

SPORTS

Freewheelers riding high

by Brett Voss

Shorthorn Staff

DALLAS — The Freewheelers continue to work up to their initial North Texas Conference showdown with the Dallas Mavericks, as UTA battles the Dallas Texans at Bachman Recreation Center tonight in National Wheelchair Basketball Association action.

The Wheelers dominated Bachman, 61-18, in their conference opener last week, shutting out the Lakers until a minute before halftime. The Dallas Mavericks opened their season against the Texans, claiming a 68-30 victory and a tie for first in the league with the Wheelers.

Last Thursday, the Wheelers got their first exposure to the Dallas Mavericks on court. UTA and Dallas were featured at halftime of the NBA Dallas Maverick game at Reunion Arena. After the eight-minute performance, the NBA Mavericks gave Freewheeler Randy Snow a plaque in honor of his Olympic performance.

Sam Perkins presented Snow with the award — one Olympian to another.

"We won the demonstration 6-2, but it was a very short event," Abu Yilla said. "I think it was good exposure for wheelchair sports, but it was really Randy's night."

In the Bachman match, the Wheelers sputtered to a slow start against the Lakers as the score stood at 0-0 through the first minute. Everyone missed his first shots before UTA broke away to a 28-0 lead with a minute remaining in the half.

Then point guard Yilla and wing guard Snow got their pick-and-roll act going, featuring behind-the-back passes, ball control and precision teamwork.

"Everyone knows the Lakers," Coach Jim Hayes said. "We play them so often, there were no surprises. We just needed to let the guards see how our big guys were moving and start getting the ball to them."

Forwards Glen Williamson and Mike Keiser dominated the boards as the defense forced the Lakers to take low percentage shots. The starters ran up a 33-4 halftime lead before Hayes turned to his bench.

"When we were playing intensely, the guys executed pretty well," he said. "We tried to get everyone in to give the bench players a good run out, but we got sloppy near the end."

Keiser turned in a sterling performance, scoring 14 points while canning six of seven shots from the field and two for two at the line.

"Mike is looking very good," Yilla said. "He seems to have a new lease on life and all that. He's coming on in leaps and bounds."

After a noteworthy defensive performance against the San Antonio Sonics during Homecoming, wing guard Danny Williams supplied uncharacteristic offensive punch against the Lakers. He contributed 12 points, hitting five of 11 from the field, two for two at the line.

"Danny had a better game offensively against the Lakers," Hayes said. "We really don't expect that of him. Against the Sonics, he had an excellent defensive game."

Yilla led the Wheelers with 15 points. Snow, who played sparingly, added six.



SHORTHORN: Jay Racz

Wing guard Randy Snow dribbles downcourt against the San Antonio Sonics.



SHORTHORN: Mark Johnson

Forward Mike Keiser (25) puts up a shot over the outstretched arm of a Bachman Laker defender. Keiser scored 14 points, canning six of seven from the field, in UTA's 61-18 win over the Lakers.