallion Station

Bunny broke from the gate so hard he stumbled and fell to one knee. Jockey Gary Sumpter rallied the colt and, by the midway point, Sail On Bunny was in second place and gaining on the leader, a filly called Make Mine Cash.

It was a photo finish. The filly won the race by about three inches.

Bunny has been standing at Boggs' station since October when Boggs returned to the Kress facility. Boggs said he came in contact with Bunny through one of his owners, Jake Box, a Portales, N.M., wheat farmer who raised the champion from a colt.

Box bought Bunny's mother, Miss Myrna Mix, in 1980 for \$500, a brood mare, one of her colts and a yearling filly. She was bred to Bunny Bid in Vernon after Box paid a \$1500 stud fee. The result was Sail On Bunny.

Box put Bunny up for auction at Ruidoso Downs in Sept. 1981, but after the animal brought a top bid of only \$9,500, Box bid \$10,000 and took the colt back home.

About a year later, he and partner Ray Starbuck would sell Bunny's breeding rights to an Oklahoma businessman for \$4.5 million.

The biggest question on Boggs' mind is what to do with the animal's shoes.

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