

'V' skies for two

Texas A&M's Vernon 'V' Smith tips the ball in for two of his career-high 32 points he scored against Texas Lutheran. Smith is averaging 30 points a game after two games and is eight for eight from the free throw line.

Battalion photo by Lee Roy Leschper Jr.

New Mexico basketball team ripped by loss of key players

United Press International
ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — Six more University of New Mexico basketball players were declared ineligible Thursday, the latest development in an ongoing scandal that has ripped through the school's once highly successful program.

The ineligibility of the six players, coupled with the suspension of a seventh earlier this week, reduced the beleaguered New Mexico team to five players and may have sealed the ouster of head coach Norm Ellenberger.

Ellenberger and chief recruiter Manny Goldstein were both suspended last week in the wake of an FBI investigation which implicated the two coaches in an alleged bribery and transcript-fixing scandal involving junior college recruit Craig Gilbert of Santa Barbara, Calif.

A top university official told UPI the resignation or firing of Ellenberger was imminent.

The six latest players to be dropped from the squad included seniors Larry Belin, Andre Logan and Paul Roby and junior college transfers

Larry Tarrance, Larry Hubbard and Jerome Henderson.

Belin, Logan and Roby all transferred to New Mexico from junior colleges prior to the start of the 1978-79 season, while Tarrance, Hubbard and Henderson enrolled this fall.

Belin, a 6-8 center-forward, was the team's leading scorer last season with an average of 15.5 points a game. Logan, a 6-6 center, and Roby, 6-5, were part-time starters last season.

UNM officials said the six players had received academic credit for a summer school course they were enrolled in but never attended. The course was supposedly offered through Ottawa University of Kansas, a self-proclaimed "innovative and experimental type of college," and taught at the Van Nuys, Calif., campus of Los Angeles Valley State.

Representatives of the Clinical Law Program at UNM, the agency which is representing the six athletes, said the players had no knowledge they had even been enrolled in the Ottawa University of Ottawa, Kan., course, which was

conducted in California this past summer.

"I spent most of my time going to school here (UNM) last summer," said Logan, a co-captain on this year's squad. "I don't know how I was supposed to be in two places at once."

Contacted at the school's main campus, Ottawa athletic director Bill Boucek said, "There is no way any such course could have been offered without my knowledge. We have no connection with any school in California."

Despite the fact UNM officials indicated they were working with Ottawa officials in their investigation of the case, Boucek said he had not talked to anyone from New Mexico. "The first I knew about it was when a reporter contacted me," Boucek said.

Newly named athletic director John Bridgers said school officials were trying to determine the identity of the individual who enrolled the six players.

Bob Weaver, director of admissions at New Mexico, said his office

received six transcripts this fall in a two-day period, indicating six players had completed a course called "Current Problems in Coaching Athletics."

Weaver said UNM officials were working with Ottawa officials in an effort to trace the individuals involved in the falsification of enrollment records and transcripts.

Ellenberger and Goldstein suspended following the release of an FBI transcript of a taped conversation in which the two allegedly discussed a \$300,000 false transcript on Gilbert's name at the University of California, San Diego.

Of the five remaining players on UNM, one of them, freshman Smith of New York, has a broken ankle. School officials later said at least two football players possibly three other students would be added to the basketball team if the school could meet its academic commitments.

In the wake of the latest development and due to the lack of an acting coach Charlie Harrison called practice Thursday.

Big week for Texas prep football

United Press International
Coach John Reddell calls his 1979 Eules-Trinity Trojans the strugglers of Texas high school football, but says they have made him one happy man this year.

"It's been a struggle throughout the year, but these kids have developed real well and are probably as intent and as scrappy a bunch as I've ever coached," Reddell told UPI. "(W.T.) White looked impossible to us on paper last week, but the kids dug in and gave us 100 percent, both offensively and defensively."

"This week we're matched against Temple, and it looks improbable. But, with the attitude our kids have, don't count us out yet. The way they've responded makes a person real proud to be associated with them."

The Trinity-Temple Class AAAA quarterfinal is set Friday night in Texas Stadium at Irving, one of two such games to be played there this weekend. El Paso Coronado meets Lewisville Saturday afternoon in the other.

Houston Memorial plays Baytown Lee Saturday in the Astrodome and Alice meets San Antonio Wheatley in San Antonio's Alamo Stadium Friday in the other two Class AAAA quarterfinals.

Class AAA and Class A move into semifinals, and Classes AA and A will also have quarterfinals this week. Bay City meets Beaumont Hebert in Pasadena and McKinney plays Lubbock Estacado in Abilene in Saturday's Class AAA semis.

Reddell says the Trojans have a

ball-control offense which has averaged over 20 points per game this year. On defense, Trinity has limited its opposition to 8.5 points per game.

"We don't blow many folks out," he said. "We're smaller than most folks, and we have to stick with what we can do best. But, I think our offense and defense complement each other."

He said the movement and quickness of his Trojans have made them an exciting team to watch this year.

"A lot of folks have lined up against and tried to run over us with their big people. But, we've been able to hang in there, and ever now and then break a quick one that counted."

Reddell said he knows the odds are against him, but he hopes to gear up the Trojans this week similar to what happened last week.

"If we can put together as fine an entire game as we did last week, we can play against anyone," he said. "I know we'll have to be sky high to play that way, but we'll have to against Temple."

Class AA quarterfinals, all at 8 p.m. Friday, match Childress and Fabens in Odessa, Breckenridge and Van in Denton, Waller and McGregor in Austin, and Edna and Port

Isabel in Corpus Christi. Class A quarterfinals, also all Friday, pit New Deal and Seagraves in Lubbock, China Spring and Pilot Point in Waxahachie, Troup and Lovelady

in Nacogdoches, and Hall County and Falls City in Wharton. Wheeler plays Valley View High Island meets Salado in semifinals, and Cotton Center Milford for the six-man state

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Day students get their news from the Batt.

Comaneci's injury kills title hopes

United Press International
FORT WORTH — Nadia Comaneci, who spent most of the day in a hospital bed with an intravenous tube stuck in her arm, abandoned her initial routine at the World Gymnastics Championships Thursday night and thus lost all hope of winning the world championship.

Comaneci, hospitalized Wednesday night with an infected left hand, entered the Tarrant County Convention Center with the rest of her teammates after an afternoon of speculation on whether she would compete.

After her five teammates had conducted their routines on the uneven parallel bars it was Comaneci's turn. Comaneci delayed for two minutes and then stepped onto the platform, grabbed the lower of the two bars, swung under them once and let her feet hit the floor.

She stepped away from the bars, bowed to the judges and walked off the stage before a hushed, stunned, sellout crowd.

Gymnastics officials said Comaneci, who hoped to try routines on the balance beam, vault and floor exercise, had to at least attempt a performance on the uneven bars or she would have forfeited all chances of competing in the other events.

But in failing to produce a score on

the uneven bars, her hopes to win the world all-around title were gone and the automatic favorite for that crown became the Soviet Union's Nelli Kim.

It was the second straight disappointment for Comaneci in the world championships.

The heroine of the Moscow Olympics had finished fourth in last year's world meet at Strasbourg after slipping off the balance beam and registering only a 9.1 score.

She had been prepping for this meet all year and had tuned up by winning the all-around title at the European championships in Copenhagen.

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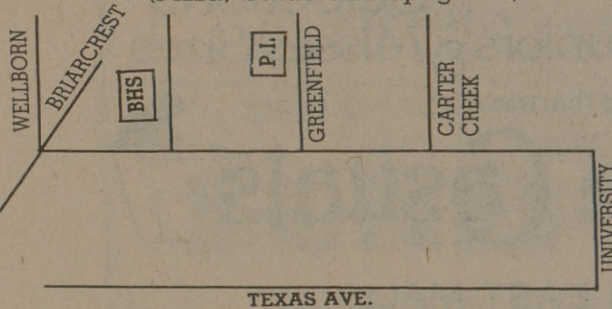
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