

# The Student Body

SPORTS • HEALTH • FITNESS

## STUDENT BODY BRIEFLY

**It was a gas...** The entire Texas A&M men's basketball team and its support staff were sent to local hospitals after being overcome by carbon monoxide fumes shortly before a game against Baylor U. A malfunction in the heating system at Baylor's Ferrell Center leaked the poisonous fumes into A&M's locker room, the officials' dressing room and a hospitality area. The arena was evacuated, and the game postponed until a later date. Four members of the A&M team and staff spent two nights in a Dallas Hospital, where they received treatment in a hyperbaric chamber. Two others stayed overnight in a Waco hospital. ■ Scott Wudel, *The Battalion*, Texas A&MU.

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**Down on the farm...** In light of tougher academic requirements for incoming freshman athletes in 1995, the National Basketball Association and the National Football League should consider creating farm teams, said Richard D. Schultz, executive director of the NCAA. "The new academic standards do not deny the student athletes who do not meet the academic standards access to an education," said Jim Marchiony, director of communications for the NCAA. Marchiony said those not making the grade can play at non-NCAA schools, prep schools, junior colleges and, if formed, on farm teams. Mitch Kupchak, assistant general manager for the Los Angeles Lakers, said a farm system for the NBA is a bad idea. "You're almost taking away the incentive to go to college," he said. ■ Gabrielle Moses, *The Observer*, Case Western Reserve U.

## March Madness Final Four is the 'pinnacle' of coaching, playing career

By MARK STROHSCHNEIN

*The State News, Michigan State U.*

Whether they spent their time running the court or sweating it out on the sidelines, coaches and players say there's nothing like the Final Four.

"You feel an ecstasy in going," said Mike Krzyzewski, head coach of the Duke U. Blue Devils, before entering and eventually winning the 1991 Final Four. "It doesn't ever get old. There are different sites, different teams and different people."

If the Final Four was going to seem "old" to anyone, it would probably be Krzyzewski, a coach whose team is becoming a regular at the Final Four site each year.

"It is the pinnacle of a coaching achievement," said Michigan State U. head coach Jud Heathcote, whose 1979 Spartans won the NCAA Championship with Earvin "Magic" Johnson. "Anytime you win a title it is something you cherish. And it's always something you have in your memory bank forever. No one can take that away from you."

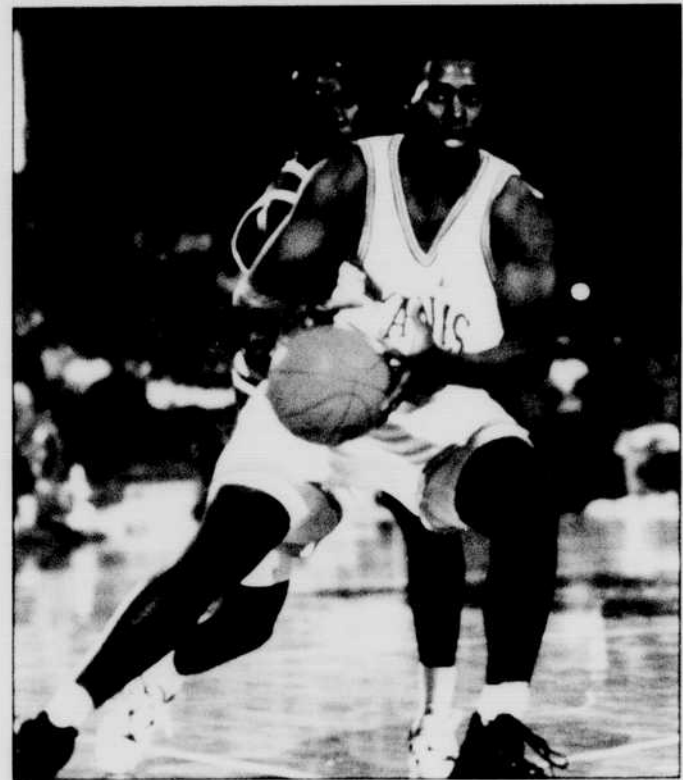
"I don't look at the Final Four as a commonplace thing," he added. "I approach it with zest, enthusiasm and resolve the best I can. I hope that whatever happens (the team's) feelings are not ones of frustration, but of feeling really good about what they accomplished."

"In high school you hear so much about making it to the Final Four, and you know that it is the Super Bowl of college basketball," said Scooter McCray, an assistant basketball coach at the U. of Louisville who played for Louisville in the 1982 and 1983 tournaments.

"I think today it is much harder to get to a Final Four because of the parity," McCray said. "Teams are great all over the country, and the competition comes from everywhere."

And so does the pressure.

"Every step you go in basketball, the bigger the game is," said former North Carolina State U. basketball coach Jim Valvano, whose team captured the 1983 title with a last-second win over heavily favored Houston. "Each win that you get in the NCAA tournament becomes greater as the whole country starts to focus on you. Then you get to the Final Four, and if your emotions aren't stirred, then you're dead. It's a wonderful experience. You can't



COURTESY OF U. OF KANSAS SPORTS INFORMATION

Kansas tried, but Duke pulled it out in last year's Final Four.

really explain it. It's great because the whole basketball world is focused on that weekend."

But once the tournament is over, Heathcote said, it's over.

"Every year I go in to challenge my players to do the best job that they can do. I don't look back to what we did last year or 10 years ago. It doesn't mean anything to this year's team."

Getting there again, however, means everything to players.

"That's what you strive for throughout the entire year," said UNC sophomore center Eric Montross, an Indianapolis native who returned to his hometown for the 1991 Final Four in the Hoosier Dome.

"It's the best thing that has happened to me in my whole life," said Adonis Jordan, a junior point guard for the U. of Kansas Jayhawks, losers to Duke in last year's title game. "Whatever it takes to go back, I'm willing to do it."

Nel Amato, *Daily Tar Heel*, U. of North Carolina; Lyle Niedens, *Daily Kansan*, U. of Kansas; and Dave Shahroudi, *The Cardinal*, U. of Louisville, contributed to this story.



CLIFF BURNS, THE CHRONICLE, DUKE U.

For Duke fans, scaring the opponent is half the fun.

## The Cameron crazies are at it again

By KRIS OLSON

*The Chronicle, Duke U.*

The hop. The whirl. The eggbeater.

They may sound like the names of long-forgotten dances from the '50s, but they're actually techniques used by a group of Duke U. basketball fans to distract opponents attempting free throws.

Last year, four doctors at the Duke Medical Center studied the group's effectiveness by tracking the number of successful free throws against each technique at Duke's seven conference home games at Cameron Indoor Stadium.

The group's study yielded mixed results. Overall, opponents made 64 percent of their free throws. While some techniques like the hop, where students behind the basket jump up and down in place, made no difference in the percentage of free throws made, others like the silence/scream method paid off handsomely.

Foes made only 36 percent of their shots against this move where the entire crowd is silenced as the shooter steps to the free-throw line. Just as he is ready to release the ball, the crowd erupts in a frenzied roar.

Even though the silence/scream technique is the most effective, fans like junior Hannah Kerby, say it isn't as much fun as some others. Kerby is a member of the Duke Pep Band, the group who sits behind one of the baskets and is generally credited with inventing some of the more innovative techniques like the hop and the eggbeater, where fans imitate the referee's traveling call.

"We know other teams are scared to come (here)," junior Reg King said. "When we beat N.C. State, their freshmen admitted we intimidated them. We like that."

Cliff Ellis, Clemson's head coach, said his players "were scared to death" when they lost to Duke 112-73 earlier in the season. "(The students) try to get to you mentally, and they do it so many times."