

NCAA stiffens hoop rules

United Press International
SEATTLE — The NCAA Men's Basketball Rules Committee Wednesday approved a 28-foot coaching box to prevent coaches from straying up and down the court sidelines, but left open the question of adopting a 45-second shot clock.

The committee felt that the adoption of the coaching box would be a significant step in improving bench decorum and the image of an already-great game," said Edward S. Steitz, the committee's secretary-rules editor and director of athletics at Springfield College.

Coaching boxes were used experimentally in six Division I conferences this past season. Coaches, players and bench personnel were required to remain in a designated bench area

except to request specific information from the scorers' table during a timeout, address a correctable error or report into the game.

"We've had coaches straying off beyond areas of their benches. We've had coaches going down in front of the other team's bench," Steitz said.

Coaches have been meeting at the court mid-line during games, he said, noting that two assistant coaches converged in an on-court fist fight at one game this year. Part of the sideline wandering was for purposes of intimidation, said Steitz.

"We want (the coaches) back in the area to coach the ballgame."

The boxes would extend from the baselines to the court

hash marks, normally 18 feet on either side of center court.

The adoption of a 45-second shot clock, considered by many coaches to be inevitable for the development of the college game, was left in place as a conference option.

However, the committee decided the clock may be used alone the entire game or in conjunction with a three-point shot option from beyond a line 19 feet, 9 inches from the center of the basket.

Some members of the 13-member rules committee are still opposed to the shot clock, said Steitz, even though 53 percent of coaches polled on the rule change voted in favor of it. However, 77 percent of the coaches rejected the three-point shot.

Steitz said some coaches are

still saying, "Look, if I'm ahead and I'm about to pull off the biggest upset in the history of the institution, I may want to freeze the ball."

"I believe you will see a 45-second clock adopted in Lexington," he said, referring to the next rules committee meeting at the NCAA finals to be held next year at the University of Kentucky.

Steitz said he favored the clock option to "prevent the all-out farce or travesty-type game" in which an inferior team gains a lead through a fluke and then stalls the rest of the game.

Steitz also said the committee would continue to encourage experimentation with a rear-boundary arc — as opposed to the straight halfcourt line — that would squeeze the game 10 feet closer to the basket.

TANK McNAMARA

by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds



Stephenson keeps putting

Major tourney on tap

United Press International
PALM SPRINGS, Calif. — Jan Stephenson is aiming to complete a unique run of annual "major" victories by winning the \$400,000 Dinah Shore tournament, which begins today at the Mission Hills Country Club.

In each of the past three years, the 32-year-old Stephenson has taken one of the three other titles designated as a "major" by the LPGA.

"Oh, yes, I'm very much aware of the pattern," Stephenson said during a tuneup round. "I think my chances are quite good this week."

Stephenson will match talents with a limited field of 97 other professionals and four top amateurs in the event rivaled in prestige only by the U.S. Women's Open, which she won last sum-

mer in Tulsa, Okla. Excited as she was with that triumph, she said only minutes later that the Dinah Shore was her next goal.

'If I'm putting well, I feel like I can win on any course' — Jan Stephenson

"I just wish the course for this tournament was set up a little tougher," said Stephenson. "I feel like my strength is shot-making. I've won the other majors on tough courses. You don't have a lot of rough on this course and the players who hit it long can't get into too much trouble."

"If I'm putting well, I feel

like I can win on any course. I've had good chances to win the last few years but I always seem to put extra pressure on myself."

Stephenson won the 1981 Peter Jackson event in Canada and the LPGA championship the following year.

No top player is missing from the field in this richest event of the year, which carries a first prize of \$55,000.

One of the favorites is Bradley, who has never won a Dinah Shore and leads the 1984 money list with \$73,635 and two seconds and two thirds in seven events.

Also expected to contend is Nancy Lopez. Lopez stands fifth on the money list this year and won three weeks ago in Costa Mesa, Calif. She won the Dinah Shore in 1981.

Coach tries to change Chiefs

United Press International
KANSAS CITY, Mo. — John Mackovic is trying to transform the Kansas City Chiefs into Kansas City's Chiefs.

Mackovic established year-round residency in Kansas City last spring when he purchased a home during his first month as the head coach of the Chiefs. Now he wants some year-round company — company from his players.

Mackovic's desire for such company is three-pronged. First, he wants to develop a family atmosphere on the Chiefs, a "We're all in this thing together" attitude. Second, he wants his players to utilize the Kansas City coaching staff 12 months out of the year instead of only seven. And third, he wants to shed the club's "absentee" image.

"I don't dictate where they live," Mackovic said. "The ultimate decision on whether the Kansas City Chiefs football players care to live and work and be together in Kansas City lies with the Kansas City Chiefs football players. That is their responsibility to address. I've expressed my feelings on more than a few occasions, including the first meeting I ever had with them, the last meeting (at season's end) and several times in-between."

The "absentee" image extends from the club's owner, Dallas-native Lamar Hunt, on down to the players. In Marv Levy's final season as head coach of the Chiefs in 1982, only 15 players lived year-round in Kansas City.

The Chiefs lack the high profile in the community that their neighbors across the road at the Harry S. Truman Sports Complex, the baseball Royals, have achieved with the permanent

residency of stars George Brett, Dan Quisenberry, Frank White, Willie Wilson, Dennis Leonard and Larry Gura.

Mackovic has undertaken a one-man campaign to give the Chiefs some visibility in the community, filling his calendar with speaking engagements at civic breakfasts, luncheons and dinners. But he'd like to wage that war with an army — and the only army readily available to him is his players.

"Pro football is not a secure business," Mackovic said. "There is some uncertainty there and I can appreciate what the player must weigh in his decision where he should live. But I cannot step back from the stance I feel is the best path to a championship team — which is to have the majority of our players living and working in this community."

"That way they feel better about the community and the community gets to really know and appreciate them. Football is such a non-personal sport because of the helmets, the bulky uniforms and the distance the fans sit away from the players. The recognition of the players is much different from basketball, baseball, golf and sports like that. You see them in a much different light. It becomes important to be able to identify them and recognize them. I think having players visible in the community is good for both sides."

Mackovic brought his "We're all in this thing together" philosophy from Dallas, where he had served for two seasons as Tom Landry's quarterback coach. Being a member of America's Team was a year-round commitment and the results were evident.

"It's important for our players to live in Kansas City because we can help develop their careers in football better than anyone else," Mackovic said. "Our coaching staff has done an excellent job of putting forth their time during the offseason

to develop our players and to continue to do so. That's a big thing for a player to pass up if he wants to be the best he can be."

"Just the association of spending time together with other players builds a bond of understanding and teamwork that you cannot possibly get any other way. You cannot do this being pen-pals. You have to be in the weight room, sit down together, go to lunch together, have wives and girlfriends to know each other."

Mackovic has a five-year plan: he wants five more players to move to Kansas City this season. That would give the Chiefs 40 players living year-round in Kansas City by 1988.

Mackovic got a solid start on his plan when five 1983 rookies — quarterback Todd Blalock, defensive back Albert Lewis, punter Jim Arnold, center Adam Linger and tight end Ron Wetzel — purchased homes in the Kansas City area. That brought the number of Chiefs owning homes in Kansas City to 20.

"It's much easier for the younger players who are just starting out and feeling good about their careers with the team to say, 'I've started, I'm going to stay here and play,'" Mackovic said. "A number of our rookies have bought homes here and are interested in staying here for the most part."

"Nick Lowery also bought a home; he had been going back to Washington D.C. during the offseason and now he's going to give Kansas City a chance. Leon Cherry bought a home. We've also got commitment from players to come here early. Some who before would have stayed out of town until July are interested in coming back in April or May — spending six to eight weeks that they normally wouldn't spend here. I think it's a step in the right direction."

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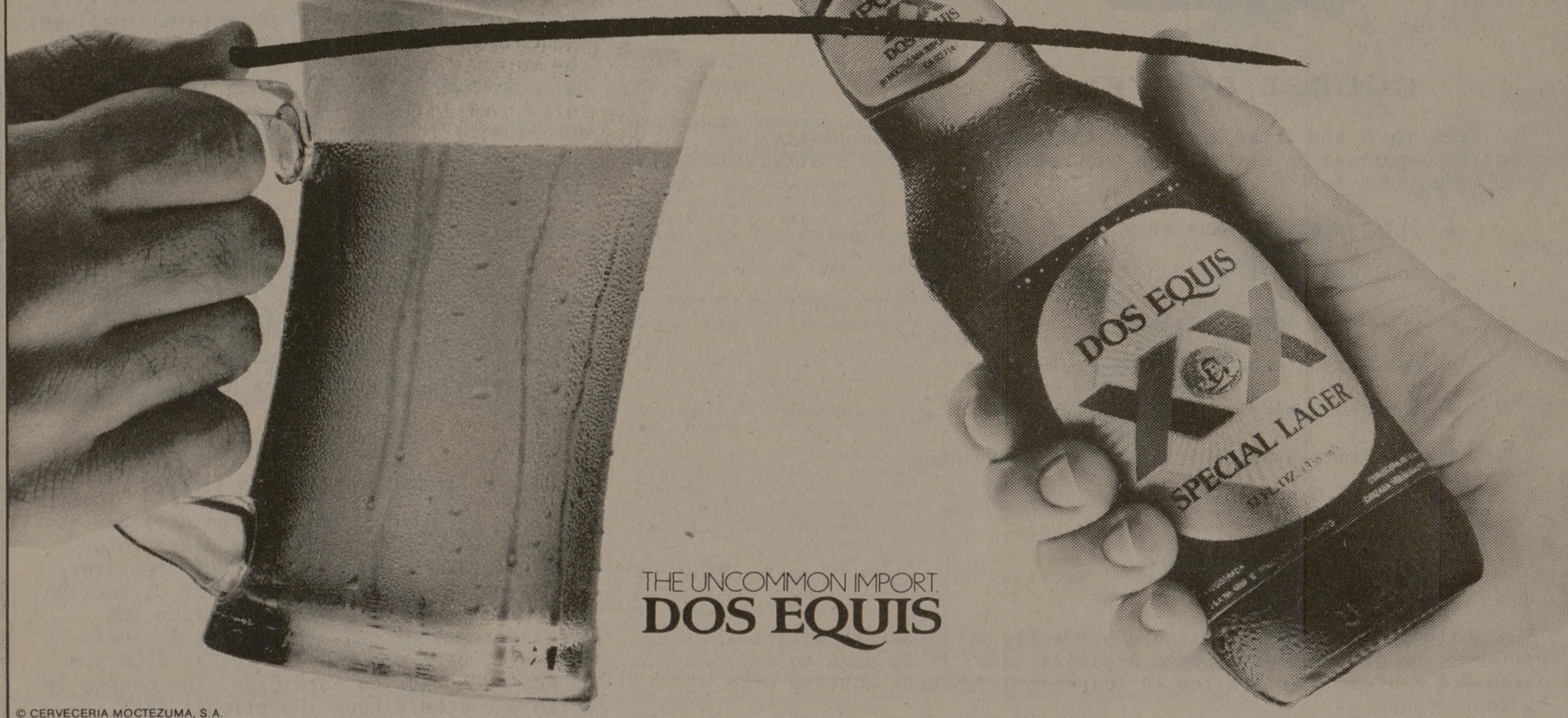
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