

Majors has trouble with recruiting

United Press International

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Johnny Majors said yesterday the current NCAA recruiting rules make it tougher to rebuild a faltering college football program than any time since he has been in the business.

"Numbers help rebuilding," said Majors, who was named coach of the year after guiding the University of Pittsburgh to the national

championship last season. "Thirty opposed to 70 is a mighty big difference. There is no way we can accelerate as quickly at Tennessee as we did at Pittsburgh. I feel like there should be some flexibility in the 30 rule. We should be permitted to bring in 60 over a two-year period so that a coach who is trying to rebuild a program may bring in say, 35 his first year, and then 25 the second."

The new Tennessee coach was referring to an NCAA rule which limits a school to 30 new football scholarships each season.

"It takes four or five years to build a solid football program," said Majors. "First, you've got to establish a firm foundation. The only way you can really do that is to be able to bring in enough new people the first year to start that base."

Majors, here for the annual Southeastern Conference (SEC) meeting, said there was no way to compare the rebuilding task he had when he first became head coach at Iowa State and Pittsburgh.

"Before, we were starting at rock bottom. We were just fighting to stay alive at Iowa State, fighting just to get our breath at Pittsburgh."

"Coming up with a national championship at Pittsburgh was a rare thing," said Majors.

"I may never have a national championship or be undefeated again. I'm not going to think that way but one must face reality."

Majors said one of the things that bothers him is a lot of people in Tennessee "expect an awful lot from us in a big hurry. But I don't think those people are aware of the problems that the 30 rule creates for us."

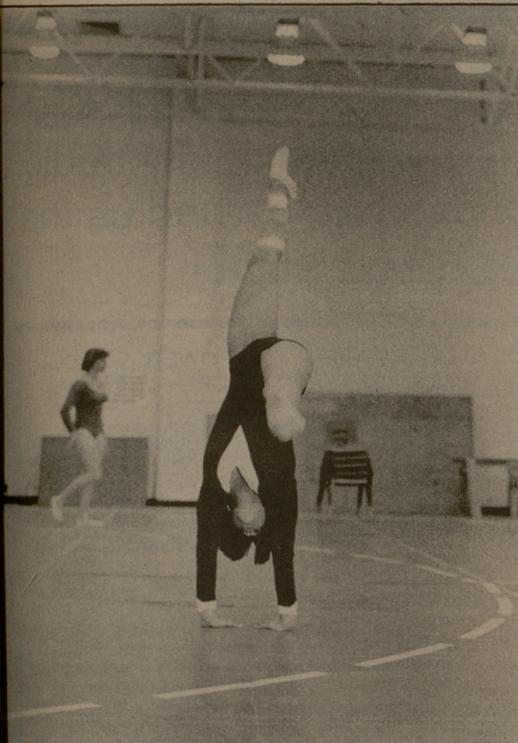
"I don't think I can ever get every-

body to react the way I'd want them to but people who really think about it realize it's going to take us time. Some people expect too much."

He said his "long range" goal at Tennessee is to first win the SEC title and then "perhaps someday" a national championship. "That has to be our goal down the line but it's going to take some good recruiting, some work. It ain't going to be easy."

Majors, a star tailback at Tennessee in the mid-1950s, said the toughest thing about returning home is "being in a fish bowl."

He said the people expecting quick results at Tennessee have got to realize that you can't "just change head coaches to get the job done... just because you have 82,000 people in the stands doesn't mean you're going to be champions. You must improve all the way down the line."



Battalion photo by Cathy Ruedinger

Freshman Cindy Gremillion performs her floor exercise to near perfection. The Aggies will need performances like this one in the state meet held in Fort Worth this Friday and Saturday.

Cardinals are favorites

By WALT SMITH

United Press International

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — The 9th-ranked Louisville Cardinals are a near unanimous pick to win the Metro 7 basketball tournament but if Cardinal Coach Denny Crum had his way, there would be no tourney.

Crum believes a conference tournament on the eve of the NCAA event leaves the winner so "physically, emotionally and mentally drained" that it hurts the team's chances for a national title.

"That's my primary reason for being opposed to the tournament," Crum said Wednesday. "I think it hurts the team that has a chance to go to the NCAA and do well."

"I just don't think it is in the best interest of our basketball conference to play it."

Other Metro 7 coaches disagreed with Crum on the eve of the second annual tournament, although Cincinnati Coach Gale Catlett qualified his endorsement.

"I would be against it if the NCAA took only the winner," said Catlett. "I wouldn't be for it unless they took two teams to the NCAA and one to the NIT National Invitational Tournament."

The Metro 7 tourney winner gets an automatic berth in the NCAA Midwest Regionals and one other team is expected to be selected as an at large entry.

Catlett said the post-season conference tournament "is one of the things that has made the ACC the great league it is."

The tournament opens Thursday afternoon with Georgia Tech 16-9 meeting Florida State 16-10. In action Thursday night, 20th-ranked Cincinnati 22-4 meets St. Louis 7-18 and host Memphis State 19-7 plays Tulane 10-16.

Cincinnati and the host Tigers are given the best chance to knock off Louisville, although Memphis State Coach Wayne Yates insists the home court edge is not that big an advantage.

Rangers are still without Linblad

United Press International

GRAPEVINE, Tex. — Paul Lindblad still does not know where he will be playing this season, says O. Finley still does not understand why he was summoned to meet with Baseball Commissioner Bowie Kuhn yesterday and still has not made up his mind whether Finley is trying to liquidate the Oakland A's.

The questions surrounding the sale of the Oakland A's are numerous. The answers remain few.

Kuhn ordered Finley to meet him at an airport hotel midway between Dallas and Fort Worth yesterday to discuss his recent sale of Lindblad to the Texas Rangers for \$400,000. The commissioner had blocked the sale of the left-handed relief pitcher pending a hearing.

and, after almost three hours of

sworn testimony from Finley, attorney Neil Papiano, Rangers vice president Eddie Robinson and Lindblad, Kuhn said yesterday it would take a while for him to decide whether the Lindblad deal would go through.

"I hope to make a decision promptly," said Kuhn. "My job is to evaluate and determine what should be done. It will take a little time. Maybe a few days — maybe tomorrow."

But, while the Lindblad deal was labeled as the chief topic of the hearing, the major issue turned out to be Kuhn's attempts to uncover Finley's motives for selling his star players.

"We want to find out if the selling of Paul Lindblad is part of a plan to liquidate the Oakland A's ball club," said Kuhn. "The sale of the three players, Joe Rudi, Rollie Fingers,

and Vida Blue last year was the incident that first shed light on this possibility."

"At this point I think I would have enough on the record with which I could make a determination. But I will have to study and examine the record."

Kuhn canceled the sale of Rudi, Fingers and Blue and that led to a \$3.5 million lawsuit filed by Finley against the commissioner.

Finley had said before coming to town that he thought it was a waste of time, and he said it more than once again yesterday.

"I've said before that Mr. Kuhn is off his rocker," said Finley, "and I say it again. I've said before that he doesn't have the guts to call off this Lindblad deal and I say it again."

Papiano insisted as he has often that Kuhn's actions are part of a plan to destroy Finley.

"This hearing was a ludicrous continuation of Mr. Kuhn's personal vendetta against Mr. Finley," said Papiano. "There is no basis to rule against the Lindblad deal and there is no basis to delay it."

"It is common knowledge that there is bad blood between Mr. Kuhn and Mr. Finley. Mr. Finley tried to oust Mr. Kuhn as commissioner so now Mr. Kuhn is trying to drive Mr. Finley out of baseball."

When Kuhn was asked if his actions concerning Finley were personally motivated, he replied: "Of course not."

While Kuhn is determining the Lindblad question, the pitcher will continue to work out in the spring training camp of the New York Yankees.

American League President Lee McPhail gave Lindblad permission to work out with the Yankees while his future is decided. The Yankees camp is only a few miles south of the Rangers spring training headquarters.

French invented fries

United Press International
French fries were invented by French pharmacist Antoine Parmentier who fed them to Benjamin Franklin.

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