

the sports

Spurs, Bullets still at the opera

United Press International
SAN ANTONIO — It's not as catchy as the one involving the fat lady and the opera, but Coach Dick Motta has coined a new phrase which means essentially the same thing: don't count the world champion Washington Bullets out yet.

"Don't write the epitaph," Motta cautioned sportswriters after his team captured a 107-103 victory over San Antonio in Landover, Md., and cut the Spurs' lead in the Eastern Conference title series to 3-2.

Though it lacked the flare of "the opera ain't over 'til the fat lady sings," which Motta sprang on the press a year ago as his team edged toward the NBA championship, Motta's epitaph quote fit neatly into Monday headlines.

"Don't count the Bullets out. Washington will be back," said Motta. "We have a positive attitude. We're hustling and I really believe we're capable of winning the next two games."

So confident was Motta that his team could come back, that he suggested the pressure now is on San Antonio, which jumped to a 3-1 lead in the series before losing narrowly Sunday.

"Game 6 (tonight at HemisFair Arena) is the pressure game for them," he said. "They came up here on Cloud Nine — a loss wouldn't matter. But now they have to win. They don't want to come back to Landover."

Witte said, "They (Mutual) agreed that the quality of many broadcasts should be improved," but neither SWC official would discuss specific problems.

Athletic directors attending were asked to study an earlier starting date for football, possibly to the middle of August in order to coincide with the beginning of the schools' fall semesters.

Speegle said a proposal to start a SWC soccer league was tabled for further discussion.

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SWC cracks down

United Press International
HOUSTON — The stakes just set up for a Southwest Conference school to illegally recruit a high school athlete and get caught.

Under a sanction unanimously approved by the nine schools a SWC school prohibited by the NCAA from playing in televised games or bowl games will not share by SWC edict — in the revenues generated by the other SWC members participation.

Had such a sanction been in effect in 1977 when the University of Houston was slapped with a one-year probation for illegally recruiting Darrell Shepard, the Houston athletic department would have forfeited about \$300,000.

"This is a damned serious action," said Houston Athletic Director Gary Fouke, who expressed reservations despite his affirmative vote. "If we lost that much money our administration would certainly frown on it, to say the least."

Erthur said the new sanction was brought to the floor and passed during three days of meetings at the Woodlands Inn.

"It was not on the agenda," Erthur said.

He declined to say which school violated the penalty.

It was discussed — not debated — quite at length. The vote was not made hastily. I think the general consensus was that we felt there was something to be done to stop the so-called "they will" violations," he said.

It was his opinion that if the climate of CAA's probation included penalizing a team from playing television and in a bowl game, SWC would automatically stop by already payment to the probated school of the revenues generated by those games.

Outgoing SWC President Albert Witte of Arkansas made the announcement and added, "The feeling is that this is an equitable and acceptable one."

Both players have dropped out of school and are working daily at the Cowboys' practice facility, receiving individual attention from the coaches before the opening of training camp.

They were the first two draft picks signed by the club, although the Cowboys have signed about 50 free agents since the draft.

Cowboys ink top picks

United Press International
DALLAS — The Dallas Cowboys Tuesday signed their top two draft picks — center Robert Shaw of Tennessee and defensive back Aaron Mitchell of Nevada-Las Vegas.

Shaw signed a four-year contract and Mitchell a five-year pact. No other terms were disclosed.

"I'm surprised I signed as early as I did," said Shaw. "I believe it was because they gave my agent and it

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