

Transcript syndrome spreads

United Press International
ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — The University of New Mexico Tuesday began its search for a new head basketball coach to replace Norm Ellenberger, fired in a scandal that has shattered the school's highly successful basketball program.

Ellenberger was fired Monday by UNM President William E. Davis on the recommendation of the school's athletic council. Ellenberger could not be reached for comment.

New UNM Athletic Director John Bridgers told reporters a search for a new basketball coach was underway "as of right now," but said he did not know how long it would take.

The firing of Ellenberger culminated a scandal which began last month when a transcript of an FBI wiretap indicated Ellenberger and former assistant basketball coach Manny Goldstein discussed an alleged plan to falsify the transcript of a basketball player. Goldstein resigned last week.

Subsequent disclosures led to the ineligibilities of six more players, the suspension of Ellenberger and Goldstein and forfeitures of one basketball victory and six football victories at UNM this fall.

The case is currently being investigated by a federal grand jury.

The NCAA is also investigating alleged recruiting violations that occurred before this year in the UNM basketball program.

Bridgers said it was important to hire a new basketball coach for the current season as soon as possible because acting coach Charlie Harrison "can't be a one-man basketball coaching staff and recruit effectively."

He said, however, that Harrison would not be considered for the permanent head coaching job.

"It will not be possible for him to continue as head coach," Bridger said. "He was a member of Ellenberger's staff and I felt that for recruiting reasons it would be best if we did not name someone from the former staff as head coach."

He said his action did not imply that Harrison was involved in the alleged wrongdoing and said he felt the acting coach was doing an excellent job.

UNM's basketball program has consistently been the biggest producer in terms of revenue and attendance in the entire UNM athletic program. The program earns more than \$1 million in revenue annually and average attendance at

each home basketball games exceeds 14,000.

In a letter, Davis advised Ellenberger he was dismissed from the head coaching job effective at 5 p.m. Monday. Davis said he had concluded Ellenberger violated provisions of the UNM Faculty Handbook which resulted in "willful and grossly incompetent conduct injurious to the University of New Mexico basketball program."

Davis said Ellenberger could appeal the decision to the UNM Board of Regents, but there was no word if he would do so.

Davis also said he had no plan to resign as president of UNM as a result of the scandal. An Albuquerque newspaper (the Journal) in a Sunday editorial urged him and the UNM regents to step down.

So far this year, UNM has compiled a 1-6 record, with one of the losses a forfeiture resulting from the use of players who were later determined to be ineligible.

Ellenberger has been head coach at UNM since 1972, compiling a 134-62 record and leading the Lobos to the Western Athletic Conference championship in 1978 and an invitation to the National Invitational Tournament in 1978. He came to New Mexico as an assistant coach in 1967.

Grid coach needed

New University of New Mexico athletic director John Bridgers said Monday he considered University of Tennessee-Chattanooga football coach Joe Morrison a strong candidate for the vacant head coaching job at UNM.

"He's a very, very strong candidate," Bridgers said. "I wouldn't have gone all the way to Chattanooga and spent two days there if Joe wasn't being strongly considered."

Bridgers, who said former LSU coach Charles McClendon is no longer in consideration because he was not interested in the job, declined comment about the chances Philadelphia Eagles defensive coach Chuck Clausen might be picked for the post.

The head coaching job at UNM was opened when the school fired coach Bill Mondt before the Lobos played their final game this fall.

Tennessee-Chattanooga athletic director Harold Wilkes confirmed

Bridgers had met with Morrison last week. Morrison was not immediately available for comment.

Morrison has compiled a 44-30-4 record in seven seasons at Tennessee-Chattanooga, but in the last three years was 26-6-2 and won the Southern Conference title. The Moccasins were 9-2 this season.

Morrison reportedly met Bridgers through Florida State University sports information director Mark Carlson, who previously was SID at Chattanooga.

"He (Morrison) is a close personal friend of mine," Carlson said. "Joe has spent a lot of time down here playing golf. That's how he got to know Mr. Bridgers."

Morrison is a former New York Giant.

Sources also confirmed that Bridgers has met with Clausen, who was in Houston Sunday for the Eagles' game.

Cage coach talks

Fired University of New Mexico basketball coach Norm Ellenberger has a lot to say about the scandal that led to his ouster — but not today.

"I will have an opportunity to say a lot of things that are on my mind as the future unfolds," Ellenberger told the first reporters he talked to in weeks.

However, he said, he was abiding by his attorney's advice not to discuss the matter pending the outcome of a federal grand jury investigation.

"There's a lot more to be said and as this thing closes out, I will be able to open up a lot of thoughts in the minds of others," said Ellenberger, who was fired Monday by UNM President William E. Davis.

Ellenberger was the latest casualty of an ever-widening scandal that erupted Nov. 28 with an FBI investigation of alleged bribery and fraudulent academic transcript rigging for Lobo basketball players.

"I know it's trying times for all concerned," the former coach said, "but without a doubt things will progress. The sun came up this morning and there's hope for the rest of the day."

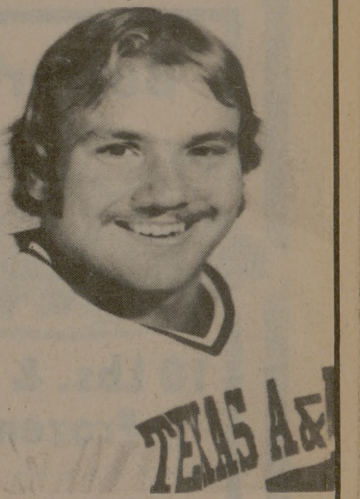
Despite his tribulations, Christmas was on the mind the man who compiled a 137-62 record in a seven

Wounded footballer has returned home

Sophomore Larry Edward "Ed" Patterson who was shot in the eye in an incident at the Texas Hall of Fame on Dec. 5th has returned to his home in Corpus Christi. Patterson, 19, played defensive tackle for the Aggies this past season — he was redshirted his freshman year.

Trainer David Heath said Patterson was uncomfortable but not in any danger at the time. Doctors have not yet removed remaining bullet fragments from his head. Patterson lost his right eye.

Sheriff's Department deputies arrested 21-year old William Jennings Brannan, Jr. of Bryan and charged him with aggravated assault.



Ed Patterson DT

SWC cage tourney tickets available

Ticket mail orders for the 1980 Southwest Conference Post-season Basketball Classic are now being accepted, with requests to be filled on a first-come, first-served basis in January.

The decimated team has a 1-6 record, but Ellenberger said he was "really proud of Charlie and the players. They're giving it their all and what they need more than anything else is for the people to get behind them so they can finish out this season as strong as possible."

"If that happens," Ellenberger said, "they'll surprise some ball clubs in January and February."

Tickets for the final three rounds, at \$24 and \$15, are on sale through the San Antonio Sports Task Force, P.O. Box 1628, San Antonio, TX 78296. Each order, with no minimum number of tickets, should be accompanied by a \$2 mailing and handling charge. Orders will be filled based on post-mark date.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to All from the Advertising Department

Ags make all-decade team

Running back Earl Campbell of Texas, who led the nation in rushing and scoring in 1977, and quarterback Tommy Kramer of Rice, the national total offense leader in 1976, highlighted the Southwest Conference's all-decade football team announced by league officials Saturday.

All nine member schools were represented on either the first team offense or first team defense as selected by sports writers and broadcasters throughout the region.

Campbell was named offensive player of the decade in the balloting and Wilson Whitley of Houston edged Texas A&M's Ed Simonini as defensive player.

Campbell led Texas to an undefeated record during the regular season in 1977 while setting a SWC single-season rushing record of 1,774 yards. He finished his career with 4,443 yards, almost 1,000 yards

ahead of his nearest challenger.

Kramer posted three career SWC records, won all-American honors and led the nation in total offense in 1976 with 3,317 yards.

Joining Kramer and Campbell in the offensive backfield was Arkansas' Dickey Morton, who owned the conference rushing records that Campbell broke during his career.

The receiving corps was made up of tight end Andre Tillman of Texas Tech and flankers Mike Renfro of TCU and Emanuel Tolbert of SMU, who ended his career last season by breaking all of Renfro's career records.

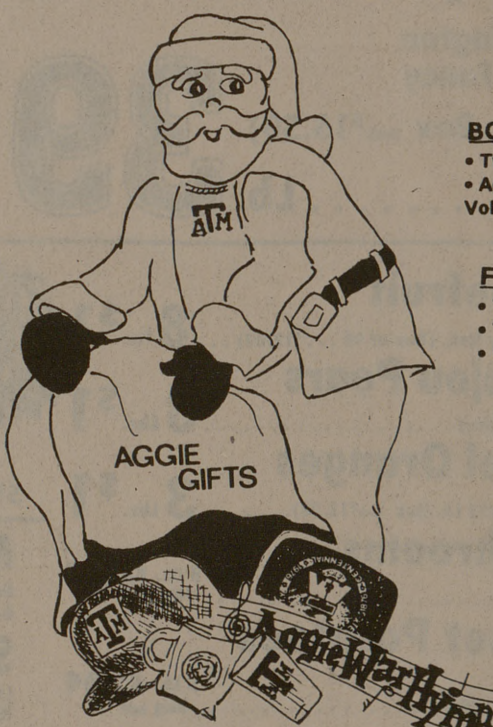
Whitley headlined the defensive line and joining him in the front four were Louie Kelcher of SMU, Roger Goree of Baylor and Brad Shearer of Texas. Michael Singletary of Baylor and Robert Jackson joined Simonini in the linebacking positions.

The defensive backfield was made up of Texas A&M's Pat Thomas and Dave Elmendorf and Texas' Johnnie Johnson and Raymond Clayborn.

The punter was Russell Erxleben of Texas and the kicking specialist was Tony Franklin of Texas A&M. Return specialists voted to the team were Carl Roaches of Texas A&M, Arthur Whittington of SMU and James Sykes of Rice.



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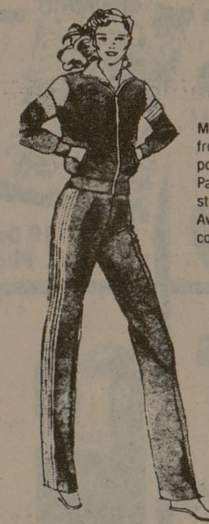
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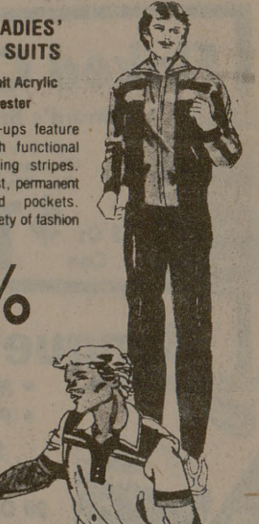
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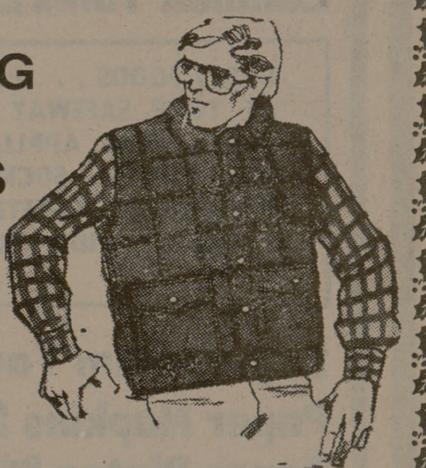
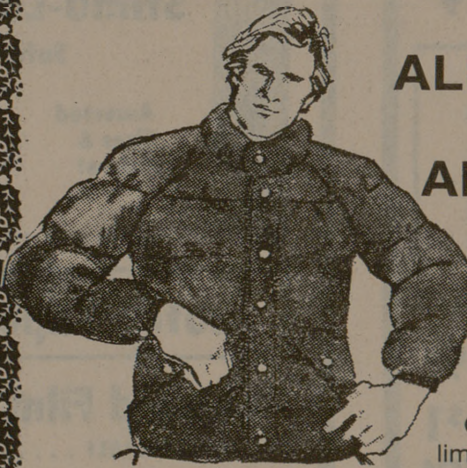
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