

**Texas A&M basketball schedules**

**Men**

- November**  
 16 Red Army\*  
 28 Bucknell
- December**  
 1 Kansas State (Prime-TV)  
 6 Montana State  
 8 Nevada-Las Vegas  
 18 Northwestern  
 20 Texas Southern  
 22 Seton Hall (Prime-TV)  
 30 Loyola Marymount
- January**  
 3 South Alabama  
 5 Northern Illinois  
 12 Texas  
 16 Rice (ESPN2)  
 19 Houston  
 22 Siena  
 25 TCU (Prime-TV)  
 29 SMU (Raycom-TV)
- February**  
 2 Baylor  
 5 Texas Tech (Raycom-TV)  
 9 Oral Roberts  
 12 Texas (Raycom-TV)  
 16 Houston  
 20 Rice (ESPN2)  
 23 TCU  
 27 SMU (ESPN2)
- March**  
 1 Baylor (Prime-TV)  
 5 Texas Tech  
 10-12 SWC Postseason Classic (Prime, Raycom, ESPN-TV)

**Women**

- November**  
 18 VSS Kosice Slavakia\*  
 20 Houston Flight\*  
 27 Arizona State  
 30 Texas Southern
- December**  
 4-5 Lady Aggie Invitational (U. of Portland, Cincinnati and Missouri-Kansas City)  
 7 Lamar  
 18 Oklahoma  
 21 California-Irvine  
 29 Louisiana State  
 31 Tulane
- January**  
 3 Oklahoma State  
 11 Texas  
 15 Rice  
 19 Houston  
 23 Sacramento State  
 26 TCU  
 29 SMU
- February**  
 2 Baylor  
 5 Texas Tech (Prime-TV)  
 9 Texas  
 12 Rice (Prime-TV)  
 16 Houston  
 18 Oral Roberts  
 23 TCU  
 26 SMU
- March**  
 2 Baylor  
 5 Texas Tech  
 11-13 SWC Tournament

\*Pre-season game — Bold letters denote home games

**IT'S GONNA BE A GREAT YEAR AT G. ROLLIE!**



**Preseason Basketball Polls**

**Southwest Conference Coaches**

- |               |               |
|---------------|---------------|
| <b>Men</b>    | <b>Women</b>  |
| 1. Texas      | 1. Texas Tech |
| 2. Texas A&M  | 2. Texas      |
| 3. Baylor     | 3. SMU        |
| 4. Houston    | 4. Texas A&M  |
| 5. Texas Tech | 5. Houston    |
| 6. Rice       | 6. Baylor     |
| 7. TCU        | 7. Rice       |
| 8. SMU        | 8. TCU        |

**Associated Press National**

- |                         |                       |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Men</b>              | <b>Women</b>          |
| 1. North Carolina (61)* | 1. Tennessee (34)     |
| 2. Kentucky (3)         | 2. Vanderbilt (34)    |
| 3. Arkansas             | 3. Iowa (2)           |
| 4. Duke                 | 4. Louisiana Tech (1) |
| 5. Michigan             | 5. Auburn             |
| 6. California           | 6. Stanford           |
| 7. Louisville           | 7. Penn State         |
| 8. Temple               | 8. Ohio State         |
| 9. Kansas (1)           | 9. North Carolina     |
| 10. Minnesota           | 10. Virginia          |
| 11. Oklahoma State      | 11. Southern Cal      |
| 12. Indiana             | 12. Colorado          |
| 13. UCLA                | 13. Western Kentucky  |
| 14. Georgia Tech        | 14. Texas Tech        |
| 15. Georgetown          | 15. Stephen F. Austin |
| 16. Virginia            | 16. Kansas            |
| 17. Illinois            | 17. Georgia           |
| 18. Arizona             | 18. Connecticut       |
| 19. Cincinnati          | 19. Alabama           |
| 20. Syracuse            | 20. SW Missouri State |
| 21. Purdue              | 21. George Washington |
| 22. Massachusetts       | 22. Mississippi       |
| 23. Vanderbilt          | 23. Maryland          |
| 24. George Washington   | 24. Oklahoma State    |
| 25. Florida State       | 25. Purdue            |

Others receiving votes: Wisconsin, Marquette, Northwestern, Texas, Xavier, Ohio State, Texas Washington, Clemson  
 \* parenthesis denotes first place votes

**College hoops hype begins bevy of basketball**

Yes, folks, it's that time of the sports year again. In gyms across the country, players are running wind sprints, practicing their turnaround jumpers, shooting free throws and working on the pick-and-roll. Broadcasters Dick Vitale and Billy Packer are filling out their All-American teams and exchanging hair growth tonics. As of October 31, the 1993-94 college basketball season has begun.



**WILLIE CORRINGTON**  
Sportswriter

When we last checked in on the college basketball front, North Carolina won a dramatic 77-71 championship game over Michigan to take the men's title, while Texas Tech rode the shoulders of Sheryl Swoopes to an 84-82 win over Ohio State in the women's championship. Whether or not either team can repeat is subject to debate, but that sort of conjecture is what the preseason is for.

During the off-season, there were two little-publicized but very important rule changes made in men's college basketball.

The shot clock has been reduced from 45 to 35 seconds per possession, which should mean an extra 15 to 20 shots per game. Any way you cut it, the men's game is going to be played at a faster pace this year because of the shortened clock. Bench strength and speed will be even more important than they already are. Teams that have quality depth to back up the

starters will also benefit from this change.

The change would immediately seem to favor teams which play a up-tempo, pressure-oriented style, a la Kentucky, UNLV and Arkansas. Another change from last season, one that will also affect the women's game, is that in the last minute of the game, the clock will be stopped after a made basket and restarted when the ball is in-bounded.

Previously, a team with no timeouts at the end of a game was at a serious disadvantage because the other team could hold the ball out of bounds while the clock continued to run. This will no longer be the case. This change will give each team more possessions at the end of a game, which in turn could lead to more buzzer-beating finishes. These endings are college basketball's lifeblood.

Each season, there seems to be one team that is head and shoulders above the rest and the others spend all season trying to knock this Goliath off. This year, North Carolina appears to be that team. Four starters return from last year's champions, including center Eric Montross and guards Derrick Phelps and Donald Williams. The Tar Heels also have quality depth at every position and brought in a fantastic freshman class.

All of the pieces are in place for a second straight title, but the great thing about college basketball is that nothing ever goes as planned.

Who could have forecast N.C. State winning it all in 1983? Or Villanova in 1985? All it takes is for a team to come together at the right time and anything can happen.

However, in basketball more so than any other team sport, one player can mean the difference between mediocrity and excellence.

Sheryl Swoopes was a perfect example of this. Her ability to score, rebound and pass forced the opposition to double-team Swoopes constantly, which left teammates open for easy scoring chances. Without Swoopes, Texas Tech would have been a good team, but not NCAA champions. The Red Raiders will find out exactly how much they'll miss her this season.

Perhaps the one thing that separates college basketball from college football in popularity is the post-season NCAA Tournament. It gives teams which may not have had great regular seasons a chance to prove just how good they are.

Unlike football, the basketball tournament forgives early season stumbles and rewards a team that plays a difficult schedule with a shot at the title, assuming the team has a somewhat decent record. It also gives teams from small conferences the opportunity, however slim it may be, to win a national title.

More often than not, these smaller schools get beaten in the first round, but the excitement that is generated by a Santa Clara beating Arizona in last season's March Madness is what makes the tournament great.

Beginning on November 17 with the preseason NIT and ending on April 3 and 4 with the women's and men's title games, this college basketball season promises to be a great one.

With the rule changes that have been implemented, it should be different from any season in recent years. Can North Carolina and Texas Tech repeat? Will Michigan finish second for a third straight year? Will Dick Vitale shut up long enough to take a deep breath?

These questions and many others will be answered in the months to come. Let the games begin.