



UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON 2000-01 COUGAR BASKETBALL

Houston Cougars (2-7) vs. Southeast Missouri State (7-3)

Wednesday, Dec. 27, Sierra Providence SunClassic, El Paso, Texas, 8:00 p.m.

The Game

The University of Houston will travel to El Paso, Texas and meet Southeast Missouri State University in the first round of the Sierra Providence SunClassic on December 27. The Cougars enter the game with a 2-7 overall record, while Southeast Missouri State has a 7-3 mark this season.

The Series

Houston and Southeast Missouri State will meet for the first time when they play each other in the first round of the Sierra Providence SunClassic.

Houston in the SunClassic

This marks the third time that Houston has played in the Sierra Providence SunClassic. The Cougars finished third in the 1972 and 1979 tournaments.

UH suffered a 75-72 loss against Indiana and won a 115-102 decision over SMU in 1972. The Cougars suffered a 78-65 loss versus UTEP in the first round of the 1979 tournament and beat Alabama, 83-75, in the consolation game in 1979.

A Look At the Cougars

Houston will be looking for its first win in six games after the Cougars suffered a 71-68 loss against crosstown rival Texas Southern on December 23. Houston's last victory was against Southwest Texas State on November 25 in Hofheinz Pavilion.

Last Time Out

It was a tale of two halves when Houston suffered a 71-68 loss against crosstown rival Texas Southern on December 23.

After leading 39-29 at halftime, the Cougars made just five of their 19 field goal attempts in the second half. Houston did make 34 of 45 free throws in the game, including 19 of 26 in the second half.

George Williams and Dominic Smith led the Cougars with 18 points each.

TSU led 69-68 with six second left when Rakim Hollis made both of his free throws. The Cougars had one last chance, but Smith missed a three-point attempts from the top of the key.

The Coaches

Ray McCallum is in his first season as the head coach at the University of Houston and enters the Southeast Missouri State game with a 128-83 career record. McCallum, who is in his eighth season as a collegiate head coach, came to Houston after compiling a 126-76 mark in seven seasons at Ball State.

His .624 winning percentage at Ball State ranked as the fourth-best overall percentage in the history of the Mid-America Conference. He also was the only coach in Ball State history to lead the Cardinals to seven straight winning seasons and his 126 victories ranked second on the school's all-time victories list.

He led the Cardinals to two MAC Tournament championships (1995 and 2000) and two first place ties in the MAC's Western Division (1995 and 1998). McCallum guided Ball State to two NCAA Tournament berths (1995 and 2000) and one NIT appearance (1998).

Gary Garner is in his fourth season at Southeast Missouri State, and enters the Houston game with a 65-32 record at the school. Garner is in his 18th season overall as a collegiate head coach and has a 312-96 career record.

HOUSTON'S 2000-01 RECAP

Overall Record	2-7
Record at Home	1-3
Record on the Road	0-3
Record at a Neutral Site	1-1

GAME COVERAGE

Radio

The Houston-Southeast Missouri State game will be broadcast throughout the Houston area on KUHF radio (88.7 FM). Craig Ackerman will call the play-by-play and Carl Dukes provides color commentary.

What's Next

Following the Southeast Missouri State game, Houston will meet either Texas-El Paso or Jackson State in the second round of the Sierra Providence SunClassic on December 28.

Following the tournament, Cougars return home and close out their non-conference schedule against Georgetown on December 31. The Georgetown game tips off at 2:00 p.m.

Houston will ring in the year 2001 when the Cougars open their Conference USA schedule against Memphis on January 6 at 7:00 p.m.

HOUSTON ROSTER

Probable Starters	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.-Exp.	Hometown	PPG	RPG	
F ... 42	George Williams	6-8	215	So.-1L	Missouri City, Texas	13.0	7.3
C ... 4	Alton Ford	6-9	270	Fr.-HS	Houston, Texas	10.2	6.0
G ... 1	Dominic Smith	5-10	175	Jr.-JC	Ashland, Va.	11.9	2.3
G ... 3	Marcus Oliver	6-3	180	So.-1L	Charlotte, N.C.	7.0	3.4
G .. 21	Bernard Smith	6-3	180	Jr.-1L	Conroe, Texas	4.7	3.3

Cougar Reserves	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.-Exp.	Hometown	PPG	RPG	
G .. 32	Chad Hendrick	6-5	210	Sr.-3L	Houston, Texas	10.3	5.3
F ... 43	Patrick Okafor	6-8	235	Jr.-JC	Houston, Texas	8.8	9.1
F ... 45	Tega Moceanu	6-8	235	Sr.-2L	Burbank, Calif.	0.8	1.5
G ... 2	Joey Kane	6-2	180	Fr.-HS	Spring, Texas	0.0	0.3
G .. 35	Treva Crosby	6-1	170	Jr.-2L	Galliano, La.	0.0	0.0
G .. 11	Torrence Botts	6-1	195	Jr.-2L	Friendswood, Texas	0.0	0.0
F ... 24	Willie Moore	6-5	200	Sr.-3L	League City, Texas	0.0	0.0
G .. 23	Calvin Murphy	5-8	170	Sr.-1L	Houston, Texas	has not played	
G .. 31	Terry Price	6-2	180	Jr.-1L	Houston, Texas	has not played	

2000-2001 SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Time
Nov. 16	#Air Force	L 53-59
Nov. 17	#Mt. St. Mary's	W 77-52
Nov. 21	at Rice	L 45-65
Nov. 25	Southwest Texas State	W 73-59
Nov. 28	LSU	L 59-61
Nov. 30	at UConn	L 60-72
Dec. 17	at SMU	L 69-94
Dec. 20	Texas	L 60-71
Dec. 23	Texas Southern	L 68-71
Dec. 27	SSoutheast Missouri State	8:00
Dec. 28	SUTEP or Jackson State	TBD
Dec. 31	Georgetown	2:00
Jan. 6	*at Memphis	7:00
Jan. 10	*at UAB	7:00
Jan. 17	*at Louisville	6:30
Jan. 20	*Memphis	7:00
Jan. 24	*at Southern Miss	7:00
Jan. 27	*South Florida	Noon
Jan. 31	*UAB	7:00
Feb. 4	*Charlotte (ESPN2)	6:00
Feb. 7	*at DePaul	7:00
Feb. 14	*Southern Miss	7:00
Feb. 17	*at South Florida	6:30
Feb. 19	*Saint Louis	7:00
Feb. 21	*at Tulane	7:00
Feb. 24	*at Cincinnati	5:05
Feb. 28	*Marquette	7:00
Mar. 3	*Tulane	7:00
Mar. 7	•C-USA Tournament	TBA
Mar. 8	•C-USA Tournament	TBA
Mar. 9	•C-USA Tournament	TBA
Mar. 10	•C-USA Tournament	TBA

#-BCA Classic (Winston-Salem, N.C.); S-Sierra Providence Sun Carnival Classic (El Paso, Texas); *-Conference USA game; •-C-USA Tournament (Louisville, Ky.) Bold indicates home contest played at Guy V. Lewis Court at Hofheinz Pavilion.

COUGAR NOTES

Houston's History

The University of Houston is in its 56th season of intercollegiate basketball and enters the Southeast Missouri State game with an all-time record of 944-599, including a 2-7 mark in 2000-01. This includes a 570-165 record in home games.

Houston begins its fifth year as a member of Conference USA after finishing sixth in the National Division with a 2-14 mark.

The Cougars have played in the NCAA Final Four five times and appeared in 18 NCAA Tournaments. Houston also played in six NIT postseason tournaments and was a NIT finalist in 1977.

Nine Scholarship Players

Houston enters the Southeast Missouri State game with nine scholarship players and three walk-on players. The nine scholarship players are Treva Crosby, Alton Ford, Chad Hendrick, Calvin Murphy, Jr., Patrick Okafor, Marcus Oliver, Bernard Smith, Dominic Smith and George Williams.

Three walk-on players have dressed in Houston's first nine games this season. They include senior forward Tega Moceanu, junior guard Torrence Botts and freshman guard Joey Kane. The Cougars have two other walk-on players who have not played this season. They are 6-5 senior forward Willie Moore and 6-2 junior guard Terry Price.

Three Returning Starters

Houston has three starters returning from last year's squad playing against Southeast Missouri State. Sophomore forward George Williams is Houston's top returning player and leads the Cougars in scoring with 13.0 points per game and is averaging 7.3 rebounds.

The other two returning starters are senior swingman Chad Hendrick and junior point guard Bernard Smith. Hendrick is third among the team's scoring leaders with 10.3 points per game and is second among Cougar team leaders with 24 assists. Smith is averaging 4.7 points and leads the Cougars with 25 assists.

Sudden Impact

Houston has three new players on this year's roster who are making an immediate impact this season.

Junior college transfer Patrick Okafor leads the Cougars in rebounding with a 9.1 average.

Another junior college transfer, Dominic Smith has started the last two games and is averaging 11.9 points per game.

One of two freshmen on Houston's roster, Alton Ford is Houston's fourth-best scoring leader with 10.2 points per game. He also ranks third among the team's rebounding leaders with a 6.0 average.

Chairmen of the Boards

Houston enters the Southeast Missouri State game ranked second among Conference USA teams in rebounding margin. The Cougars are out-rebounding their opponents by an average of 5.1 rebounds per game this season.

That is an improvement of 9.4 rebounds per game over last season when Houston was out-rebounded by an average of 4.3 rebounds per game last year.

Defense, Defense

Another area in which the Houston is vastly improved this season is on the defensive end of the floor. Last season, the Cougars ranked 12th among Conference USA teams in scoring defense (79.9 points per game) and field goal percentage defense (45.1 percent).

This season, Houston is fourth among C-USA teams in scoring defense and field goal percentage defense. The Cougars are giving up 67.1 points per game and are holding their opponents to a .407 (196-482) field goal percentage.

Close, But...

Houston's three-point loss against Texas Southern marks the third time this season that Houston has lost a game by six points or less. Houston suffered a 59-53 loss against Air Force in its regular season opener, a 61-59 loss against LSU and a 71-68 loss versus Texas Southern.

COUGAR NOTES

Houston Faces Tough Slate

Houston plays 16 games against teams who reached postseason play in 1999-00. The Cougars played against 2000 NCAA Tournament teams LSU, Connecticut and Texas. UH also plays against Louisville, DePaul, Saint Louis and Cincinnati.

Houston faces its fourth game against a 2000 NCAA Tournament team when the Cougars face Southeast Missouri State in the first round of the Sierra Providence SunClassic in El Paso, Texas.

In addition, the Cougars are scheduled to play eight games against six teams who played in the NIT last year. The Cougars faced SMU and will play Georgetown in non-conference games, while they play Charlotte, South Florida Marquette and Tulane in C-USA action.

A Local Roster

Houston has 10 players on its roster who are from the Greater Houston area. These 10 players include Torrence Botts (Friendswood), Alton Ford, Chad Hendrick, Calvin Murphy, Jr., Terry Price and Patrick Okafor (Houston), Joey Kane (Spring), Willie Moore (League City), Bernard Smith (Conroe) and George Williams (Missouri City).

The other players on the roster include Treva Crosby (Galliano, La.), Tega Moceanu (Burbank, Calif.), Marcus Oliver (Charlotte, N.C.) and Dominic Smith (Ashland, Va.).

Houston Player-of-the-Year Pipeline

Houston enters the 2000-01 season with three of the last four All-Greater Houston Players-of-the-Year on its roster this season.

Bernard Smith was named *The Houston Chronicle* All-Greater Houston Players-of-the-Year in 1996-97. George Williams attained the honor in 1998-99 and Alton Ford earned the accolade in 1999-00.

The lone All-Greater Houston Player-of-the-Year not signed by the Cougars in the last four years was Rashard Lewis, who bypassed his collegiate career after his senior year in 1997-98 and is a forward for the Seattle Super Sonics.

McDonald's All-American

Freshman Alton Ford is the second McDonald's High School All-American to ever wear a Cougar uniform in 2000-01. He was named the best high school post player in the nation by *The Sporting News*. The only other McDonald's All-American to play at Houston was Rickie Winslow, who was a four-year starter for the Cougars from 1983-87.

Early Signees

Houston signed three players in the early November signing period. The Cougars inked Rickey Huckaby, Darrius Brannon and Bryan Shelton.

Huckaby is a 6-1, 175 pound guard who is a two-time Class 3A First Team All-State selection from Mexia High School in Mexia, Texas. He has a 40-inch vertical jump and averaged 21 points per game as a junior after scoring 24.7 points per game for Mexia's 1998-99 Class 3A state championship team that finished the season with a 33-5 record.

Brannon is a 6-9, 205-pound forward who is very athletic and has a good outside shot. He earned All-Golden Triangle and All-Region honors after leading Port Arthur Lincoln High School to a 32-3 record in 1999-00. Brannon also has been nominated for the 2000-01 McDonald's High School All-America team after averaging 14 points and 12 rebounds per game.

Shelton is a 6-4 shooting guard from Clear Brook High School in Friendswood, Texas. He was an All-District 24-5A performer as a junior in 1999-00 after averaging 14.4 points and 5.2 rebounds per game. He also made 55 three-pointers as a junior. Shelton is a pre-season all-district selection entering his senior campaign.

COUGAR NOTES

1 Dominic Smith (DOM-in-NIQUE)

Dominic Smith started his third straight game against Texas Southern and enters the Southeast Missouri State contest having led the Cougars in scoring during the last three games. Smith scored 23 points against SMU, 14 points versus Texas and 18 against Texas Southern.

Smith also led the Cougars with two assists against TSU, a career-best five assists against SMU and two versus the Longhorns. Prior to the SMU game, Smith scored a 12 points and handed out two assists at 16th-ranked Connecticut. He also tallied six points and handed out one assist against LSU.

The 5-10 junior college transfer scored 10 points and tallied three rebounds, three assists and one steal against Mount St. Mary's College after opening his UH career with eight points and four rebounds versus Air Force.

Smith came to Houston from Paris Junior College, where he was named a second-team all-Region XIV selection after averaging 16.2 points, 6.0 assists and 2.5 steals per game in 1999-00. He led Paris to a combined 44-22 record in his two years at the school, including a 20-13 mark during his sophomore season. He helped lead Paris to a 24-9 record as a freshman while averaging 7.7 points and 1.8 rebounds per game. Smith went to Paris after averaging 21 points, six rebounds and two steals per game at Patrick Henry High School in Ashland, Va..

2 Joey Kane

A 6-2 walk-on guard, Joey Kane has played in four games this season. Kane recorded one rebound against Mount St. Mary's College. He has not scored this season.

Kane came to Houston after playing his senior year at Sweet Water Christian Academy.

3 Marcus Oliver

Marcus Oliver started his fourth game of the season against Texas Southern. Oliver scored seven points and grabbed five rebounds versus the Tigers after he tallied 10 points and a season-high seven rebounds against Texas.

He was one of the few bright spots in the Cougars' game at SMU as he made four of his five field goal attempts and scored eight points against the Mustangs.

Oliver started the first two games of the 2000-01 season when he replaced George Williams in the starting lineup. Williams did not play in the BCA Classic after suffering a strained calf muscle in his left leg.

Oliver opened the year with a season-high 12 points against Air Force. He scored seven points and grabbed four rebounds versus Mount St. Mary's. Oliver also scored seven points and grabbed three rebounds against Southwest Texas State.

A 6-2 sophomore guard, Oliver averaged 5.3 points per game in 1999-00. Oliver made eight starts for the Cougars and played in all of Houston's 31 games as a freshman. He scored a career-high 13 points against Texas Southern and Charlotte. Oliver grabbed a career-high 10 rebounds in his first collegiate start against SMU.

4 Alton Ford

After scored 10 points and grabbed three rebounds against Texas Southern after being held to combined 14 points and six rebounds in Houston's two previous games against SMU and Texas. Ford scored eight points and grabbed three rebounds against the Longhorns after registering six points and three rebounds at SMU. Ford played just 11 minutes against the Mustangs due to foul problems.

It marked the third game this season in which he saw limited action due to foul problems. He sat out the final 11 minutes of the Southwest Texas State game and 10 minutes against Air Force.

Ford scored 13 points and grabbed seven rebounds at 16th-ranked Connecticut after recording his first double-double of the season with 17 points and 15 rebounds against LSU. He also tallied 10 points and six rebounds versus Southwest Texas State. Ford scored 15 points and grabbed six rebounds in Houston's victory over Mount St. Mary's.

Named one of the top 10 high school recruits in the nation by ESPN and Fans Only, Ford came to Houston after being named a McDonald's All-American and a finalist for the Naismith High School Boy's Basketball Player-of-the-Year Award in 1999-00. Ford set the career scoring, rebounding and shot blocking records at Milby High School in Houston with 2,162 points, 1,381 rebounds and 268 blocked shots. He also was named the best senior high school post player and 13th best overall recruit by *The Sporting News* after averaging 23.5 points, 15.4 rebounds and 2.8 blocked shots in his senior campaign.

11 Torrence Botts

A junior walk-on guard, Torrence Botts has not played since seeing limited action in Houston's first two games at the BCA Classic. Botts played four minutes versus Mount St. Mary's College after playing one minute against Air Force.

He is a junior reserve guard who averaged 4.0 points and 1.3 rebounds per game in 1999-00. Botts tallied a career-high 23 points and six steals to lead Houston to a 74-70 victory over crosstown rival Texas Southern at the Hawkeye Challenge. He also netted 16 points in 12 minutes versus Memphis. Botts played in 22 games and started 12 contests as a walk-on guard in 1998-99 when he averaged 4.5 points per game. He tallied a season-high 14 points and made four treys against Portland State in the first round of New Mexico Lobo Invitational.

21 Bernard Smith

Bernard Smith scored four points in each of Houston's last two games against Texas Southern and Texas. Smith also grabbed six rebounds against Texas and two rebounds versus Texas Southern.

He scored three points, grabbed three rebounds and handed out a career-high seven assists at SMU after scoring nine points and handing out three assists at 16th-ranked Connecticut. Smith tallied four points and two assists against LSU. He scored a career-high 12 points and tied for the team lead with four assists in Houston's victory over Southwest Texas State.

He scored four points versus Rice after recording seven rebounds and five assists against Mount St. Mary's.

A 6-3 guard from Conroe, Smith missed seven games and played the final two-thirds of the 1999-00 season with a two broken bones in his right wrist. He played in 24 games and made 14 starts for the Cougars last year after transferring from Texas. Smith scored a season-high 10 points against George Washington.

23 Calvin Murphy, Jr.

Senior guard Calvin Murphy suited up for the last two games after completing NCAA satisfactory progress requirements during the first semester. Murphy played in 11 games in 1999-00 and averaged 1.5 points per game after transferring to Houston from Angelina College. He began his collegiate career at Niagara in 1996-97.

UPDATED PLAYER PROFILES

24 Willie Moore

Senior swingman Willie Moore played in his first game of the season at SMU after suffering an ankle sprain in the final play of practice on November 14. Moore played the final minute of the game against the Mustangs.

Before he suffered the injury, Moore grabbed two rebounds and handed out an assist while playing six minutes during Houston's second exhibition game versus Ezybonds.

Moore sat out last season as a redshirt after playing 19 games and averaging 2.1 points and two rebounds in 1998-99. He saw his most extensive action in 1997-98 when he started 11 games and averaged 4.5 points and 3.2 rebounds in 29 contests.

25 Kenny Younger

Senior forward Kenny Younger is looking to regain his fourth year of eligibility and hopes to rejoin the team in January. Before this season, Younger was the only Cougar to start every game during the past three seasons before sitting out this fall. He averaged 13.0 points and 7.3 rebounds while starting 88 consecutive games. Last year, he averaged 13.5 points and 7.5 rebounds after chipping in a career-high 15.7 points and 7.8 rebounds in 1998-99.

31 Terry Price

A walk-on guard, Terry Price dressed for the last two games after practicing with the team during the fall semester. This marks the first time that Price has suited up for the Cougars since 1997-98 when he grabbed one rebound in three games.

32 Chad Hendrick

Chad Hendrick scored in double figures for the second straight game when he came off the bench to net 11 points against Texas Southern. Hendrick enjoyed his most productive outing in five games against Texas when he scored 13 points and grabbed six rebounds in 23 minutes off Houston's bench. It marked the first time in eight games that Hendrick was not in Houston's starting lineup.

Prior to the Texas contest, Hendrick scored eight points and grabbed three rebounds at SMU. He netted eight points and nine rebounds against LSU.

Hendrick was named to the BCA Classic All-Tournament team after averaging 19.5 points and 7.0 rebounds in Houston's first two games of the season. Hendrick opened the season with 14 points and six rebounds against Air Force. He tallied a career-high 25 points and grabbed eight rebounds versus Mount St. Mary's College.

Hendrick averaged 8.5 points and 2.8 rebounds in 31 games last season. Hendrick started 11 games overall last year and scored in double figures 14 times throughout the season.

35 Treva Crosby

Treva Crosby played eight minutes against Texas Southern and missed his only free throw attempt against the Tigers. It was the most extensive action for Crosby since Houston's season-opening game against Air Force. He played 12 minutes against the Falcons.

Crosby also played the final minute at SMU after playing two minutes against Southwest Texas State and one minute against Mount St. Mary's College.

He returns to Houston's lineup after sitting out the 1999-00 season with a right shoulder injury. Crosby was Houston's third guard in 1998-99 and averaged 5.0 points per game. He tallied 16 points versus Charlotte that year and netted a career-high 18 points against UAB in his freshman campaign.

42 George Williams

George Williams led the Cougars in scoring for the second time this season when he scored 18 points against Texas Southern. Williams also led the Cougars with eight rebounds versus the Tigers.

He scored eight points and grabbed a season-high 12 rebounds against Texas after switching from the starting small forward to the power forward position. Prior to the position change, Williams scored 14 points and grabbed seven rebounds at SMU after recording his first double-double performance of the season at Connecticut. Williams scored 15 points and snatched 10 rebounds against the 16th-ranked Huskies after he registered 12 points and four rebounds against LSU.

Williams recorded a season-high 20 points and eight rebounds in Houston's 73-59 victory over Southwest Texas State. He returned to Houston lineup at Rice after sitting out the first two games of the season with a strained calf muscle. The 6-8 sophomore scored four points and grabbed two rebounds in 21 minutes versus the Owls. He sat out 18 minutes of the game due to foul trouble.

The 6-8 Missouri City, Texas native was a member of the Conference USA All-Freshman team after averaging 14.3 points and 8.5 rebounds per game in 1999-00. He started every game for Houston and is the only returning C-USA player to record 12 double-doubles last year.

43 Patrick Okafor

Junior college transfer Patrick Okafor did not play for the first time this season after missing a day of practice before the Texas Southern game. Okafor scored three points and grabbed one rebound in 15 minutes off Houston's bench against Texas. Okafor, who started the first seven games of the season, grabbed 14 rebounds at SMU to mark the fourth time he has pulled down 10 or more rebounds.

Okafor snatched a career-high 16 rebounds versus Mount St. Mary's, 13 boards against Air Force and 11 rebounds against Southwest Texas State.

He scored a career-high 17 points against Mount St. Mary's and 11 points against Air Force in the BCA Classic. Following the BCA Classic, Okafor led the Cougars with nine points and nine rebounds at Rice. He tallied eight points and seven rebounds against LSU.

He was named one of the top five junior college sophomore power forwards in the nation last year by *The Sporting News* and a two-team Region XIV selection. He led Region XIV in rebounding with 12.1 rebounds per game and averaged 18.7 points per game as a sophomore after registering 22.9 points and 12.5 rebounds per contest as a freshman.

45 Tega Moceanu

Tega Moceanu played eight minutes against Texas Southern after grabbing two rebounds in five minutes at SMU. Moceanu played one minute against Connecticut and LSU. He also saw three minutes of action versus Southwest Texas State.

Moceanu's most productive games were against Rice and Mount St. Mary's College. He tallied three points and five rebounds at Rice after recording three points and a rebound versus Mount St. Mary's. He opened the regular season with four rebounds against Air Force.

Last year, Moceanu played in 29 games and started seven contests for the Cougars. He averaged 3.0 points and 1.2 rebounds per game in 1999-00. An outstanding outside shooter, Moceanu shot 50.0 percent (28-56) from the field, including 68.8 percent (11-16) from the three-point line. He scored a career-high nine points in three games.

2000-01 Box Scores

Game 1- November 16

Air Force 59, Houston 53

BCA Classic, Winston Salem, N. C.

Houston could not get on track early in the game when Air Force used a patient, spread out attack that used 30 seconds or more on most possessions. The Cougars shot just 38.1 percent (8-21) from the field, including 0-8 from the three-point line, and 45.5 percent (5-11) at the free throw line in the first half as the Falcons led, 25-21, at halftime.

The second half opened with Air Force making four three-pointers and two lay-ups off of steals to open a 39-25 lead with 13:25 left to play. Houston rallied as Dominic Smith scored five points off Houston's bench, Chad Hendrick made two lay-ups and Patrick Okafor hit two of his four free throws to pull the Cougars to within 49-48 with 4:10 left to play.

But, Jarvis Croft hit a three-pointer with the shot clock running out to give the Falcons a 57-53 lead with 48 seconds. Houston turned the ball over on its next possession Croft made two free throws to seal the victory.

Houston 21 32 ... - 53
Air Force 25 34 .. - 59
Houston

Hendrick 5-14 4-4 14; Okafor 3-5 5-11 11; Ford 1-7 4-6 6; Oliver 5-7 2-4 12; B. Smith 1-5 0-0 2; D. Smith 3-5 1-1 8; Crosby 0-2 0-0 0. Totals 18-45 16-26 53.

Air Force

Croft 4-11 6-7 18; Todd 5-8 0-2 13; Yazzie 3-5 5-5 12; Jenkins 2-7 2-5 8; Pina 2-3 0-0 4; Wallace 1-2 0-0 3; Mansell 0-3 1-4 1. Totals 17-39 14-24 59.

3-point goals-Houston 1-14 (D. Smith 1-2; Ford 0-3; B. Smith 0-2; Crosby 0-2; Hendrick 0-5), Air Force 11-26 (Croft 4-8; Todd 3-6; Jenkins 2-5; Wallace 1-2; Yazzie 1-3; Mansell 0-2). Fouled out—Houston-D. Smith, Air Force-None. Rebounds-Houston 38 (Okafor 13), Air Force 21 (Yazzie 6; Croft 6). Assists-Houston 5 (Hendrick 3), Air Force 15 (Jenkins 6). Total fouls-Houston 24, Air Force 21. A- 8,550

Game 2- November 17

Houston 77, Mt. St. Mary's 52

BCA Classic, Winston Salem, N. C.

Houston overpowered Mount St. Mary's College, 77-52, as Chad Hendrick scored a career-high 25 points and Patrick Okafor added 17 points and 16 rebounds.

Okafor teamed with freshman Alton Ford to manhandle the Mountaineers on the boards as Houston held a 51-22 rebounding advantage. Ford finished the game with 15 points and six rebounds.

The Cougars also made 22 of their 30 free throws and shot 60 percent from the field in the second half.

Houston shot just 28.6 percent in the first half, but made 15 of 19 free throws and held a 27-11 rebounding margin en route to a 31-22 halftime lead.

The Cougars led just 46-60 midway through the second half before using a 15-0 run to put the game out of reach at 61-40.

Dominic Smith came off Houston's bench to score a career-high 10 points as the Cougars.

Houston 31 46 77
Mount St. Mary's 22 30 52
Houston

Hendrick 10-18 2-5 25; Okafor 8-12 1-1 17; Ford 5-10 5-6 15; B. Smith 0-3 0-0 0; Oliver 1-6 5-8 7; D. Smith 1-4 8-8 10; Moceanu 1-1 1-1 3; Crosby 0-1 0-0 0; Botts 0-1 0-0 0; Kane 0-2 0-1 0. Totals 26-58 22-30 77.

Mount St. Mary's College

Price 7-16 0-0 17; Cook 1-4 6-6 8; Marvray 2-6 3-3 7; Herbert 3-9 0-0 6; Rivera 2-4 2-5 6; Lloyd 1-8 1-1 3; Grace 1-1 0-0 2; Moore 0-2 0-0 0; Christian 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 17-51 14-1749.

3-point goals-Houston 3-7 (Hendrick 3-6; D. Smith 0-1), Mount St. Mary's 4-17 (Price 3-5; Marvray 0-1; Herbert 0-1; Lloyd 0-5; Moore 0-1; Christian 0-1). Fouled out—Houston-None, Mount St. Mary's-None. Rebounds-Houston 51 (Okafor 16), Mount St. Mary's 22 (Price 7). Assists-Houston 13 (B. Smith 5), Mount St. Mary's 11 (Lloyd 4). Total fouls-Houston 16, Mount St. Mary's 22. A- 9,010

Game 3- November 21

Rice 65, Houston 45

Autry Court, Houston, Texas

It was a tale of two halves when Houston suffered a 65-45 loss at Rice. The Cougars opened the game by shooting 53.8 percent from the field and registered eight assists and four steals en route to a 34-25 halftime lead. Houston also held a 19-11 rebounding advantage in the first half.

In the second half, Rice outscored the Houston, 40-11, during the period as the Cougars could not get untracked on their offensive end. Houston made just four of their 22 field goal attempts (18.2 FG%) and were out-rebounded 28-15 in the second half.

Junior forward Patrick Okafor led the Cougars with nine points and nine rebounds, while Chad Hendrick, Dominic Smith and Alton Ford added seven points. Ford also grabbed seven rebounds despite being limited to just 25 minutes due to foul problems in the first half.

Shawn Tyndell sparked Rice's comeback as he hit four three-point field goals in the first 10 minutes of the period and helped Rice jump out to 47-39 lead. Tyndell led Rice with 22 points and Mike Wilks added 15 points .

Houston 34 11 45
Rice..... 25 40 65
Houston

Williams 1-3 2-4 4; Okafor 4-9 1-2 9; Ford 3-8 0-1 7; B. Smith 2-4 0-0 4; Hendrick 3-14 0-0 7; D. Smith 2-5 1-2 7; Oliver 2-4 0-0 4; Moceanu 1-1 1-2 3; Kane 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 18-48 5-11 45.

Rice

Tyndell 7-13 3-4 22, Cooper 4-12 3-4 12, McKenzie 0-1 0-0 0, Mance 2-5 7-8 11, Wilks 5-10 3-5 15, Evans 1-1 0-0 2, Kollik 0-0 0-0 0, R. Smith 0-1 0-0 0, Morgan 0-0 1-2 1, Diene 1-1 0-1 2. Totals 20-44 17-24 65.

3-point goals-Houston 4-10 (D. Smith 2-3; Hendrick 1-5; Ford 1-2), Rice 8-18 (Tyndell 5-9, Wilks 2-3, Cooper 1-2, R. Smith 0-1). Fouled out—Houston-None, Rice-None. Rebounds-Houston 34(Okafor 9), Rice 29 (Cooper 10). Assists-Houston 10 (B. Smith 3, Hendrick 3), Rice 11 (Wilks 4). Total fouls-Houston 22, Rice 16. A- 3,613

2000-01 BOX SCORES

Game 4- November 25

Houston 73, Southwest Texas State 59
Houston, Texas

Using a hot shooting hand and stingy defense, Houston won a 73-59 decision in their 2000-01 home opener. Sophomore forward George Williams led the Cougars with 20 points and junior guard Bernard Smith tallied a career-high 12 points as Houston shot 50 percent from the field for the first time this season and handed out a season-high 16 assists.

On the defensive end, the Cougars recorded a season-high six steals and held Southwest Texas State to 33.9 percent (19-56) shooting from the field.

Houston opened the game shooting 57 percent from the field in the first half as Williams, Smith and Alton Ford combined for 34 points to lead the Cougars to a 39-30 lead. Williams scored 14 points in the opening stanza, while Ford and Smith added 10 points each.

In the second half, the Cougars were forced to go with a smaller lineup when Ford and Patrick Okafor picked up their fourth fouls with eight minutes to play.

Senior Chad Hendrick keyed a 6-0 Houston run when he made two jump shots and passed to Williams for a layup to give the Cougars a 68-55 lead with 1:06 left to play.

Southwest Texas State.. 30 29 ... - 59
Houston 39 34 .. - 73

Southwest Texas State

Ervin 4-13 5--7 14; Hobbs 0-2 2-2 2;
Yavsaner 1-3 0-0 2; Dykes 3-10 2-2 9; Click
3-8 3-5 11; Smiljanic 3-6 0-1 9; Flores 1-5
2-4 4; Almanza 0-1 0-0 0; Scott 4-8 0-1 8.
Total 19-56 14-22 59.

Houston

Williams 8-14 4-4 20; Okafor 3-5 2-3 8;
Ford 4-7 1-2 10; B. Smith 5-9 2-2 12;
Hendrick 3-7 1-2 7; D. Smith 3-7 2-2 9;
Oliver 1-3 5-6 7; Moceanu 0-1 0-0 0;
Crosby 0-1 0-0 0; Kane 0-0 0-0 0. Totals
27-54 17-21 73.

3-point goals-SW Texas State 7-22 (Smiljanic 3-5, Click 2-6, Ervin 1-4, Sykes 1-5, Flores 0-2); Houston 2-12 (D. Smith 1-3; Ford 1-3; Hendrick 0-3; Williams 0-1; Crosby 0-1; Moceanu 0-1). Fouled out—Houston-None, SW Texas State-None. Rebounds-Houston 39 (Okafor 11), SW Texas State 34 (Ervin, Sykes 6). Assists-Houston 15 (Hendrick, Williams, B. Smith, D. Smith 4), SW Texas State 9 (Flores 5). Total fouls-Houston 21, Southwest Texas State 19. A- 3,165

Game 5- November 28

LSU 61, Houston 59
Houston, Texas

Torris Bright's layup with one second left gave the LSU Tigers a 61-59 victory over Houston at Hofheinz Pavilion.

The Cougars trailed 32-24 at halftime, but came storming back and led 53-49 with 4:58 left to play. LSU closed to within 55-53 when Ronald DuPree made one of his two free throws with 2:51 left to play.

Bernard Smith made a layup and Chad Hendrick made one of his two free throws to give the Cougars a 59-57 lead with 28 seconds left to play.

LSU tied the score when Brian Beshara hit a jumper from the left side with 16 seconds left.

Houston had a chance to go ahead when Bernard Smith missed a 10-foot jumper from the left baseline with seven seconds remaining to play and set up Bright's winning basket.

Alton Ford led the Cougars with 17 points and 15 rebounds. George Williams added 12 points, while Hendrick netted eight points.

LSU 32 29 61
Houston 24 35 59
LSU

DuPree 8-18 2-4 18; Beshara 1-9 0-0 2;
Bright 2-4 0-0 4; Temple 4-12 2-2 11;
Roland 8-16 4-7 24; Thompson 0-0 0-0 0;
Bozek 0-0 0-0 0; Williams 1-5 0-0 2;
Wilson 0-1 0-0 0. Total 24-65 8-13 61.

Houston

Williams 6-9 0-2 12; Okafor 3-7 2-4 8;
Ford 6-14 2-3 17; B. Smith 2-7 0-0 4;
Hendrick 3-8 1-2 8; D. Smith 1-3 4-4 6;
Oliver 2-4 0-0 4; Moceanu 0-0 0-0 0.
Totals 23-52 9-15 59.

3-point goals-LSU 5-19 (Roland 4-7, Temple 1-5, Beshara 0-4, DuPree 0-3); Houston 4-11 (Ford 3-5, Hendrick 1-2, D. Smith 0-2, B. Smith 0-1, Oliver 0-1). Fouled out—Houston-None, LSU-None. Rebounds-Houston 39 (Ford 15), LSU 37 (DuPree 13). Assists-Houston 14 (Hendrick5), LSU 15 (Beshara 5). Total fouls-Houston 16, LSU 17. A- 4,844

Game 6- November 30

Connecticut 72, Houston 60
Storrs, Conn.

Connecticut scored 29 points off of Houston's 21 turnovers and closed the game with a 23-13 run as the 16th-ranked Huskies escaped with a 72-60 victory over Houston.

The Cougars traveled to Storrs two days after playing LSU and used an outstanding defensive effort to keep the game close throughout the first half as the Huskies held a 35-30 lead at halftime. Houston took a 38-35 lead as they opened the second half with an 8-0 run before Johnnie Selvie ignited Connecticut's rally.

Selvie scored a career-high 21 points off the bench to lead the Huskies.

George Williams led the Cougars with 15 points and 10 rebounds and Dominic Smith scored a career-high 12 points. Freshman Alton Ford added 13 points and seven rebounds and Bernard Smith tallied nine points.

Houston 30 30 60
Connecticut 35 37 72

Houston

Williams 5-10 4-4 15; Okafor 2-4 3-7 7;
Ford 4-11 4-4 13; B. Smith 4-10 0-0 9;
Hendrick 0-5 0-0 0; D. Smith 3-5 5-5 12;
Oliver 2-6 0-0 4; Moceanu 0-0 0-0 0.
Totals 20-51 16-20 60.

Connecticut

Butler 4-10 7-8 15; Saunders 4-5 3-4 12;
Wane 1-5 0-0 2; T. Brown 1-6 0-2 2;
Mouring 3-12 4-4 13; Deng 0-0 0-0 0;
J. Brown 0-1 0-0 0; Robertson 2-4 2-3 6;
Selvie 9-12 3-4 21; Cox 0-2 1-2 1.
Totals 24-57 20-27 72.

3-point goals-Houston (Williams 1-1, Ford 1-2, B. Smith 1-2, D. Smith 1-2, Hendrick 0-4); Connecticut 4-10 (Mouring 3-7, Saunders 1-1, T. Brown 0-1, Robertson 0-1). Fouled out—Houston-None, Connecticut-Wane. Rebounds-Houston 34 (Williams 10), Connecticut 36 (Butler 9). Assists-Houston 13 (B. Smith, Hendrick 3), Connecticut 14 (Butler, Robertson, Mouring 3). Total fouls-Houston 22, Connecticut 17. A- 10,027

2000-01 BOX SCORES

Game 7- December 17 SMU 94, Houston 69 Dallas, Texas

Coming off a 17-day layoff, Houston was ice cold from the field as the Cougars suffered a 94-69 loss at SMU on December 17.

Damon Hancock led the Mustangs with 22 points, and All-American candidate Jerryl Sadler added 15 points and 13 rebounds.

The Cougars were ice cold in the opening minutes of the game as they needed four minutes to score their first basket. SMU led 10-1 at the outset, but Houston fought to within 20-17 with 5:58 remaining in the half, but SMU closed out the half with a 17-4 run to take a 37-24 halftime lead.

The Mustangs picked right up where they left off as they opened the second half with a 15-7 run. The Cougars closed to within 68-53 with eight minutes left to play, but Houston couldn't get any closer as the Mustangs won, 94-69.

Junior reserve Dominic Smith led Houston with 23 points, and Geroge Williams added 14 points.

Dominic Smith led the Cougars with 23 points off Houston's bench. George Williams added 14 points and Patrick Okafor pulled down 14 rebounds.

Houston 24 45 69
SMU 37 57 94

Houston

Williams 6-21 1-2 14, Okafor 2-10 3-4 7, Ford 3-6 0-2 6, B. Smith 1-8 1-4 3, Hendrick 3-9 1-3 8, D. Smith 7-10 5-7 23, Oliver 4-5 0-0 8, Kane 0-0 0-0 0, Moceanu 0-0 0-0 0, Moore 0-0 0-0 0, Crosby 0-0 0-0 0, Totals 26-69 11-22 69.

SMU

Sasser 5-13 3-5 15, Ross 3-9 6-8 12, Kelley 1-2 0-0 2, Davis 5-13 3-6 13, Niemi 3-3 1-1 7, Nedd 1-1 0-0 2, Hancock 5-7 13-14 26, Heath 0-0 0-0 0, Vasquez 1-2 0-2 2, Atkins 2-3 1-2 6, Lowe 0-0 0-0 0, Wilson 0-0 0-0 0, Floyd 4-8 1-2 9, Forinash 0-0 0-0 0, Totals 30-61 28-40 94.

3-point goals-Houston 6-17 (Williams 1-5, Ford 0-1, B. Smith 0-2, D. Smith 4-5, Hendrick 1-3, Oliver 0-1); SMU 6-13 (Hancock 3-3, Sasser 2-5, Atkins 1-1, Ross 0-2, Davis 0-2). Fouled out—Houston-Ford, SMU-None. Rebounds-Houston 39 (Okafor 14), SMU 47 (Sasser 13). Assists-Houston 17 (B. Smith 7), SMU 18 (Hancock, Sasser 4). Total fouls-Houston 28, SMU 17. A- 3,693

Game 8 - December 20 Texas 71, Houston 60 Houston, Texas

Houston could not overcome 16 turnovers and poor free throw shooting as the Cougars dropped a 71-60 decision against intrastate rival Texas in Hofheinz Pavilion.

The Longhorns scored 15 points off of turnovers and Houston made just nine of their 22 free throw attempts.

Houston did make a couple of valiant comeback attempts in the second half.

Trailing 40-31 with 18:39 left to play, Houston went on a 10-33 run to make the score 43-41 as Chad Hendrick, who scored in double figures for the first time since the BCA Classic, netted a jumper.

But, the Longhorns went on a 10-0 run take a 53-41 lead with 11:36 left to play.

The Cougars closed the gap again to 56-51 when George Williams grabbed a defensive rebound, drove the ball down court and made jumper from the top of the key. Texas grabbed the momentum back again on the next play when Williams was called for his fourth foul and forced to Houston's bench. After Owens made his two free throws, Hendrick made a three-pointer from the left baseline corner to cut the lead down to 58-54. That was as close as Houston could get as Darren Kelly, who was playing in his first game of the season, mad four straight free throws in the final 56 seconds to seal the win.

Texas 33 38 71
Houston 30 30 60

Texas

Evans 5-10 0-0 14, Owens 5-12 4-5 14, Boddicker 0-1 2-2 2, Ivey 1-2 0-0 2, Kelly 8-20 4-4 23, Thomas 1-3 3-4 5, Wyatt 2-5 1-2 6, Mouton 1-3 2-2 5, Williams 0-0 0-0 0, Totals 23-56 16-19 71.

Houston

Williams 4-6 0-3 8, Ford 3-11 2-6 8, D. Smith 4-10 3-6 14, Oliver 5-9 0-1 10, B. Smith 2-7 0-0 4, Okafor 1-3 1-2 3, Hendrick 4-11 3-4 13, Totals 23-57 9-22 60.

3-point goals-Texas 9-16 (Evans 4-6, Kelly 3-6, Wyatt 1-2, Mouton 1-1, Boddicker 0-1), Houston 5-17 (D. Smith 3-6, Hendrick 2-6, Williams 0-1, Oliver 0-1, B. Smith 0-1, Ford 0-2). Fouled out—Texas-None, Houston-Williams. Rebounds-Texas 37 (Owens 9), Houston 41 (Williams 12). Assists-Texas 8 (Mouton 3), Houston 11 (Hendrick 3). Total fouls-Texas 20, Houston 23. A- 7,182

Game 9- December 23 Texas Southern 71, Houston 68 Houston, Texas

It was a tale of two halves as Houston suffered a 71-68 loss against cross-town rival Texas Southern in Hofheinz Pavilion.

Houston used a 19-4 run midway in the first half en route to a 39-29 halftime lead.

The Cougars held Texas Southern to just 9-of-27 shooting and held an 18-15 edge in the rebounding department in the opening period.

But, Texas Southern caught fire in the opening minutes of the second half as they quickly closed to within 41-38 with 17:01 left to play.

Meanwhile, Houston was scoring the bulk of their points at the free throw line as the Cougars made 19 of their 26 free throws in the second half. But, the Cougars managed to make just five of their 19 field goal attempts in the second period.

In the meantime, Texas Southern made 18 of its 36 field goal attempts and netted 13 of their 14 free throws in the second half.

The Tigers led 69-66 with 13 seconds left after Gregory Grady hit a jumper from the top of the key.

George Williams drove the baseline to make a layup with six seconds left. Then., Rakim Hollis made both of his free throws to give Texas Southern the victory.

Houston's Dominic Smith missed a three-point shot from the top of the key as the game ended. Smith and Williams led the Cougars with 18 points.

Texas Southern 29 42 71
Houston 39 29 68

Texas Southern

Miller 4-18 4-4 14; Underwood 4-8 2-2 10; Bennett 9-14 4-4 24; Hollis 1-6 6-6 9; Timmons 1-1 0-0 3; Clark 0-1 0-0 0; Butler 1-2 1-2 3; Brown 0-0 0-0 0; Grady 2-3 4-4 8; Balom 0-0 0-0 0. Total 22-53 21-22 71.

Houston

Williams 4-8 10-14 18; Ford 3-7 4-8 10; B. Smith 2-4 0-0 4; Oliver 0-10 7-9 7; D. Smith 3-9 11-11 18; Hendrick 4-4 2-2 11; Crosby 0-0 0-1 0; Moceanu 0-1 0-0 0; Totals 16-43 34-45 68.

3-point goals-Texas Southern 6-25 (Miller 2-1, Bennett 2-4, Hollis 1-6, Timmons 1-1, Underwood 0-1, Grady 0-1); Houston 2-8 (D. Smith 1-3, Hendrick 1-1, Ford 0-2, B. Smith 0-1, Moceanu 0-1). Fouled out—Texas Southern-Underwood, Timmons, Butler; Houston-None. Rebounds-Texas Southern 36 (Miller 14), Houston 30 (Williams 8). Assists-Texas Southern 10 (Bennett, Hollis, Timmons 3), Houston 5 (Ford, D. Smith 2). Total fouls-Texas Southern 32, Houston 19. A- 2,358