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Wednesday, November 7, 1990

Sports Editor Nadja Sabawala 845-2688

Let's not jump Aggie basketball ship just yet ...

With basketball season looming in the background, I feel it's time to go ahead and get a few things out in the open.

As many are aware, Texas A&M will start from scratch this year. The team has a new coach in Kermit Davis Jr., eight new players and a new 6th Man tradition.

The Aggies last winning record in the Southwest Conference was 12-4 in 1986, and with all this newness around there's not much that says that will change this year.

Didn't Texas make it to the NCAA Final Eight last year without a pure front-line player, a tenacious offense and a pressing defense — a situation similar to what A&M finds itself in this year?

The Aggies play a tough schedule this year, playing eight teams that went to the NCAA Tournament and three from the NIT Tournament.

Davis was hired on March 28, late in the recruiting season, and jumped in right away trying to scrape up what was left in the pool of recruits.

See Pills/Page 8

Douglas Pills

Cougars want national title

UH eyes No. 1 as it awaits UT

HOUSTON (AP) — The Houston Cougars lined up as the No. 3 team in the nation Tuesday, but coach John Jenkins said he's more concerned about the season's wind up.

"We're a rock's throw of winning the national championship with three games remaining and the greatest opportunity for us comes Saturday," Jenkins said.

The Cougars (8-0) are the only NCAA Division I unbeaten, untied team in the nation and they'll carry a 12-game winning streak, the longest in the nation, into Saturday's game against No. 14 Texas (6-1).

"We take it as a challenge that all of the voters (in the Associated Press poll) are out there saying, 'Not so fast, we'll see if you're the No. 1 team on Saturday, show us,'" Jenkins said.

Houston is in the final year of a three-year NCAA probation sentence that will prevent them from playing in a bowl game but Jenkins thinks it would be good for the SWC for the Cougars to win the national title.

"The greatest thing that could happen to this league would be for Houston to win the national title and for the Cotton Bowl representative to have a good showing," Jenkins said.

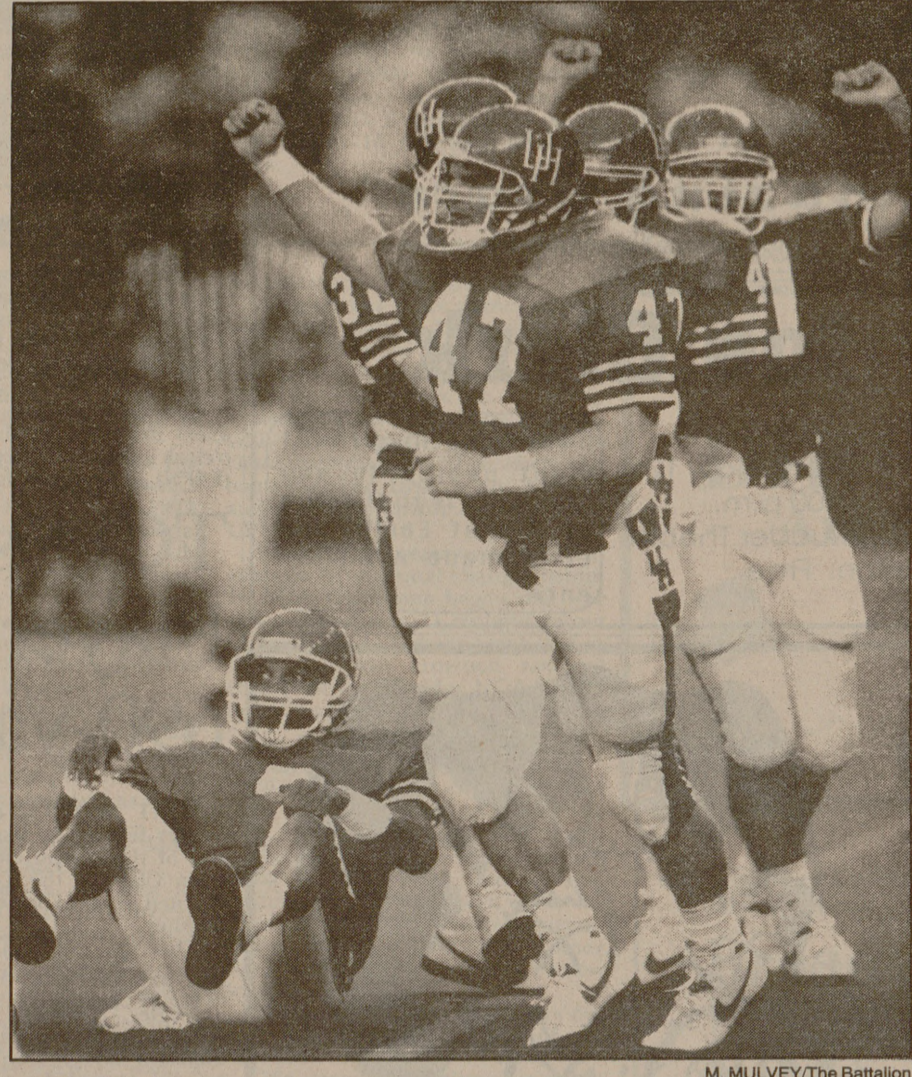
Houston has beaten Texas 60-40, 66-15 and 47-9 the past three years and Jenkins has special memories of the Cougars' 60-40 victory in 1987.

"This offense (run-and-shoot) finally took its place against Texas in 1987," Jenkins said. "That was the beginning of this era. Since that time we've had a 29-5-1 record. I guess we have a sentimental attachment to this game, like a reunion."

Jenkins said he has a job to do in getting his team ready to play the Longhorns.

"These players have never lost to Texas and they've won convincingly every time," Jenkins said. "My job is to make sure every step they take is directed to doing the same thing."

The Cougars' No. 3 ranking is their highest since they reached a No. 2 ranking in the AP poll in 1967.



M. MULVEY/The Battalion

Houston, the nation's only unbeaten, untied team, now has its sights set for a national title. Coach John Jenkins said the Cougars should be ranked No. 1.

They beat Michigan State 37-7, achieving a No. 3 rank and rose to No. 2 the following week with a 50-6 victory over Wake Forest. Houston lost to North Carolina State the following week and finished the season with a 7-3 record and No. 16 ranking.

"We're not worried about it," wide receiver Manny Hazard said. "The only thing we're worrying about is winning these last

three games and going 11-0." Houston will close out the season with non-conference games against Eastern Washington and Arizona State.

The Cougars were placed on probation in 1988 for violations that occurred during the tenure of former Coach Bill Yeoman. The Cougars were unable to appear on live television last year under terms of the probation.

Barnes says he never used steroids

Associated Press

Two U.S. world record-holders — former Texas A&M track star Randy Barnes and runner Butch Reynolds — accused track and field's worldwide bosses of shoddy drug testing procedures in the sport's biggest drug bust since Ben Johnson.

While awaiting word Tuesday on when they can appeal the positive test results, both face two-year suspensions that could keep them out of the 1992 Summer Olympics at Barcelona.

Johnson was stripped of his 100-meter gold medal for using steroids at the 1988 Seoul Games and has just come off a two-year suspension.

In light of a growing antidrug movement within the sport, the general secretary of the International Amateur Athletic Federation, John Holt, said the IAAF was "staggered" and "very disappointed that these two great names are now on the doping list."

Both Barnes and Reynolds flunked initial drug tests after meets last August as well as the backup tests administered as a fail-safe, the IAAF said in announcing the suspensions on Monday from London. The IAAF is the world governing body of track and field.

"In six years of competition, I have never taken any prohibited substance," Barnes said in an affidavit submitted Tuesday to The Athletics Congress, the U.S. governing body for track and field.

"I have been subjected to dope tests on approximately 30 occasions since 1985 and have always tested negatively. I have always submitted to and passed every dope test administered to me, including random and 48-hour tests."

Barnes holds the world record in the shot put. A statement signed by Richard A. Hollander, chairman of the grants committee for TAC, indicates Barnes' urine samples weren't sealed in his presence in violation of IAAF rules and that control numbers used on the seal were added later, another violation.

In Hollander's report, which The Asso-

See Barnes/Page 9

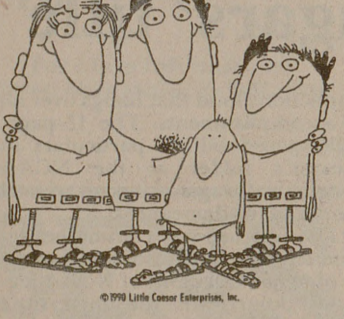
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