

# SPORTS

## Speed, depth too much 'Wheelers drop 13th straight to Mavs, 57-37

by Brett Voss

Shorthorn Staff

The Freewheelers and the Dallas Mavericks took the court at Bachman Recreation Center Wednesday night, pitting a top-notch semi-pro team against a collegiate squad.

The difference showed.

The 7th-ranked Mavs outran the 11th-ranked Wheelers, 57-37, as the three-time North Texas Conference champions defeated UTA for the 13th consecutive time.

"This is not a copout," Coach Jim Hayes said after the game. "You just saw a good semi-pro team beat a good college team. You have to understand, we were playing a great team. It's so easy against the Mavs to slip into their tempo and get caught in a fast game."

With 13:21 remaining in the National Wheelchair Basketball Association action, forward Glen Williamson grabbed a rebound and found wing guard Randy Snow open at mid-court. Snow hit point guard Abu Yilla under the basket on the fast-break, but Yilla was forced out of bounds by Mav guard Ron LeBar. Out of frustration, Yilla slammed the ball to the hardwood, and a technical foul was assessed.

LeBar canned the technical and the Mavs exploded for nine unanswered points and an insurmountable 43-23 lead with little over 10 minutes left on the clock.

"I think you could have put a price tag on adrenalin tonight," Hayes said. "The guys were really excited and nervous coming into this game."

Despite the Wheelers' attempt to slow Dallas with a containment defense, the Mavericks used their speed and deep bench to wear UTA down.

"Our idea was to cut down the Mavs' offensive potential," Yilla said. "Before the game started, I didn't think we had a chance. But only down by eight at halftime, I felt we were in position to win — even after the first five minutes of the second half — but their substituting eventually told."

In the first half, UTA's defense, led by Danny Williams and Glen Williamson, held Dallas to 24 points. Williamson dominated the Mavs' big man, Dwight "Shotgun" Willis, holding him to two points.

"The defense played well in the first half," Hayes said. "We blocked out well and gave them just the one shot. You have to hand it to the team that makes that one shot."

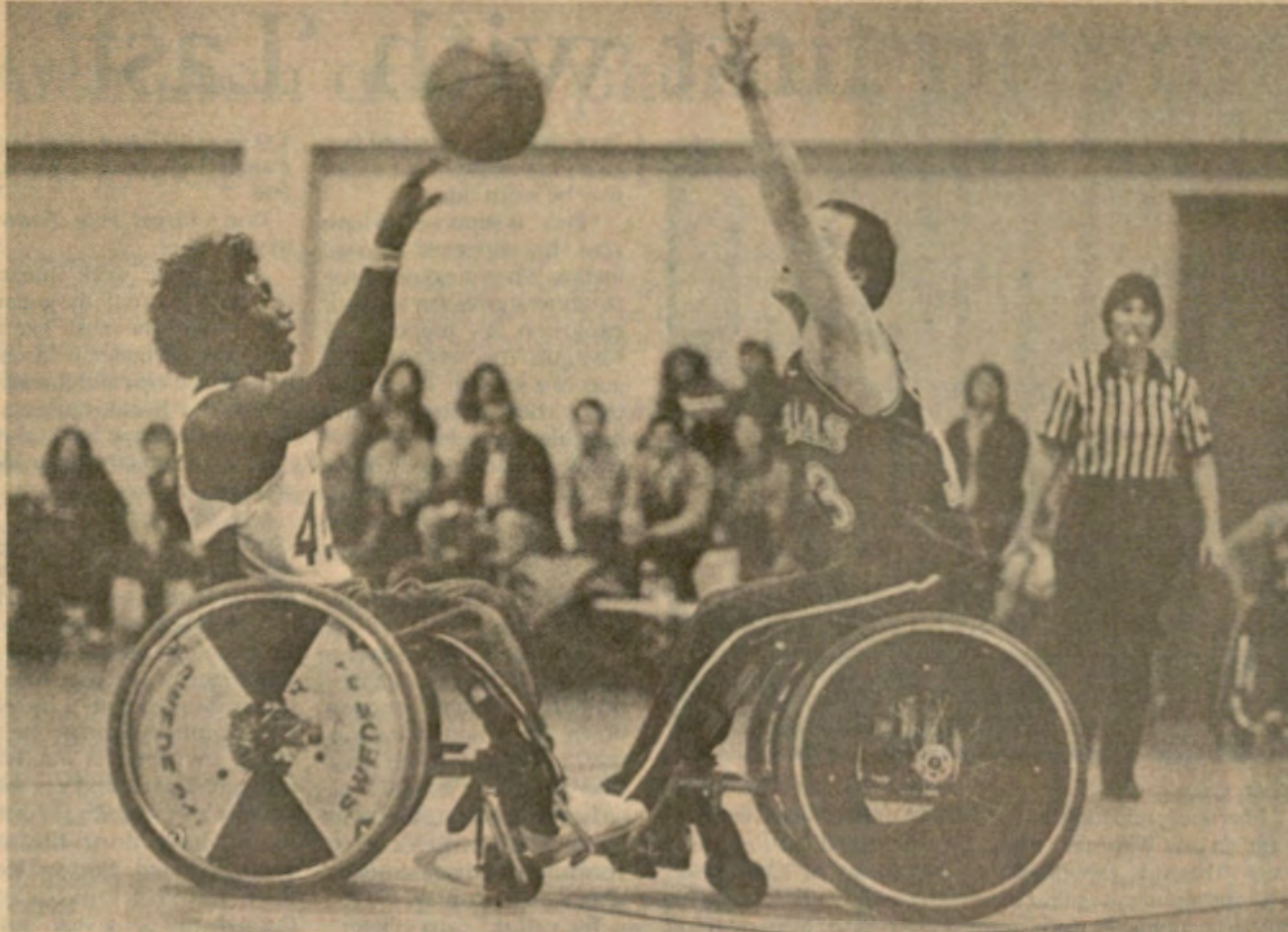
But as the Wheeler offense moved the ball well and gained position, the shot selection was poor. UTA scoring leader Snow managed only one of nine from the field in the first half. The squad shot a dismal 27 percent from the field, hitting only 16 of 59 shots.

"We were just worn out," Hayes said. "Their bench is as strong as our starting five. They keep a fresh man on the court at all times. Randy and Abu are exceptional athletes, but when they're tired, the touch is just not there."

UTA still has three more shots at the Mavericks this season, the next contest scheduled for Dec. 19.

"We'll have the scoring difference under 10 by the end of the season," Hayes said. "When a No. 11 team plays a No. 7 team within 10, then we'll be right where we want to be."

The Mavericks (3-0) stand alone at the top of the conference, followed by the Wheelers (2-1), Dallas Texans (1-2) and Bachman Lakers (0-3).



SHORTHORN: Jay Racz

UTA point guard Abu Yilla passes to a teammate inside past the outstretched arm of a Dallas Maverick. The Wheelers lost, 57-37.