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by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds



Two coaches get edge to succeed Lewis at UH

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Lamar University coach Pat Foster and University of Houston assistant Donnie Schverak have received early endorsements to replace retiring University of Houston basketball coach Guy Lewis.

Lewis announced his retirement Tuesday after 33 seasons at the Southwest Conference school and said he would recommend Schverak, his longtime assistant, for the position.

"Donnie's been with me for 17 years as a coach and a bunch of years as a player and I'm going to recommend him for the job," Lewis said.

Former Arkansas coach Eddie Sutton, now at Kentucky, said he would choose Foster, his former assistant at Arkansas, for the job.

"I hope they consider me," Schverak said. "I know how to coach and I know how to recruit the kind of player who doesn't want to be bought."

Foster, who built a successful program at Lamar over the past five seasons, has been mentioned frequently in connection with recent coaching vacancies, including Baylor and Arkansas in the SWC and Auburn in the Southeastern Conference.

"I don't think they could find a better man to replace Guy than Pat Foster," Sutton said. "He's an outstanding coach. Certainly he helped me in developing our program in Arkansas."

Foster was an assistant to Sutton for eight seasons at Arkansas.

"With the situation coming up at this time, in the middle of the season, no coach would want to com-

ment," Foster said. "We'll have to wait and see what happens."

Schverak, 45, has been with the Cougars 17 seasons and like Lewis, played at Houston before joining the coaching ranks.

It was Schverak's recruiting violation last year that led the NCAA to declare 7-foot center Tito Horford ineligible to play at Houston. As a result, Schverak has been prohibited from off-campus recruiting until July.

Another candidate is former Houston All-American Elvin Hayes, now a special assistant to Athletic Director Tom Ford.

Hayes, who retired from the Houston Rockets after the 1984 season, said he has missed the game.

"The game is a part of me," Hayes said. "It's something I did all my life. I would love to be a part of this program."

Ford said an eight-to-10 member search committee would start a coaching search immediately.

After playing three years for the Cougars in the 1940s, Lewis returned as an assistant in 1953 and became head coach in 1956.

Over the past 30 years, he had only three losing seasons, the first three, and has a string of 26 consecutive non-losing seasons still intact.

Lewis went into Wednesday night's SWC game against Texas A&M with 586 victories, second among active coaches. Lewis teams have had 14 20-victory seasons and 29 of his players have been drafted by the pros.

Pokes' Dorsett to pay off outstanding loan

Associated Press

DALLAS — Dallas Cowboys running back Tony Dorsett will pay about \$107,000 to a suburban bank this week to satisfy a delinquent loan, his attorney says.

Dorsett was ordered by a state district judge last month to pay First City Bank of Richardson \$85,000 borrowed in 1983, plus about \$9,100 in interest and \$12,750 in attorney fees.

In a separate case last August, Dorsett was ordered by another judge to pay the bank \$186,379 for defaulting on a \$175,000 promissory note.

"I expect it will be paid before the week is out," said Dorsett's lawyer, H. Allen Hill Jr. of Austin. "Tony has been making arrangements for the financing to get that paid."

Hill said this week's payment will

complete settlements of Dorsett's debt problems, which surfaced last July when the Internal Revenue Service temporarily seized his two Dallas-area homes to force him to pay \$414,000 in income taxes.

Last fall, Dorsett signed a lucrative new contract with the National Football League team, which reportedly paid him \$450,000 this season. It also includes millions of dollars in deferred payments.

Nicklaus starts 25th PGA Tour

Associated Press

PHOENIX — Winning, Jack Nicklaus said, is important to his continued participation on the PGA Tour.

"If I can't win, if I can't compete, I won't play," the Nicklaus said Wednesday before beginning his 25th tour season this week in the \$500,000 Phoenix Open.

Nicklaus, one day past his 46th birthday, was quick to point out, however, that there's "no reason I can't be competitive. I'm in good shape physically, mentally. I still have the desire to work at it."

"Having the ability to compete is a lot of fun," said Nicklaus, who holds a record 17 major professional titles but has won only one tournament in the last three seasons. "Just playing and not being competitive, is no fun at all. And I had a lot of that last year."

And, despite increased pressure from his various business interests, he's planning a busy playing schedule in the immediate future.

"Right now, my schedule has me playing eight of the next 12 weeks and 12 of the next 18," the game's all-time leading money-winner said. "Don't ask me why. It just worked out that way. That could be adjusted, but that's what I'm planning right now."

Nicklaus, who won this tournament in 1964 but hasn't played here in 18 years, opens his campaign against the strongest field the old event has ever had.

It includes Tom Watson, Lee Trevino and Tom Weiskopf, also making their first appearances of the year, along with British Open champ Sandy Lyle of Scotland, West German Bernhard Langer, the Masters title holder, and PGA winner Hubert Green.

Also on hand are last year's leading money-winner, Curtis Strange, 1985 Player of the Year Lanny Wadkins, Fuzzy Zoeller and Calvin Peete, the defending titleholder who opened his season with a run-away victory two weeks ago in the Tournament of Champions.

The chase for a \$90,000 first prize begins Thursday on the 6,726-yard, par 71 Phoenix Country Club course.



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