

OSU Shocks Kentucky To Gain NCAA Semis

It was tabbed as "the game of the season" in January when Houston and UCLA clashed before more than 20,000 basketball fans in the Astrodome.

On Saturday, in the regional final, the Bucks upset fifth-ranked Kentucky, 82-81 when Dave Sorenson hit on a short jumper with three seconds left to go. Sorenson topped the winners on 40.9 points.

North Carolina (24-4) culminated Davidson, 70-66, to gain the other spot in the semifinals in Los Angeles.

In Friday night's semifinals, Kentucky blanketed Marquette, 107-85; Davidson nipped Columbia, 81-59, in overtime; North Carolina ended St. Bonaventure's 23-game winning streak, 91-72; Houston whipped Louisiana, 91-75; TCU routed Kansas State, 77-72; UCLA topped New Mexico, 58-49, and Santa Clara ousted New Mexico, 86-73.

The NIT tourney opened in New York with St. Peter's beating Virginia, 67-59; Long Island put out Bradley, 80-71; Notre Dame upset Army, 62-58, and Fordham surprised Duquesne, 69-60.

The NIT finals will be held Saturday afternoon at 2 p.m. Kentucky Wesleyan won over Indiana State, 83-73, for the NCAA small-college championship while Central of Ohio beat Fairmont of West Virginia in the final of the NAIA tourney.

Eastern Michigan reached the third round of the NAIA before being beaten by Westminster, 92-84.

So what does one now say about the re-match between the two giants of college basketball scheduled for Friday night when they square off in the semifinals of the NCAA tournament at the Sports Arena in Los Angeles?

The other semifinal will pit surprising Ohio State against North Carolina with the two winners advancing into Saturday night's final to be telecast on Channel 4 at 9:30 p.m.

It's a foregone conclusion that the Houston-UCLA winner will be heavily favored in Saturday's win/loss.

Houston, No. 1 ranked in the various polls, will carry a record of 31-0 against UCLA which has a 27-1 mark this season—the lone loss coming at the hands of Houston.

ON THAT occasion, UCLA Lew Alcindor was suffering the aftermath of a sore eye and a wrist in tip-top shape.

Alcindor since has recovered and the Uclans are confident they'll repeat as the NCAA champions.

Neither team had any problems Saturday night in the regional finals.

Houston stormed past Texas Christian, 103-68, as Elvin (the Big E) Hayes drilled in 39 points.

Houston can make it through to the championships, the school will become only the fifth ever to post a perfect record.

Including the last game won at year ago, Houston has an overall streak of 32 straight to risk against UCLA.

Alcindor tossed in 23 points and pulled down 18 rebounds as UCLA floored Santa Clara, 87-66.

THE BIG STORY in the regionals, of course, was Ohio State, now 20-7.

The Buckeyes literally have "backed their ways" to Los Angeles. It took a Michigan upset over Iowa to enable Ohio to tie the keyholes for the Big Ten title.

Then Ohio jolted Iowa in a playoff and started its quest for NCAA honors by beating East Tennessee, 79-72.

Canham Well Qualified To Direct U-M Sports

ANN ARBOR—Success as a coach and success in his own private business unquestionably had a great deal to do with the appointment of Don Canham to succeed the retiring Fritz Crisler as the University of Michigan athletic director.

Canham, 49, was picked by the university's board of regents to fill the shoes of Crisler, for whom he worked for 11 years after serving the Michigan athletic department since 1941.

The choice of Canham wasn't too surprising, since for almost a month the indications were that he had the "inside track" to the job for which football Coach Bump Elliott and ex-Michigan great Don Lund, now with the Detroit Tigers front office, also had been prominently mentioned.

(Editor's note: The Observer newspapers reported in mid-February that Canham would get the job.)

CANHAM has coached Michigan's track team for the last

19 years and turned out 12 champions in the period. He also has had 14 teams which finished second for Big Ten honors and has turned out numerous standout athletes.

Away from track, he has administered a sports business in Ann Arbor which for a period loomed as a possible blocking point to his being named athletic director.

However, Canham has stepped out of the business, setting it up as a trust for his young sons. Thus, he'll devote full time to the job of athletic director, effective in July.

Canham said that Elliott would be Michigan's football coach and would call "hand I trust for many years to come."

IT HAS BEEN rumored that Elliott may be moved up to a new job as intercollegiate assistant to the new athletic director after the 1968 football season.

Canham referred to his new

job like "a batter sleeping up to hit after Babe Ruth."

He's only the fifth man in history to run the Michigan multi-million dollar athletic program.

In addition to Elliott and Lund, Dave Nelson, the athletic director at the University of Delaware, and Pete Newell, recently resigned as athletic director at the University of California, had been among those mentioned to replace Crisler.



DON CANHAM

By George Maskin observing sports

There are moments when most of us relish living in the present.

True, we know it's just escaping from the tedious immediate battles of life each of us must tackle daily.

But the years couldn't help but skip backwards the other evening as you sat in Cobo Arena and watched the country's best college track men in action.

The announcer called attention to the gentleman standing in the center of the arena with the spotlight beaming down on him.

"It's with great pride," the announcer started, "that we have in our presence this evening perhaps the greatest trackman that ever performed—Jesse Owens."

SON DOUGLAS, sitting next to us, remarked: "Did you ever see Owens perform?"

Yes, it was on a day in the early '30's. Owens had led Ohio State into Ferry Field at the University of Michigan to bid for the Big Ten championship.

Oldsters hereabouts will remember that Jesse Owens that day won the 100 and 220-yard dashes, the low hurdles and the broad jump.

What's more, he smashed three world records and tied another!

WHO'LL FORGET OWENS running away from the fields in the dashes and the hurdles? But the impression that still lives with us to this day was Owens winning in the broad jump.

He knew what he wanted to accomplish. So before it was his turn to take off, he asked one of the judges for a handkerchief.

Owens then found himself a small stick, tied the hankie around it and implanted the wooden peg into the ground at the stop he aimed to reach in his jump.

There never was a doubt when he left the ground that he had smashed the world mark. He sailed some 26 feet, 8 1/2 inches—if memory serves us correctly.

This Owens capped the greatest day in the history of sports.

He went on to win for the United States in the Olympics. He came home from Berlin with four gold medals and embarrassed a character named Hitler who didn't think highly of a Negro athlete winning so much and so impressively.

AS OWENS STOOD in Cobo Arena, he was flanked by scores of brilliant trackmen of the modern era—the Ryans, Patricks, Lindgreens, McCulloughs and all the rest.

In a few months, it'll be on their shoulders that America's track hopes will rest. And, if they all elect to go to Mexico City, the U.S. can't help but "clean up."

But, it seems that there are some of our stalwarts who don't think they'll go to Mexico City. They are "boycotting" they say, as a protest to our color war in the U.S.

Hopefully, by fall, they'll have changed their minds.

Bullpen Problem Still Worrying Tiger Pilot

LAKELAND, Fla.—The big problem confronting manager Mayo Smith, with just a little more than two weeks remaining before opening day for his Detroit Tigers, is moulding together a bullpen.

It was the "rescue department" that let the Tigers down in the home stretch last season and cost the club the pennant on the final day of the season.

Smith admits he has no trouble in locating starters. The Tigers are four deep with likes of Joe Sparrma, Dennis Melan, Earl Wilson and Mickey Lolich, the latter due back from military leave within the next few days.

The Tiger pilot is striving to give his other pitchers as much work as possible in the exhibition games and one of those getting considerable at-

tention is Tom Timmerman, who doesn't appear on the Tigers' roster.

TIMMERMAN is an experienced hurler who served at Toledo last season and he already has appeared five times in Detroit games this spring.

Although he has been charged with two defeats, Timmerman obviously has impressed Smith. Against the Phillies the other day, he worked two perfect innings as Detroit pulled out a 3-1 victory.

Jesse Marshall and John Hiltner also have done well to relieve and so has the veteran Hank Aguirre, who is going all out to win himself a job on the Tiger staff again.

Smith won't be able to carry any extra pitchers north with the Tigers, since the club must get down to 25 performers by the April 9 opener against Boston at Tiger Stadium.

"This change in how many players we can take with us (formerly a team started the year with 28) puts a little extra pressure on a manager, especially when it comes to pitching, in the exhibition," Smith said Monday.

"You have to get your regular starters in shape and as the training season proceeds, you pitch them more and more."

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Pacers Open Season Friday At Wolverine

The pacers and trotters return to the Michigan scene Friday when Wolverine Harness Raceway, which operates over the facilities of the Detroit Race Course at the intersection of Schoolcraft and Middlebelt Roads in Livonia, opens the state's earliest harness racing campaign.

"They're Off" will sound and resound through the huge grandstand and clubhouse at 8:30 p.m. Friday to mark the start of the earliest and longest racing season in Michigan history.

It will be the first of 58 nightly programs at Wolverine, going every evening with the exception of Good Friday when the plant will be dark.

INTEREST is at the highest level in several years with the result that Wolverine President Frederick Van Lennep and Vice President and General Manager Orlov Owen are looking forward to a larger attendance than that of a year ago when 11,388 stormed into the plant.

The horses started pouring into the plant Monday morning with stable arriving from California, the Southland, the Atlantic Seaboard, the winter training colonies in Michigan, from Chicago and Windsor where the winter meeting closed Thursday.

Stall Supt. Clayton Smith indicated the track received more than 1,800 applications for the 1,200 stalls and expects that all will be filled by the middle of next week.

"Never have we had so many requests as this year," he said.

The gates will open at 6 p.m. and all indications point to the finest opening in some time—provided the weatherman continues to smile as he has in the past few days.

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Battered Pistons In Fight To Finish

A bruised and battered Detroit Pistons basketball team is going down to the final wire—and then some, perhaps—before learning whether it will playoffs in the National Basketball Association.

Deadlocked as the week began, with Cincinnati for the final playoff spot in the Eastern Division, the Pistons under no circumstances could wrap up a place in the post-season action until after Wednesday night's regular-season finale at Boston.

(The game will be televised in Detroit on Channel 50 at 7:45 p.m.)

Cincinnati was in the same boat with the Pistons—each team ending the season with two road games.

Detroit had Seattle and Boston, Cincinnati faced Philadelphia and New York.

A tie between the Pistons and Royals would force one extra game Friday to determine

mine which will engage Boston in the opening round of the best-of-seven Eastern Division semifinals. The other half of the Eastern action was set at champion Philadelphia meeting New York.

In the Western Division, play will begin this Friday with regular-season champ St. Louis vs. San Francisco and Minneapolis Los Angeles engaging Chicago.

THE PISTONS ran their winning streak to seven straight last Friday night when they started what they hoped would be a happy west coast trip by dumping San Francisco, 122-118.

But tragedy marked the victory. Eddie Miles, the hottest scoring Piston during the winning streak, suffered a chipped ankle in the third period after he had scored 17 points in less than 10 minutes.

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