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# Rockets beat Kings *without* Akeem

HOUSTON (AP) — Sleepy Floyd scored 11 points and had three steals in an 18-2 fourth quarter run that helped the Houston Rockets defeat the Sacramento Kings 112-97 Tuesday night.

Floyd finished with 22 points, seven assists and six steals as the Rockets gained a full game in their race with Seattle for a playoff spot in the Western Conference.

Houston improved its record to 40-39 with three games left in the regular season while Seattle, which lost to the Los Angeles Lakers Tuesday night, fell to 39-40.

The Rockets' Akeem Olajuwon was ejected early in the third quarter. A shoving match between Olajuwon and Sacramento's Greg Kite resulted in a punching foul and an automatic ejection for the Rockets star center with 9:25 remaining in the third quarter.

Houston was ahead 60-48 at the time. Olajuwon finished with 20 points, seven rebounds and four blocked shots in 24 minutes.

By the end of the third period, Houston was only up 83-79, as Danny Ainge and Antoine Carr scored nine points each in the quarter. Ainge led all scorers with 27 and Carr finished with 21.

Sacramento was on top 89-85 on Rodney McGray's two free throws with 8:43 to go in the game. Houston regained the lead 90-89 on a

three-point shot by Floyd and a driving basket by Vernon Maxwell that began the 18-2 surge that resulted in a 103-91 advantage.

The Kings have lost their last 12 games while the Rockets have won eight of 11 games. Houston has defeated the Kings 16 straight times in Houston.

In the first half, Ainge game off the bench to score 12 points in a 22-11 Sacramento drive, putting the Kings ahead 40-37 with 8:13 left in the first half.

Floyd felt it took the Rockets a while to adjust to Olajuwon's absence, especially on defense.

"We finally realized we didn't have Akeem protecting the basket,

so we played the passing lanes and got some great steals that we converted into layups," he said.

Floyd also was aware that Seattle had lost 102-101 to the Los Angeles Lakers Tuesday night and the Rockets needed to find a way to win.

"We had to get it done," he said. "We knew we could still win without him, and realizing the magnitude of the game, we eventually picked up our intensity."

Olajuwon felt his ejection was unjustified.

"I kept telling the refs all along to clean it up. I kept pushing him off me. It was a shove, not a punch," he said.

While Retton trained with Karolyi for the 1984 Olympics, Zmeskal was a member of a "Hope Group" of younger girls who tried to duplicate every move and gesture of the older girls such as Retton.

Zmeskal is smaller, but Karolyi finds many similarities between her and Retton.

## Training champions from tradition ... Karolyi working with Zmeskal

HOUSTON (AP) — On the walls of the waiting area in Bela Karolyi's north Houston gym hang pictures of Mary Lou Retton and Phoebe Mills, two of the girls he has tutored to greatness in gymnastics.

For Karolyi, success has bred more success.

It was Retton's hard work and achievements that triggered the emergence of Kim Zmeskal, a 14-year-old Houstonian who is now considered one of America's rising gymnastics stars.

"I used to watch Mary Lou work out (here at Karolyi's gym) and I wanted to be just like her," said Zmeskal, who has trained at Karolyi's facility the last eight years.

Zmeskal, only 4-foot-4 and 67 pounds, has reached an elite class in the eyes of the gymnastics world by earning gold medals in the all-around competition at last week's U.S. Challenge in Las Vegas and in the prestigious McDonald's American Cup international meet at Fairfax, Va., on March 4.

"Historically, the ones who won the American Cup became the prominent international figures in women's gymnastics starting with Nadia (Comaneci)," Karolyi said. "She won in 1976 and then became an Olympic champion. Mary Lou, in 1983, coming from an unknown into the American Cup and then a year later becoming an Olympic champion. Then there was Kristie Phillips and Phoebe Mills."

Although Karolyi won't put Zmeskal in the same class with Comaneci and Retton just yet, he does expect great things from Zmeskal.

"She has all the necessary ingredients to become one of the strongest international figures in the coming years," Karolyi said.

**"She has all the necessary ingredients to become one of the strongest international figures in the coming years."**

**—Bela Karolyi, gymnastics coach**

"Her tiny body and tremendous explosiveness which is associated with a remarkable natural strength (are her biggest assets)," Karolyi said. "That's a quality that's already been proven in the past to be one of the most important, with Mary Lou being the first and most prominent of that type of gymnast to be short, extremely explosive and powerful."

Zmeskal is one of only a handful of girls to whom Karolyi devotes special attention at his gymnastics school.

"I moved into his group a year ago and I've improved a lot," Zmeskal said. "I'm more consistent now. We work a lot on strengthening and I've gotten a lot stronger."

Zmeskal is special to Karolyi in many ways. Besides being his newest protegee as the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona draw nearer, she is his first home-grown prodigy. Unlike Retton, Mills, Phillips, Brandy Johnson and Chelle Stack, Zmeskal has no reason to become homesick.

Feeling such pulls as family ties back home, Johnson and Stack left

Karolyi's tutelage after the '88 Olympics. Mills, who won an individual bronze medal in the Seoul Games, retired from competitive gymnastics last June.

"It's important for Houston, it's important for us and it's important for me," Karolyi said. "I'm a Houston resident. I'm directing all my efforts not just to develop gymnasts in general, but I'm directing my efforts to raise the appreciation of the talent in this town."

"I've always felt deep in my heart that I wanted a hometown kid to come out and give satisfaction for the gymnastics enthusiasts. Now, after all these years, our first generation is stepping out. From now on, Houston will have its own kids out on the floor."

Zmeskal definitely is leading the Houston contingent, which consists of six other up-and-coming talents: Amy Sheer, Ericka Stock, Hilary Grivish, Amanda Uherek, Elizabeth Okino and Jana McQuowen.

Although she has worked hard to achieve her status among the nation's gymnasts, Zmeskal's success has taken her a bit by surprise. She began her career at the age of 6 with the idea of having nothing more than a good time.

"I just wanted to go play around with all the other little girls," Zmeskal said.

She began competing at 9 and made her jump to the elite class two years ago after gaining some added inspiration.

"The World Championships were here in 1988, so I got to see all the champions," Zmeskal recalled.

Zmeskal is careful not to look past the 1992 Olympics or for that matter past next week because she knows a gymnast's career is only an injury away from ending. But barring any misfortune, the American Cup may be the first of many titles this diminutive dynamo brings home to Houston.

"There's no question about it," Karolyi said. "She's the one to watch from now on."

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## A&M tennis team signs top junior player Weaver

From Staff and Wire Reports

The Texas A&M men's tennis team signed one of the nation's top junior tennis players Friday. Mark Weaver of Shreveport, La., picked A&M over Tulane, Wake Forest, Louisiana State and the University of Mississippi.

The 6-2, 170-pound senior from Caddo Magnet High School, is ranked 47th nationally in the Boy's 18 division of the United States Tennis Association's Junior rankings.

## TCU golf team breaks NCAA regulations

FORT WORTH (AP) — Texas Christian University announced Tuesday that its women's golf coach has violated NCAA rules and that appropriate action has been taken.

An internal investigation disclosed that two prospective athletes played golf while on a recruiting visit, and a student-athlete was given a ride to the airport in a coach's car. Both actions were violations of NCAA rules, school officials said.

TCU athletic director Frank Windegger said the results of the investigation were forwarded to the NCAA.

The players involved were declared ineligible by the school, but the NCAA later ordered them reinstated, Windegger said.

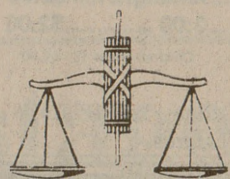
Women's golf coach Kristi Arney received a reprimand from school officials and has been ordered to spend two days at the Southwest Conference league office studying NCAA rules.

"Mark is one of the top recruits in the nation," A&M coach David Kent said. "He will make a big difference in our tennis future with one of the best forehands in junior tennis right now."

Weaver already has defeated several current or former collegiate players during his career. He is the men's singles champion in Shreveport, and defeated former Oklahoma State star Pat Harrison for the title.

## PRE-LAW SOCIETY

Field Trip to Baylor Law School



Leaving at 7:30 a.m., Thurs., April 19th \$5 members/\$10 non-members

Call David for info: 847-4904

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FEE OPTION 23 during FALL REGISTRATION

## Off Campus Aggies Director Applications

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All Majors Needed Involvement, Service, and Friendship

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Any off-campus student may apply. Previous involvement in OCA suggested but not required.

Applications are due April 19th in room 223 of the Pavilion. Sign up for an interview when you turn your application in. Interviews are the night of the 19th and all day the 20th.

## History of RADICAL ACTIVISM and its necessary continuance



Maria Ellena Martinez Bilingual Instructional Coordinator

Paul Hernandez Former Brown Beret

Wednesday 7:00pm April 18, 1990 Rudder Tower 301

Presented by MSC Committee for the Awareness of Mexican American Culture

## Tisch

(Continued from page 7)

delivers his high heater. The umpire takes a step back and bellows, "Steeeeerike threeeeee!"

Seat cushions fly everywhere. Olsen Field is total chaos. A&M triumphs once again.

What an afternoon. I had a wonderful time at my first Aggie baseball game. I'll go to a baseball game anytime, as long as I can be a part of the crowd.

But it gets very hot under the sun. I was just so happy that I happen to have my old paperback copy of *Sounder* in my purse. It sure did come in handy as a great sunshield.

MEMORIES in MOTION

1990-1991 AggieVision

Fee Option 23

# Coffeehouse

a retrospective...



Friday, April 20, 1990 Rumours 9:00pm

Can you say "groovy"?

MSC Town Hall

