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Page 10/The Battalion/Thursday, March 27, 1986

TANK UT to probe media allegations

Lawyers hired to investigate 'Horn football

AUSTIN (AP) — University of Texas Athletic Director DeLoss Dodds said Wednesday that a law firm has been hired by the school to "get to the bottom of any alleged violations" of NCAA rules by Longhorn football players.

Dodds said the move is in response to reports in the Dallas Morning News and Austin Ameri-can-Statesman alleging NCAA rules were violated by players, coaches and boosters.

"The University of Texas will use the services of Vinson and Elkins, a law firm in Houston, to investigate this for the university," Dodds said. "We'll keep the NCAA informed at all times of what our findings are

and we will be working in cooper-ation with the NCAA on the matter until it's resolved," he said.

In its Wednesday editions, the American-Statesman reported that John Fainter Jr., the lawyer hired by the school to investigate fund-raising events during Fred Akers' nine years as head football coach, has contributed more than \$20,000 to a Longhorn booster organization.

Fainter, an Austin lawyer and former Texas secretary of state, was hired by the university last spring to examine alleged improprieties related to fund-raising barbecues and golf tournaments.

The barbecues were sponsored to raise money for Akers' assistant coaches and the money from the golf tournaments in several Texas cities was used to underwrite Akers' weekly television show.

Fainter's verbal report in January to UT officials exonerated Akers of any wrongdoing, the American-Statesman said.

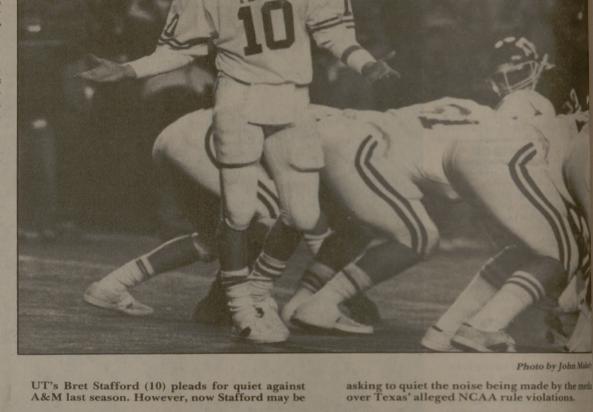
Dodds said Fainter was paid about \$7,000 for his work.

Fainter, a UT law graduate and chairman of Gov. Mark White's reelection campaign, has been a member of the Texas Longhorn Education Foundation since it was organized in 1980 to raise money for UT athletic scholarships.

Fainter told the American-Statesman he did not see that his membership in the foundation caused any conflict of interest with his being hired to investigate fund raising. He said he does not know the ex-

act amount he has contributed as a member of the tax-exempt foundation but annual dues were \$3,000 a year until they were raised to \$4,000

John Sutton, a UT law professor rules.



who was a reporter for the American Bar Association committee that wrote the national association's code of legal ethics, said he could see no professional problem with Fainter's involvement in the investigation.

In a copyright right story Wednesday, the *News* reported that sports agents and UT boosters gave Longhorn football players cash, li-quor, meals, free dental and legal services and discounts at apartments.

Seven of the 11 former Longhorn players who admitted accepting money said they established longterm relationships with boosters who they called their "sugar daddies" or sweet daddies

In two months of interviews with 28 former Texas players, whose careers spanned 1978 to 1985, 11 told the *News* they accepted cash pay-ments while they played football at Texas. In some cases the payments totaled more than \$10,000.

Such gift-giving would be viola-tions of the NCAA extra-benefit

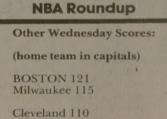
Akers, interviewed by the News in dentist who in 1977 founded at Devils ha his Austin office on Friday, said he was unaware his players had received benefits beyond the tuition. room, board and books provided by their athletic scholarships.

"I am really, I am surprised," Akers said. "I am surprised, and I intend to turn this over to the NCAA."

Tony Degrate, who signed recently with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers of the National Football League, said his relationships with alumni didn't begin in earnest until his senior year, when he won the Vince Lombardi Award as the nation's outstanding college lineman.

"My senior year just got hotter and hotter," Degrate said. "From alumni walking up to me in the locker room, to my room, shaking my hand and giving me a bill (money)"

(money). The News reported Sunday that some players had sold complimentary game tickets to boosters for inflated prices.



professionals' organization b) friend black UT football play said he and some colleagues provided free legal, medical "We've dental services to some black for we've re players. Many of the players would

had no other way to pay for LSU services, Mason said. "To some extent, I have

ers), but it is not a situation I'm just giving away services," M told the Associated Press We day. "I've made some type of rangements with them whereby have paid me back. It may not been in terms of money, but at kind services.

Texas booster Jon Teer, who lifted h a professional sports agent, a nal Fou acknowledged that he gave play money, the News said. ville a "Yeah, I violated NCAA rules" champio

please don't put that (in the new "We'v per). You don't understand how "Maybe portant football is to this town. In but that Dr. Norman Mason, an Austin ruin me in Austin. It really will His p

New basketbo keep up coach to stress win the Let grades at UTSA was may

SAN ANTONIO (AP) - Tech a Burmeister, an assistant at the versity of Arizona for three m was appointed head basket 10 Wednesday at the University Texas at San Antonio. Burmeister, 38, considered of HOL the nation's top recruiters, re own th Don Eddy, who resigned Feb. 7. Houston Eddy stepped down after a ton Chr vestigation was launched into an Rave cident in which he shoved ap second during a game. told the

Photo by John Make The fi he sur NCAA :12 p.m Krzyz out of the "I doi one of c

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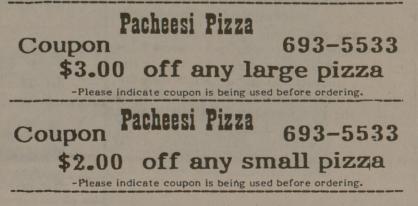




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Extra Cheese	1.00	1.50

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INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Akeem Olajuwon scored eight of his 27 points in the final two minutes and pulled down 21 rebounds Wednes-104-101. day night as the Houston Rockets, playing their first game without injured Ralph Sampson, rallied to a 110-101 victory over the Indiana Pacers.

Sampson, the Rockets' 7-foot-4 center who had averaged 19.5 points a game, injured his back in a fall at Boston on Monday night, and is expected to be out at least one more game

The Pacers built leads of 10 points in the first half and still were ahead by seven midway through the final period before Houston scored eight unanswered points.

Indiana's last lead was at 101-100 on a free throw by Wayman Tisdale with 1:53 to go.

Olajuwon then put Houston ahead to stay. Tisdale was called for

Sampson-less Rockets

sock Pacers, 110-101

Bullets 120, Mavericks 112

LANDOVER, Md. (AP) - Dan Roundfield scored Washington's final eight points in the third quarter to help squelch a Dallas comeback Wednesday night, and the Bullets went on to defeat the Mavericks 120-112.

The victory, the third in four games under new coach Kevin Loughery, clinched a playoff spot for the Bullets for the 16th time in 18 years. Only the Los Angeles Lakers have equalled that mark during a similar span.

Leading 50-48 at halftime, after Dallas shot only 36 percent from the 15 NEW JERSEY 108

PHILADELPHIA 112 Atlanta 103

Denver at UTAH (late)

Seattle at PHOENIX (late)

San Antonio at L.A. CLIPPERS (late)

floor, the Bullets opened up a 61-52 lead early in the third period. Cliff Robinson, who also scored

eight points in the third period, fin-ished with 21, and Gus Williams had

Burmeister, who graduated St. Mary's University of San Anto in 1971, said the emphasisin inform gram will be on academics. Wednes

"I have the strong belief that cial on t will recruit student-athletes with emphasis on the student first," meister said.

year, has been plagued with post at t UTSA, which finished 7-24 demic difficulties.

