

## SMU continues search

# Rice finds Rice to fill spot

Associated Press  
HOUSTON — T. N. Law, a member of a committee to study the future of athletics at Rice University, has been a man with a mission since 1972 when he first met Homer Rice. Law, also a member of the Rice board of directors, got his mission accomplished Tuesday when Rice

President Dr. Norman Hackerman named Homer Rice, formerly athletic Director at North Carolina, as Rice's head football coach. "I don't want to leave the impression I had anything to do with the selection, but I certainly did supply Dr. Hackerman with plenty of information on Mr. Rice," Law said.

Rice, who has been in charge of the Tar Heels' athletic program since 1968, replaces Al Conover, who resigned Jan. 2 after four seasons and a 14-28-4 record to enter private business.

Rice President Dr. Norman Hackerman introduced Rice to a new conference Tuesday amid rumors of alumni involvement in the Rice athletic department. Conover reportedly received \$27,000, equal to one year's salary, from a Rice backer, to resign.

Law discounted any rumor of alumni involvement in Rice athletics. "Dr. Hackerman is in complete charge of any final decisions," Law said. "As far as Conover's contract, I don't know what happened, except that I have not given financial support to Conover on paying off his contract."

Homer Rice will be in his second head coaching position at Rice. Rice compiled a 8-10-1 record during two seasons at Cincinnati. He previously was an assistant coach at Kentucky and Oklahoma.

Asked about his seven years absence from coaching, Rice said, "I've really been on the field in spirit all the time. This will be just a move from the press box down to the field."

Law said he has been interested in Homer Rice since Conover was hired as head coach in 1972 when Rice turned down the job.

"It takes a special kind of man to do the job at Rice," Law said. "I think Homer Rice is that man. He'll bring the kind of maturity that's needed. It's important now for Rice to get busy and build our athletic program like Homer did at North Carolina."

Rice said he is working at Rice on a verbal agreement with Dr. Hackerman and has no signed contract. Rice said he was hired only as head football coach but there was speculation current athletic director A. M. "Red" Bale will be pushed aside.

Bale, athletic director at Rice since 1972, did not attend Tuesday's news conference.

Rice said he wanted to accept the job here four years ago but "people at North Carolina insisted that I stay. I stayed to complete a job. I had to develop things that weren't completed."

Rice, who often is credited with inventing the triple option, said he preferred "a conservative wide open type of offense."

The new Rice coach, the Owls' third in six years, said he would return to Houston next week to begin forming his staff. He met briefly with the team Tuesday before returning to Chapel Hill, N.C.

**SMU looks**  
Associated Press  
DALLAS — Ron Meyer, head football coach at the University of Nevada at Las Vegas, has jumped to the head football coach shopping list.

Meyer was in consultation with SMU officials Tuesday night. He and his wife were sighted at the SMU-North Texas State basketball game.

Only Saturday night Darryl Rogers, the San Jose State coach, turned down an SMU offer as did Pittsburgh's Johnny Majors and

Hank Stram, now the new head football coach at New Orleans.

SMU has been without a head football coach since Dave Smith resigned Dec. 31. SMU was 4-7 last year.

Nevada-Las Vegas was 7-4 under Meyer, who has an overall record of 27-5.

Meyer, who teaches wide open football from a slot-I formation, was a former scout for the Dallas Cowboys of the National Football League.

The Rebels posted an 8-3 record in Meyer's first year on the job. Mike Thomas, the National Football League's Offensive Player of the Year at Washington, played under Meyer.

Meyer is also a former assistant coach at Purdue.

SMU officials were mum on Meyer but Athletic Director Dick Davis said, "We're looking for a brilliant coach who can fit into the SMU atmosphere. We want someone from a winning program who believes in a wide open offense."

Davis added, "We hope to find the right man as quickly as possible."

## McAdoo brings victory

Associated Press  
Bob McAdoo can do other things than score.

"When McAdoo starts to pass," says Phoenix Coach John MacLoub, "it adds another dimension to the Buffalo Braves game. The passes are rockets — but they manage to hold onto them."

McAdoo had five assists Tuesday night. Of course, he did his usual thing, too — scoring 36 points and picking off 13 rebounds as the Braves beat the Phoenix Suns 112-103.

The National Basketball Association's scoring leader helped the Braves turn the game around in the third period, when they moved from a tenuous 63-61 lead to 80-65 in less than four minutes.

McAdoo's high-powered game was almost matched by teammate Gar Heard, who had 18 points, 15 rebounds and eight assists.

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