

sports

Texas Tech coach quits to take high school post

United Press International
LUBBOCK — The coach of the Texas Tech women's basketball team, forced to resign at one point last winter before winning a bitter fight to be reinstated, resigned Wednesday.

Gay Benson, 39, was rehired in early February after being asked to give up her post by women's athletic director Jeannine McHaney. The reasons behind last winter's attempt to oust Mrs. Benson were never divulged. Observers, however, theorized a personality clash had

developed between the coach and Miss McHaney.

At the time, the veteran high school and college coach, said she was pleased with the university's decision to reinstate her.

"But I'm just sorry it had to happen this way. Other people have been hurt. I've been hurt," she said.

Mrs. Benson announced Wednesday she has accepted a position as assistant girls coach at Lubbock Monterey High School.

"Mrs. Benson was ready for a change," said Hollis Gaaney, women's athletic director for the school district.

"She has been a head coach for 18 years and just needed to move into a situation where there was less pressure involved," Gaaney said.

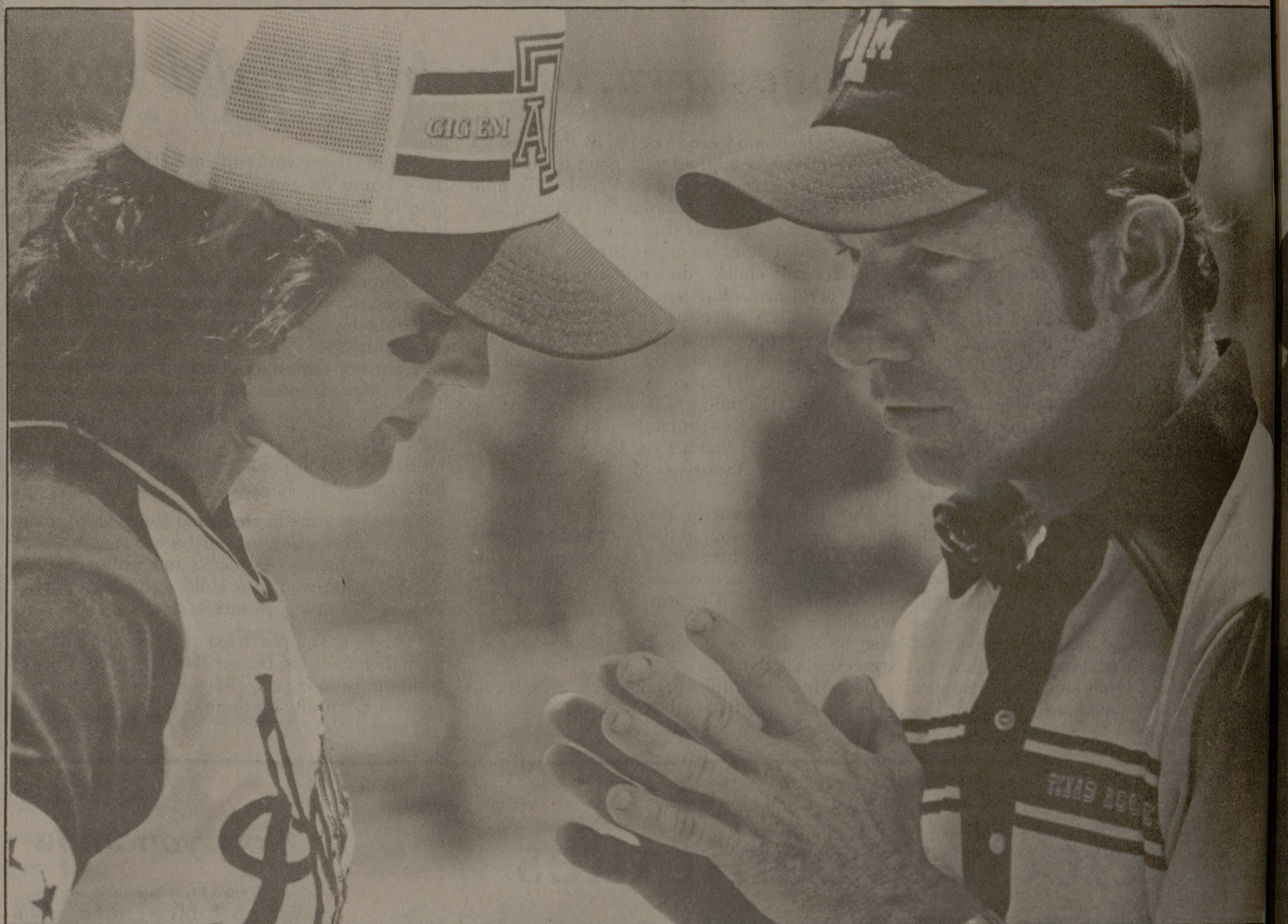
Miss McHaney, one of the central figures in the controversy that surrounded Mrs. Benson at Tech, said the coach had not been pressured to leave.

"I don't believe that's true. Coach Benson didn't list any reasons for resigning," she said.

Mrs. Benson was unavailable for comment.

In her three years at Tech, Mrs. Benson's teams had compiled an overall record of 66-47, including a 34-11 record in her first season.

While girls head coach at nearby Slaton High School, Mrs. Benson's teams won 379 games in 15 years and a state AA championship.



Texas A&M University women's softball coach Bill Galloway advises center fielder Mary Lou Wargo during the regular season. Galloway, who says he respects his players because

they take what he dishes out, coached the Aggie Ladies to a third place finish in the national championships in Norman, Okla. in May.

Staff photo by Lee Roy Lescher

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Galloway preaches Knight's doctrine in coaching nationally-ranked Aggies

by RICHARD OLIVER Sports Editor

Bill Galloway knows what it's like to be a winner. More importantly, he knows the sacrifices involved in becoming one.

Galloway, the coach of the Texas A&M University women's softball team, pushed, prodded and coached his team to a third place finish in the national championships this year. But for him, that's not good enough. "Our goal when we start every season is to win the national championship," he said. "If we don't, we're disappointed."

Galloway's troops have come closer every year to that goal, preceding this year's third-place finish with a fifth-place finish in 1979.

"Obviously we hope to get better," he said from his simple office on the second floor of G. Rollie White Coliseum. "Every year we strengthen our schedule. Of course, we can get better next year and our record still might not be as good."

That's not likely, however.

Texas A&M had little trouble marching through this year's schedule, finishing with a 72-16 record and fighting national champion Utah State to the final inning in a 1-0 loss in the nationals.

The reason for the Aggies' success lies partly in the superb all-around strength of the team, but most of the credit lies on the shoulders of the short, muscular Galloway.

"Not everyone can play for me," he said. "I'm a hollerer, a screamer, and a demander. When we hit the field, it's his business."

"By the end of the season, I respect my players. I'm the only one who knows what they have had to go through. You know, it's sometimes harder for women. She's not as conditioned for the abuse as a man. I can say 'That was a terrible throw! Why did you throw it there? Don't blame it on this or that, it's your fault' to you, but a woman's not used to that."

Although Galloway is known for his toughness, his looks don't justify his reputation. His red hair frames a

boyish face which makes him look like he just pulled a prank on the neighborhood bully. Sitting at his desk in the remarkably bare office, his manner emits calmness and confidence.

But the effectiveness of Galloway's doctrine is evident on the field. During games, he can be seen roaming the baseline, calling out instructions and conferring with his captains, Nancy Sullivan and Rhonda Reese.

"I follow the Bobby Knight style of coaching," he said. "Knight, (Al) McGuire, and (Vince) Lombardi. They all said you have to have the heart to win. You must expect perfection from your players. It's impossible, but it's what you have to try for."

"Every game is set up that way. You try to play a perfect game. You're playing against the game, not the opponents."

In just two years, Galloway has molded a team that was ranked number one in the nation entering the national TAAAW tournament in May in Norman, Okla.

His love of softball extends further than just his school year coaching. Today he heads for Indianapolis, Ind., to begin playing for one of the nation's powerhouse softball teams, Willsey's Construction.

Galloway has played softball for over ten years in the Midwest as a shortstop, earning all-state and all-regional honors seven times. Before he came to Texas A&M, he served as an assistant coach at Indiana University where his team won over 65 percent of their games. He is currently the Texas state collegiate softball director for TAAAW and is on the Rawlings-AIAW All-America Selec-

tion Committee for softball. He coached for ten years.

Even while Galloway terms the base paths this summer for Willsey's, his mind will still be on Texas A&M.

"I'll be talking to a recruit there," he said. "I'll go to the National (softball) Championships and scout those."

On August 28, Galloway and Aggie Ladies will reassemble to start training for another shot at the long-awaited goal — the national title.

"I'm really looking forward to this year," he said. "Barring injuries, should have another standout year."

The Texas A&M team will essentially be the same next year, only Glorian Motl lost to graduation. One setback, however, is the loss of Irene Mauch, a freshman from Southington, Conn., who has a knee operation this summer which will likely end her career.

Mauch, who pitched and played first base during the fall of 1979, pitched .298 during that time.

"Where you have a veteran like we do now," he said. "We're to come back together and get motivated. Everybody's back, and team's gained a lot of experience. We haven't had to recruit."

Each year the team has finished higher nationally, and Galloway 1981 may find the Aggies as national champions.

"They'll push themselves," he said. "The fall season will be short jumping off spot. We'll do it."

"It's up to the players. They know now they can beat anybody in the nation. That's a great advantage."

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