

# Cassell works playoff magic again

### The back-up guard's 30 points keyed Houston's Game 5 win.

HOUSTON (AP) — Houston Rockets fans finally have come to agree with coach Rudy Tomjanovich's point about the value of Sam Cassell.

It hasn't always been the case. Fans booed Tomjanovich's decision in 1993 to make the Florida State guard their first-round pick.

"When we talked to him in our interview before the draft, you could tell the toughness, the playground mentality," Tomjanovich said Wednesday. "Sometimes, that's not always good. But with him it's doing everything and anything it takes to win, and having no fear."

Cassell had an outstanding

rookie season, coming up big in several playoff games last year. Although this season has been up and down for Cassell, he has repeated his playoff heroics, especially in Game 5 Tuesday night.

Cassell scored 22 of his 30 points in the second half in a 111-90 victory that gave the Rockets a 3-2 lead in the Western Conference finals.

"Another day at the park," Cassell said. "I'm just out there doing my job and having fun. It's cool."

Teammates praised Cassell's performance.

"Sam's so tough. He has the heart of a lion," forward Mario Elie said. "I love him. With Sam you get one of two things, he's up or down, but mostly he'll get up."

"He's going down with David Robinson in the lane and laying it up with the big guys. We need

more of that."

Cassell came up biggest in the Rockets' decisive third quarter 11-2 charge that put them in command.

The scored was 71-71 when Cassell drove the lane and broke the tie when Robinson received a goaltending call, making it 73-71. Cassell then sank two free throws for a 75-71 lead after being fouled by Dennis Rodman.

Cassell also was there to make it 82-73, completing the 11-2 run with a driving layup.

Cassell set a rookie record with 33 3-point baskets and 88 3-point attempts. He averaged 6.7 points.

This season, he averaged 9.5 points and 4.9 assists during the regular season.

Cassell has played his best when the Rockets have needed it the most. He's fearless when shooting the big shots.

# Barone to coach All-Stars

### Staff and Wire Reports

How do you say "Barone" in Spanish?

Fans south of the border will have the opportunity to learn when Texas A&M head basketball coach Tony Barone leads a team of Southwest Conference "all-stars" on an exhibition tour of cities in Mexico in August.

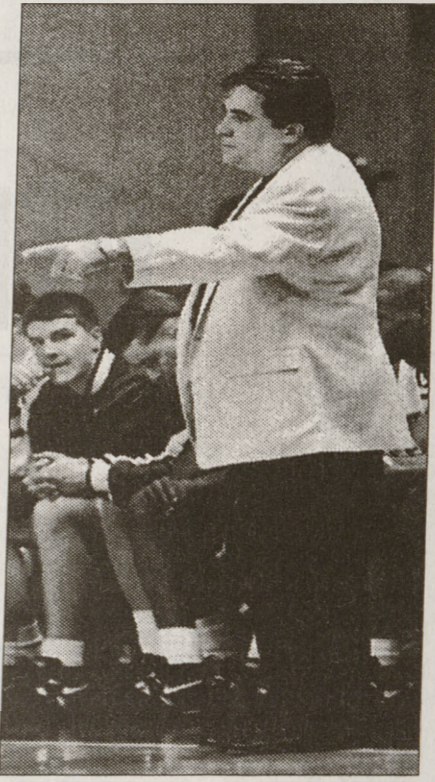
The team comprises men's basketball players from the eight SWC schools, with at least one representative from each team.

Barone, who will enter his fifth season as A&M's coach this fall, will tour with the team through several Mexican cities from Aug. 4-14.

Barone came to A&M before the 1991-92 season and led a team limited by NCAA probation to a 6-22 record. The following year saw A&M's record jump into double-digit wins with a 10-17 mark.

The 1993-94 season was Barone's best at A&M as the team compiled a 19-11 overall record, including a 10-4 mark in the conference. The team made a postseason tournament for the first time since 1987.

Barone came to A&M after a six-year stint at Creighton, where he enjoyed a 102-82 record.



Staff Photographer, THE BATTALION

A&M head coach Tony Barone will tour Mexico with a team of SWC All-Stars Aug. 4-14.

# SPORTS BRIEFS

## Women's golf team nabs top Texas recruit

Texas A&M women's head golf coach Jeanne Sutherland announced Wednesday that Katy Webster of Round Rock has signed a national letter-of-intent to attend A&M.

"Katy is a great addition to our program," Sutherland said. "She hasn't been playing the game very long, but she has improved a great deal each year she has played."

Webster earned three varsity letters at Round Rock High School, carding an 82.00 scoring average during her senior year. In her senior year, she won both the Temple Fall Tournament and the Leander Tournament, in which she shot a career-best 76 over 18 holes.

Webster will join an A&M program that loses just one letterwinner from its 119-95 team which recorded nine top 10 finishes.

## Swimmer Randall named Academic All-American

Texas A&M graduate student and swimmer Brian Randall was one of 10 athletes selected to the 1995 District VI GTE Academic All-American large team Tuesday.

Randall, who attended Texas A&M as an undergraduate student on a four-year presidents endowed scholarship, received his bachelor of science degree in aerospace engineering last December. He graduated with a cumulative 3.88 GPA.

"What Brian did in the classroom as well as in the pool for us would have to epitomize the peak performance of a student-athlete that a coach could possibly want," A&M head swimming coach Mel Nash said. "Brian is as fine a young man as you could find anywhere. You couldn't find a more deserving candidate."

The 10-member group will represent District VI on the national ballot and the national team will be announced on June 20.

## Rehab Center to sponsor basketball tournament

The Brazos Valley Rehabilitation Center will host HOOP-N-WHOOP, a three-on-three basketball tournament on Saturday, July 22. The entry fee is \$40 for student teams and \$60 for non-student teams. Players will be placed in divisions according to age, height, ability and playing experience. For more information call Wendie Warren or Lainie Moore at 776-2872.

## A&M graduates 24 student-athletes

Listed below are the 24 student athletes who graduated in Spring 1995, along with the sport in which they participated at Texas A&M.

James Bennett	Football
Janet Klem	Swimming
Brian Bittiker	Baseball
Todd Mathison	Football
J. Burton-Durham	Tennis
Spencer McIntyre	Baseball
Julie Chapman	Golf
Matt Michaels	Swimming
Holly Corley	Swimming
David Minor	Baseball
Amy Davis	Track and Field
Richard Nolte	Swimming
Denise Derkes	Swimming
Brian Parker	Baseball
Steve Emerson	Football
Ty Sevin	Track
Robert Harris	Baseball
Greg Schorp	Football
Damon Johnson	Basketball
Keith Waguespack	Football
John Jungers	Basketball
Mark Weaver	Tennis
Amy Kising	Volleyball
Roy Wills	Basketball

# Astros hook Marlins, 7-4

### Florida products Magadan and Bell lead offense.

MIAMI (AP) — Derek Bell had a two-run triple and former Marlin Dave Magadan drove in two runs with a double off the top of the right-field wall as the Houston Astros beat Florida 7-4 Wednesday night.

Houston led 6-1 by the fourth, knocking out Bobby Witt (1-4) after 3 2-3 innings — his shortest outing of the season.

Following back-to-back walks in the first, Bell slammed a two-run triple over center fielder Jerry Browne's head for a 2-0 lead and Luis Gonzalez's sacrifice fly made it 3-0.

With Astros on first and sec-

ond in the third inning, starting pitcher Greg Swindell faked a bunt and blooped a base hit to center, scoring Chris Donnels. Magadan then doubled in Tony Eusebio and Swindell, who belly-flopped into home for a 6-1 lead.

Jerry Browne and Alex Arias had RBI singles and Swindell walked Gary Sheffield with the bases loaded to make it 6-4. James Dougherty (1-1) relieved and struck out Andre Dawson to end the rally.

Once again, it was the Astros' Florida contingent that carried the team's offensive load. Bell, Magadan and Gonzalez, along with relief pitcher John Hudek are all Tampa-area products.

# 'Pudge' KO's Kansas City

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Ivan Rodriguez, whose two ninth-inning errors led to a loss the night before, hit a bases-loaded double with two out in the eighth Wednesday night that lifted the Texas Rangers over Kansas City 4-2.

Texas stopped Kansas City's six-game winning streak and prevented Kevin Appier from becoming the first seven-game winner in the majors. Appier (6-2) took a 2-1 lead into the eighth but gave up a two-out single to Jeff Frye and walked Will Clark and Mickey Tettleton. Rodriguez then lashed 3-1 pitch down the left-field line that drove in three runs.

Bob Tewksbury (4-1) gave up six hits, walked three, struck out two and retired the last 13 batters in his first complete game since last Aug. 4.

Wally Joyner, who who had three doubles, a home run and eight RBIs in the three-game series, made it 2-1 with an RBI double in the fifth.

# WRIGHT

Continued from Page 2

No, it is the sport of basketball that has the most colorful and appropriate player nicknames of any American sport.

Nicknames like Hakeem "The Dream" Olajuwon, "Magic" Johnson, Robert "The Chief" Parrish and last and not least, Dennis "The Worm" Rodman seem to capture the essence of the player and their game.

Athletes like Anfernee "Penny" Hardaway, Shawn "The Rainman" Kemp, Julius "Dr. J." Erving and one of my personal favorites "Pooh" Richardson have animated styles of play that catch the fans' attention.

Nicknames give players of any sport the larger-than-life image that fans love. Just ask Scott "Innocent" Lysander or Kevin "Large-Mouth" Bass.

# Shaq works Magic on Indiana

### O'Neal scores 35, grabs 13 boards in Orlando's 108-106 victory.

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Shaquille O'Neal not only stayed in the game, he dominated it.

O'Neal's 35 points and 13 rebounds powered Orlando within one victory of the NBA Finals as the Magic held off the Pacers 108-106 Wednesday night to take a 3-2 lead in the Eastern Conference finals.

After suffering through two foul-shortened games in Indianapolis, O'Neal took charge of this one, scoring 20 points in the first half and 13 in the third period.

His big night was nearly ruined by a furious Indiana comeback from a 14-point fourth-quarter deficit. After the Pacers pulled within three points with 16 seconds left, the Magic held on down the stretch despite hitting only 4-of-12 free throws in the last 3:44.

With Indiana down 106-103, Mark Jackson had a chance to tie it, but he missed a 3-pointer with about seven seconds left.

To close the series in six games, Orlando will have to win Friday night at Market Square Arena, a building in which it has lost eight straight. Game 7, if necessary, would be Sunday at Orlando.

Nick Anderson added 19 points for the Magic and Brian Shaw came off the bench to score 15. Anfernee Hardaway also had 15.

Rik Smits, whose buzzer-beating basket made him the hero of Game 4, was the center in foul trouble this time. He fouled out with 3:44 remaining and scored 20 points. Reggie Miller led the

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