

the sports

Former Olympian

Women's basketball coach hired

Martha Cheryl "Cherri" Rapp, formerly a coach at North Texas State University, was named the women's basketball coach at Texas A&M University, interim Athletic Director Marvin Tate announced today. Rapp, who has been head coach at NTSU the past three seasons, will succeed Wanda Bender as

women's basketball coach. "We are very pleased to have a coach with the credentials that Cherri possesses join our staff," Tate said. "Not only were we impressed with her background in women's basketball, but she had a strong desire to come to Texas A&M." Rapp's basketball background includes her selection as an alternate on the United States Olympic women's basketball team in 1976. Rapp was chosen as captain of the U.S. basketball team that won a gold medal in the Pan American Games in Mexico City in 1975.

Rapp played high school basketball at Estelina High School, earning all-district distinction all four years. After graduation she went on to play at Wayland Baptist College. While Rapp was at Wayland, the Flying Queens won two national championships, never losing more than five games in a season. Rapp earned All-America honors three years while at Wayland and was valedictorian of her 1972 graduating class, majoring in mathematics. "Cherri has shown the values of leadership and dedication that we are looking for in our coaches," said

Charles Sampson, Texas A&M athletic council chairman. "Her experience as a coach and a player will be an asset to the overall program at Texas A&M." In her three years of coaching Rapp's NTSU teams compiled a 43-42 record. This season NTSU finished 16-15 and fifth in the TIAAW state tournament. "I have visited with Cherri several times and each time she impresses me as a dedicated professional," Assistant Athletic Director Kay Don said. "She is highly respected by her peers, shown by her

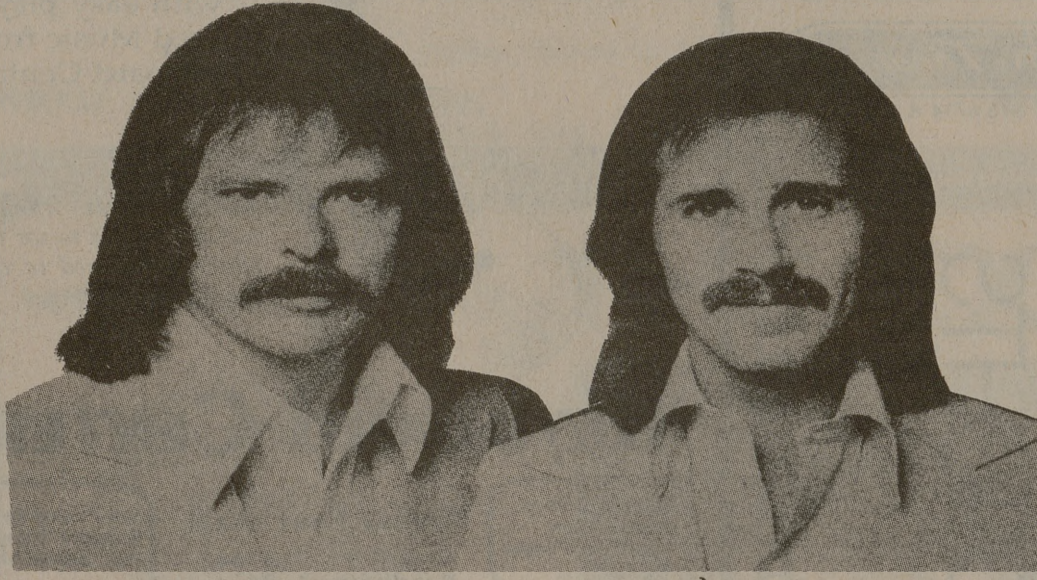


Cherri Rapp

election to the TIAAW committee." The 29-year-old Rapp will over her coaching duties April

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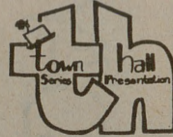
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Brown brings wit to Westwood

United Press International
LOS ANGELES — With his joking, flamboyant style, Larry Brown made it very clear he had come to have fun — and win. The former coach of the NBA's Denver Nuggets assumed the head basketball coaching position at UCLA Wednesday and wasted no time in displaying his wit. "I'm kind of intimidated by the crowd," he told the 100 or so reporters. "After coaching in the ABA, this is a bigger crowd than we played before in most of our games." Brown, known as a fierce competitor and restless benchwarmer during his 6½ years in professional coaching, said he tried once to be a calm "iceman" coach, but it just didn't work. "I have trouble sitting on the bench, crossing my legs and looking

cool," he laughed. "I went to the University of North Carolina. Coach Frank McGuire recruited my mom so I went there. He sat there very calmly but some amazing things came out of his mouth." Brown resigned Feb. 1 as head coach of the Nuggets in what was described as philosophical differences with the team's management. He replaces Gary Cunningham, who resigned from UCLA last week after a two-year stint as head coach. Cunningham will remain at UCLA in a yet-to-be-announced administrative post. UCLA, which won 10 NCAA championships in 12 years under Coach John Wooden, hasn't reached the NCAA's Final Four in the past three seasons. "This is a great moment for me," Brown said. "I hope in the future UCLA can say the same thing. I

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never thought I'd have an opportunity like this. This is a great school with an unbelievable basketball program." UCLA athletic director J.D. Morgan would say only that Brown was given a "multi-year contract." Brown's new salary is \$40,000 a year, less than half of what he earned as coach of the Nuggets. "I didn't want to return to pro basketball," Brown said. "I was just not suited for that kind of a game. I'm not in this game for the money. If I was in this for the money I would still be coaching the Nuggets, living in a beautiful house in Boulder (Colo.)." Brown, a native of Brooklyn, N.Y., brings a 383-231 professional record to Los Angeles. During his six years of coaching in the American Basketball Association and the NBA, he guided his teams to five divisional titles — one with the Carolina Cougars of the ABA, two with Denver in the ABA and two with the Nuggets in the NBA. Brown, playing guard, captained North Carolina's squad his senior year. He played on the 1964 U.S. Olympic team which captured the gold medal in Tokyo. He joined the ABA in 1967, playing for five years with five teams. He was named Most Valuable Player in the ABA's 1968 All-Star game and set the ABA record for assists in one game, 23. The expedient naming of as Cunningham's successor was considered especially important UCLA, since the Bruins will two-time All-America first-team guards Brad Holland and Hamilton to graduation. He feels its recruiting is essential going to win a 14th straight conference title next season. "It's easy to recruit at a place like this," Brown said. "They respect me and I came." Brown also announced that assistant coach Larry Farmer would remain in that post. One other assistant coaching spot is still open; the resignation two weeks ago of Harkick, who took the head coaching spot at Pepperdine University. He said his UCLA team favors a passing game — featuring screens away from the ball movement — over the high game the Bruins used under Cunningham. Asked about using court press, he reverted once to his humorous style. "We're going to pick 'em up at Los Angeles airport. Bill Russell said that and he's not coaching more, so maybe I shouldn't say he grinned, glancing towards the door." Bill Russell, the former Celtic great and ex-coach of the Seattle SuperSonics, leaned against a doorway and returned a smile.

Former Cleveland Indian robbed, killed outside bar

United Press International
CLEVELAND — Former first baseman Luke Easter of the Cleveland Indians was shot and killed Thursday by two men who robbed him outside a suburban Euclid, Ohio, bank where he had just cashed payroll checks totaling more than \$5,000. The two suspects were caught by police after a high-speed chase through Euclid and into Cleveland and a wild gunbattle in which no one was injured. They face aggravated robbery and aggravated murder charges. Victor Pritchett, 32, and Roderick Thomas, 31, both of Cleveland, were in fair condition at Euclid General Hospital. Each suffered superficial wounds and facial lacerations when their getaway car crashed along a railroad underpass on Cleveland's East Side. Easter, 63, a union steward at TRW, Inc., where he worked for about 15 years, was accosted by the suspects who opened fire with blasts from a sawed-off shotgun and a .38 caliber revolver. Easter was dead on arrival at Euclid General Hospital. It was known that Easter went to the bank every other Thursday to cash the payroll checks totaling as much as \$40,000 and usually asked Euclid police for an escort to the plant, according to bank employees. "He did not ask for an escort today," said Euclid Police Capt. William Donner. The prodigious home run hitter who played for the Indians from 1949 to 1954, was killed outside Cleveland Trust Co. bank branch a shopping center at East 31st Street and Euclid Avenue. There that he had just cashed payroll checks for himself and employees. The two suspects fled the scene but were cornered by Cleveland police at East 140th Street and pinwall Avenue in Cleveland, several miles from the bank, according to Police Lt. Howard Rudolph. Instead of surrendering, the suspects exchanged shots with police and both were wounded. Rudolph said. The suspects were taken to Euclid General Hospital for treatment. During the attempted escape, police said one shot fired by a suspect smashed through the windshield of a police car, passing between the two officers. Neither was injured. Easter, born Aug. 4, 1915, in St. Louis, is on record as having what it is believed to have been the longest home run at Cleveland Municipal Stadium, home of the Indians, June 27, 1950. The ball traveled 477 feet into the rightfield stands. The right-handed, 6-4, 170-pound slugger batted left-handed.

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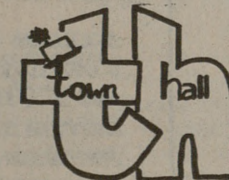
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