



Staff photo by Greg Gammon

Third base debate team

Texas Aggie leftfielder Mel Pritchard shouts her approval as the umpire signals a Sam Houston State runner out while the SHSU player and coach look on in disbelief. Third baseman Maria Resendez tagged the runner,

who overslid third base. Action came in the first game of Tuesday's double-header. The Aggies lost the opener, 2-1, but rallied for a 9-0 victory in the nightcap.

Search for Rice coach now rushed

United Press International
HOUSTON — Rice's athletic director Tuesday said he hoped to select a new head basketball coach quickly because of the "emergency" caused by the resignation of Mike Schuler.

Rice associate coach Tommy Suitts told Athletic Director Augie Erfurth Monday night he wanted the job, and Erfurth indicated he wanted to interview other prospects quickly due to the recruiting of high school players.

Government regulations require applications for such a job to be taken for two weeks.

"Under an emergency basis, it might be shorter than that."

Schuler is leaving after four years as Rice's head coach to join the New Jersey Nets coaching staff.

Suitts, 32, has been an assistant coach at Alabama and North Alabama since graduation in 1979 from Alabama.

Former Rice assistant coach Butch Estes said from Clinton, S.C., where he coaches at Presbyterian College, "of course I'd be interested in talking to him (Erfurth)."

The athletic director said he had set up no interviews, but he had "a stack of phone calls from people inquiring."

school an investigation would be made.

"It's unfortunate the letter came out now, but I don't think there's anything intentional about it," he said.

No details of the investigation were given him, Tate said.

"I was quoted as saying it was no big deal, but because of the timing, I guess it is a big deal," he said.

Media 'used' in recruiting?

United Press International
A Southwest Conference school official Tuesday said the media were being used by college basketball coaches to sway high school recruits in the final days before the national signing day.

He said he came to that conclusion after a spate of published stories in the last two days reported that a University of Houston assistant coach had offered a car to a New York recruit, that Texas A&M was under NCAA investigation and that the Rice head coach was resigning.

The official requested anonymity but said he understood from those inside the annual recruiting wars that the coaches themselves were leaking the information.

"Recruiting in basketball is a dirty business," he said. "The coaches sometimes do things to undercut each other. You guys (the media) are getting used."

The stories' publication timing, he admitted, simply could be the result of the heaviest recruiting being done in the final week before the national signing day today. Before then, the NCAA outlaws contractual commitments.

Athletic Director Augie Erfurth said, however, "the feel-

ing we have gotten back (from recruits) is that it wouldn't make any difference."

A Dallas newspaper Tuesday quoted a New York high school athlete saying that on March 23 he was offered a car by Houston Assistant Coach Terry Kirkpatrick if he would play basketball for the Cougars.

"Coach Kirkpatrick decided to give me a ride home and he started talking to me about Houston," Eddie Pinckney said. "At one point, he said to me, 'I know you are going to need a ride if you come to Houston because there aren't a lot of buses and trains like there are in New York. So that can be taken care of. We can give you a (Datsun) 280-Z.'"

Pinckney said he was surprised at being offered an illegal inducement.

"I thought this guy was crazy," he said. "When he saw I didn't believe him, he said to me, 'I'm not lying to you. If you think I am, just take a visit to Houston.'"

Houston Athletic Director Dr. Cedric Dempsey said Kirkpatrick "flatly denied" saying that to Pinckney.

Dempsey said Kirkpatrick, who was recruiting and unavailable for

comment, called him Sunday after publication in a New York paper of Pinckney's comments and was "real upset. He told the writer the story was erroneous."

Pinckney did not visit Houston, and reportedly he has verbally committed to sign with Villanova.

A&M Athletic Director Marvin Tate said he had not wanted it known that he had received a letter from the NCAA telling the

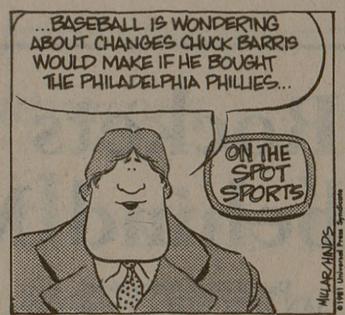
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.71	3A	1785	1610	.33	3A+	710	640	.33	3A+	760	685
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