

SPORTS

Movin' Mavs host SFA UTA Hall of Honor inducts Chena Gilstrap

by Brett Voss

Shorthorn Staff

More than football happens Saturday night in Maverick Stadium.

Former Coach Chena Gilstrap becomes the charter member of the UTA Hall of Honor, United Way attempts to "turn the sky blue" with balloons and area youth football leagues will be wearing their jerseys.

As a side attraction, Coach Chuck Curtis' Mavericks host Stephen F. Austin at 7 p.m.

After edging Lamar, 13-10, last week, UTA climbed to 20th in the Football News' Division I-AA rankings. The Mavs received votes in the NCAA poll but failed to appear in the top twenty.

"I'm surprised," Curtis said

Thursday after learning of the poll. "I thought it would take two or three strong wins in a row before we would get ranked in any kind of poll. I'm pleased with the progress of the team. It's a great honor."

To maintain their notoriety, the Mavs will have to endure the loss of tailback Scotty Caldwell for at least one game. Suffering from a lower leg strain, Caldwell will not see action against Stephen F. Austin, and will see limited action at Wichita State next week.

"We're resting Scotty this week," said Curtis. "Hopefully we'll have him going part time next week to sharpen up for our next conference game against Northeast Louisiana."

But Curtis' game plan re-

mains the same.

"We aren't going to make any changes in our offense," Curtis said. "Randall Scott and Jarvis McKyer will fill in for Scotty. Randall has been working with the first team for two weeks now. Both of them can break open for the long one."

Stephen F. Austin downed Abilene Christian, 37-21, last week as Todd Whitten threw three touchdown passes to James Noble. The Lumberjacks feature a balanced offensive attack with 177.4 yards per game rushing and 169.0 passing.

"I think they are the best team in the Gulf Star Conference," Curtis said. "They have a balanced offense and beat a good ball club in Abilene

Christian."

After noticing that the Mavs give the Lumberjacks 24 points in the betting line, Curtis was perplexed.

"I think it's a typographical error," he said.

NOTES — Mav cornerback Adam Sheppard has been named Southland Conference Defensive Player of the Week for his performance in UTA's 13-10 win over Lamar Saturday.

Sheppard, a senior, stole two interceptions and a fumble against the Cardinals. His second interception came with 3:57 remaining, with the Mavs protecting a three-point lead.

KJIM-95FM will carry the game.

Briefs

SOFTBALL — After some unexpected time off last weekend, the Lady Mavs softball team will try again Saturday.

The Lady Mavs play doubleheaders against Southwest Texas State at 1 p.m. Saturday and Louisiana Tech at noon Sunday. The games will be played at the Arlington Athletic Complex.

Last weekend's weather at Oklahoma State University canceled the competition. No make-up dates have been scheduled.

"We were really ready for the Oklahoma State tournament. The rainout was a big disappointment," said Coach Rayla Allison.

Still basking in their first tournament championship in four years — their own Early Bird Invitational — the softballers are confident of more wins this weekend. "I'm expecting to come away with four," Allison said.

In its first year of intercollegiate competition, Southwest Texas State played its first game last week. "I have no idea what to expect from them," Allison said.

Louisiana Tech has never lost to the Lady Mavs, but Allison says "they're in for a big surprise."

The Lady Mavs used the extra time off to work on improving.

"We used the time to correct mistakes and practice on our offensive situations," Allison said.

CROSS COUNTRY — The cross country Mavs placed third, scoring 72 points at the Louisiana Tech Cross Country Invitationals last Saturday.

Isaac Blegon led the UTA squad, finishing fifth in the five-mile run at 26:02. The Mavs' top prospect, runner John Sauerhage, had to drop out of the race with back cramps.

Alabama earned first place with 65 points and Northeast Louisiana finished second with 69 points.

"It was a good meet," Coach Harold Perkins said. "We came out ahead of two conference schools (McNeese and Louisiana Tech), and we pressured Northeast Louisiana for second place.

"Of course, there is room for improvement."

The Mavericks compete again this weekend, hosting the Arlington Invitational Saturday in Vandergriff Park.

GOLF — The golf team finished 10th out of 13 teams in its fall season opener, the Northeast Louisiana-Central Bank Tournament in Monroe. McNeese State won with an 887 over 54 holes.

Olvin Maldonado led the Maverick squad with rounds of 76-78-74—228. Don Hunsche of UTA shot a 229, with rounds of 79-74-76.

Joey DePaula of Southeast Louisiana, the tournament leader, finished with rounds of 70-72-71 for a 3-under-par 213.