

SWC basketball coaches ready for early signing

FORT WORTH (AP) — Southwest Conference basketball coaches will get a chance this week to monitor how much recent speculation over the league's health has affected recruiting.



In fact, uncertainty about the league's future in the wake of Arkansas' defection to the Southeastern Conference was a recruiting tool used by coaches in other conferences, some say.

"Schools from outside Texas were hitting hard on the status of the league," Texas coach Tom Penders said.

When SWC coaches talked with basketball prospects during the contact period in September, they were bombarded with questions about the league's status.

The coaches will find out Wednesday, when the one-week early signing period begins, whether they were able to allay their prospects' concerns.

"Kids that were interested in the SWC or Texas had a lot of questions about the conference and the attendance. It was very much a hot topic," Penders told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram in Sunday's editions.

"They were asking what other teams are coming into the conference. Who do you think you're going to get?" said Texas Christian coach Moe Iba. "They were curious, looking for information. It wasn't negative. They weren't asking which teams were leaving."

Baylor coach Gene Iba said none of the recruits he talked with categorically turned down his school or the SWC, but there was an intangible feeling of doubt.

"I think it has hurt us some," he said. "I think the instability bothered some kids."

Texas A&M coach Kermit Davis Jr. said the uncertainty caused some players to strike the SWC from their list of prospects.

"We were involved with two or three of the best players in the state. But people were speculating Pac-10, SEC. And we dropped off of some guys' lists because of that," Davis said.

Texas and A&M calmed the situation somewhat when they announced in August that their schools were committed to the SWC.

Among the top players in the state who have given non-binding, verbal commitments, there appears to be a strong desire to leave home. Duncanville center Greg Osterag has said he will sign with Kansas; San Marcos center Nathion Gilmore plans to sign with Notre Dame; and Plano East guard Jimmy King said he will sign with Michigan.

Arkansas, the cause of all the turmoil in the league, is hardly suffering from the turbulence. The Razorbacks will join the SEC in basketball in the 1991-92 season.

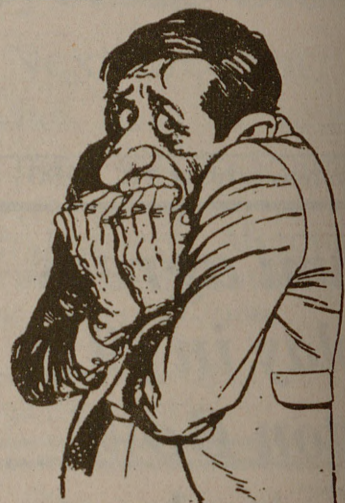
The two-time defending SWC champions are reaping the benefits of a Final Four appearance and plenty of pre-season national recognition. Of the top 50 seniors in the country, coach Nolan Richardson said Arkansas is on the list of 15.

"We're at the time where it's selection time instead of recruiting time," Richardson said. "All the big-time programs select, they don't recruit." Richardson expects a bright future in the SWC.

"Coming off of a Final Four, going into a new conference, it's all been positive," he said. "We're gaining much more than we're losing, if we lose anything."

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Happy birthday to you Hlasek defeats Chang for Wembley title

WEMBLEY, England (AP) — Jakob Hlasek served 13 aces and used his power to overcome the quickness of Michael Chang for a 7-6, 6-3 victory Sunday in the final of the Wembley indoor tennis tournament.

Hlasek, who also claimed the Wembley title in 1988, celebrated his 26th birthday a day early by winning his first tour event of the year. The victory was worth \$42,800.

"I served very well on the big points. He really couldn't jump on me because my first serve was so good," Hlasek said. "I tried to go for it on my first serve, to go for a lot of quick points."

Defending champion Chang, one of the best service returners on the men's tour, managed only one break and rarely threatened in Hlasek's other service games.

"It was a matter of getting a good start on his serve, but he came up with big serves at the right time," said Chang, who won \$25,200 dollars. "The most difficult part about playing him today was just getting his serve back."

Each player had one service break in the opening set, which Hlasek won 7-4 in a tie-breaker. Hlasek won the opening three games of the set

and set and then wrapped up the match on his fifth match point.

Hlasek kept Chang moving all over the court, and his power continually prevented the American from getting in position to hit solid shots. Chang's resulting weak returns often led to winning volleys by Hlasek.

The Swiss player said he helped form his strategy for the match while doing German commentary for a television station during Chang's second-round defeat of Jeremy Bates.

"That was the first time that I really saw 100 percent what to do. That was a really good hour for me to learn," Hlasek said. "I was concentrating, trying to do a good job on the commenting."

Hlasek said he learned from that stint to stay on the baseline and wait for his chances, rather than rushing the net on every serve.

"I learned to not come in too much, because he passes so well," Hlasek said. "I knew I had to stay with him and come in on the best shot he gives you."

Jim Grabb and Patrick McEnroe won the doubles title, beating fellow Americans Rick Leach and Jim Pugh 7-6 (7-4), 4-6, 6-3.

AP Top 25

Here's how the top 25 teams in The Associated Press' college football poll fared Saturday:

Rank, team, result: 1. Notre Dame (8-1) def. No. 9 Tennessee 34-29 2. Washington (8-2) lost to UCLA 25-22 3. Houston (8-1) lost to No. 14 Texas 45-24 4. Colorado (9-1-1) def. Oklahoma State 41-22 5. Miami, Fla. (6-2) did not play

Next opponent: No. 21 Penn State at Washington St. Eastern Washington Kansas State Boston College

6. Iowa (7-2) lost to Ohio State 27-26 7. Georgia Tech (8-0-1) def. Virginia Tech 6-3 8. Brigham Young (8-1) def. No. 25 Wyoming 45-14 9. Tennessee (5-2-2) lost to No. 1 Notre Dame 34-29 10. Florida (8-1) def. Georgia 38-7

Purdue at Wake Forest at Utah No. 16 Miss. at Kentucky

11. Virginia (8-1) def. North Carolina 24-10 12. Florida State (7-2) def. Cincinnati 70-21 13. Nebraska (9-1) def. Kansas 41-9 14. Texas (7-1) def. No. 3 Houston 45-24 15. Auburn (6-2-1) lost to So. Mississippi 13-12 15. Iowa (6-1) def. Northwestern 56-14

Maryland Memphis State at Oklahoma at Texas Christian Georgia at No. 5 Illinois

16. Mississippi (8-1) did not play 17. Illinois (6-3-0) lost to No. 19 Mich. 22-17 18. Clemson (8-2) did not play 19. Michigan (6-3) def. No. 17 Illinois 22-17 20. Oregon (7-3) lost to California 28-3

No. 9 Tennessee at Indiana South Carolina Minnesota at Oregon State

21. Penn State (7-2) def. Maryland 24-10 22. Louisville (9-1-1) def. Boston College 17-10 23. Southern Cal (7-2-1) def. Oregon State 56-7 24. Michigan State (5-3-1) def. Minnesota 28-16 25. Wyoming (9-2) lost to No. 8 Brigham Young 45-14

at No. 1 Notre Dame TBA. at UCLA at Northwestern at Hawaii

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