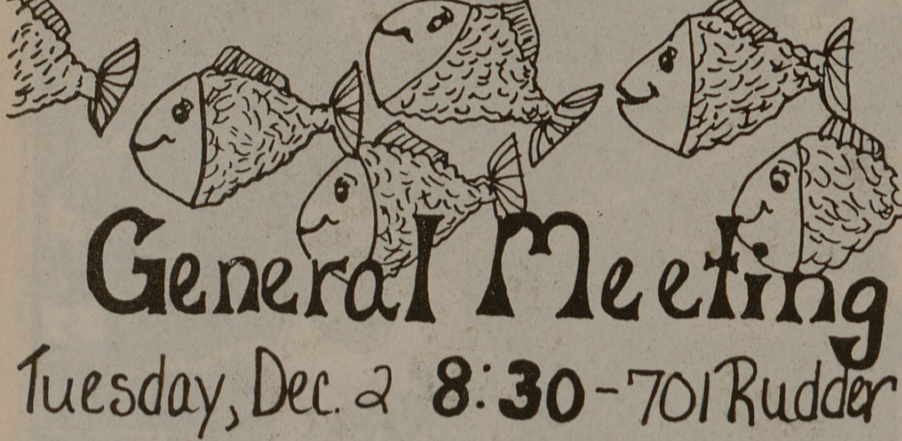


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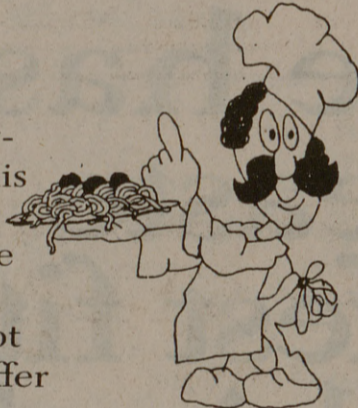
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**Hall of Fame
quarterback
Layne dies**

LUBBOCK (AP) — Hall of Fame quarterback Bobby Layne, known as the football player's football player during his glory days with the University of Texas and the Detroit Lions, died of cardiac arrest Monday. He was 59.

Layne died at 1:05 p.m. CST after being hospitalized for more than two weeks in critical condition, Methodist Hospital spokesman Doug Hodel said. Layne had entered the hospital Nov. 15 suffering from internal bleeding.

Layne starred in an era when athletes played hard on and off the field.

"I want to run out of money and breath at the same time," he once said.

Layne led Detroit to NFL championships in 1952-53 and 1957, and also played for the Chicago Bears, the New York Bulldogs and the Pittsburgh Steelers in a 15-year professional career. He retired in 1962.

Wherever he played, Layne was the star and the center of attention, on and off the field.

Once when he quarterbacked the Steelers against the New York Giants, he was discovered still in New York two days later. He told reporters he hadn't gotten the city out of his system.

Another time, playing for the Steelers against the Dallas Cowboys, Layne kicked a fullback in the buttocks after a play. He later explained the fullback hadn't run the play properly.

When he joined the Steelers, according to one account, he took over a poker game in progress and answered a challenge from a disgruntled tackle by snarling, "I deal — I'm the quarterback."

During his 15-year career, Layne completed 1,814 of 3,700 passes for 26,769 yards and 196 touchdowns. He was elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1967.

After his playing days were finished, Layne went on to work as a quarterback coach with the Steelers from 1963-65, then with the St. Louis Cardinals in 1965. During 1966-67, he was a scout for the Cowboys.

In later years, Layne's interests included business.



Akers calls his firing unfair

AUSTIN (AP) — Former University of Texas football coach Fred Akers said Monday that he still had a knot in his stomach over his firing, which he didn't believe was fair.

Akers, 48, was axed Saturday after averaging 8½ victories a season over 10 years for a winning percentage of 73.1.

"I do have a knot in my stomach but as I've told our players many, many times after our biggest disappointments, we should have a knot in our stomachs but it will pass, and things will come back to normal and probably even better," Akers said.

Although he had a 86-31-2 record at Texas, Akers was only 14-14 over the past 2½ seasons. After a season-ending 16-3 loss to Texas A&M on Thanksgiving, Akers' final team finished 5-6, the first losing Longhorn football season in 30 years.

Athletic Director DeLoss Dodds on Saturday described Akers as a "class person" but said "sometimes it

simply becomes necessary to make such a change to inject new energy and new leadership at the top of the organization."

At a news conference Monday, Akers was asked if he thought he got a "fair shake." He replied, "No."

"But nobody guaranteed me that everything is going to be fair in this life — never has, and I'm not crying about it," he said.

Dodds said Akers, who has five years left on a \$91,600-a-year contract, would be reassigned to other duties within the university. Akers said Monday, however, "I haven't been offered a job as far as being reassigned — yet."

"That may come. In fact, I suppose that it would but I'm certainly not in any position to do anything else right now. I don't have anything else to do. I kind of like Austin. My family has grown up here. My wife sure likes it out there on that ranch,"

said Akers, who owns a ranch near Austin.

Akers was asked if Dodds broke the news to Akers, had any reason for his dismissal. "No," Akers said.

"I asked what the reason was, they said there was no one reason, was just several things that had accumulated," Akers said.

Asked if he would look for another coaching job, Akers said, "The right job were to come, I would be available to talk with people — either college or pro but I am not fully not in any hurry to do anything."

He said he had some ideas about coaching, but added, "I'm going out chasing jobs, I'll get that right now."

Akers was asked if he was over his firing, and he said, "I do think anyone enjoys being fired, wasn't much fun at all."

UT panel intends to find coach soon

AUSTIN (AP) — The University of Texas search committee helping hunt for a new football coach held its first meeting Monday, and UT President William Cunningham said he wants the panel to move as rapidly as possible.

The university fired Coach Fred Akers on Saturday, two days after his team lost to Texas A&M and finished the season at 5-6, the Longhorns' first losing season in 30 years.

"We are doing everything possible to expedite the process of selection of a new head football coach," Cunningham said Monday.

"I am confident that the committee will be able to work quickly and that it will be a great help to Mr. (Athletic Director DeLoss) Dodds as he pre-

pare his recommendation for the new head football coach," he added.

Dodds is chairman of the search committee, which includes former Longhorn coach Darrell Koyal, current players, former athletes, faculty members and alumni.

Monday was the first day that high school football players were allowed to make official recruiting visits to college campuses. But Akers' assistant coaches, who have contracts running through Feb. 28, 1987, weren't recruiting, Akers told a news conference that the school had ordered them not to recruit.

"They are not recruiting. They were told not to... by the administration," Akers said.

Speculation has been widespread over who

might be Akers' replacement.

Texas Tech Athletic Director T. James Dodds had permission to talk with Texas Tech Coach David McWilliams, who spent 20 years at UT as a player and assistant coach.

McWilliams, who guided the Red Raiders to a 7-4 season, is in the first year of a contract that runs through 1989.

Among those being suggested as possibilities for the Longhorn job are John Cooper of Arizona State, Larry Smith of Arizona, Fisher Berry of Air Force and Mike Shanahan, an assistant with the Denver Broncos.

Miami of Florida Coach Jimmy Johnson also has been touted as a possibility, but said he plans to remain with the Hurricanes next year.

New York Knicks fire Brown as head coach

NEW YORK (AP) — Hubie Brown was fired Monday as coach of the NBA's New York Knicks, who got off to a 4-12 start amid controversy over whether Patrick Ewing or Bill Cartwright should be the center.

In making the announcement, General Manager Scotty Stirling named Bob Hill, Brown's top assistant, to take over for Brown, who was in his fifth season with the club.

Brown drew criticism over the use of 7-footers Ewing and Cartwright as center and forward. Both have struggled at the power forward position.

Stirling said the Knicks' lack of

improvement this season after a two-year run of injuries was the key factor in firing Brown.

"It was an extremely difficult decision, but we felt a change was needed at this time because the team was not showing the progress we expected," Stirling said. "The move was not necessarily made because of the team's disappointing early won-loss record, but because of the expected improvement in the team was not there."

The coaching change took effect with a morning practice at Upsala College in West Orange, N.J., before the Knicks left on a four-game west-

ern road trip, starting with tonight's game in Phoenix.

"This is a great opportunity for me," Hill said. "I'm very confident in my ability to coach and equally confident in my players' ability. It's just a matter of the team coming together and playing for a common goal. Hubie Brown means a great deal to me and it was an honor working for him."

Brown was not available for comment.

Brown led the Knicks to the Eastern Conference semifinals his first two seasons, but the team was hampered by injuries the past two sea-

sons to Bernard King, Cartwright, Pat Cummings and Rory Sparo. Ewing, the Knicks' No. 1 pick, was out the latter part of the season with a knee injury.

All the injured players returned this season with the exception of King, the NBA scoring champion in 1984-85.

The Knicks had 24-58 and 23-59 records the past two seasons.

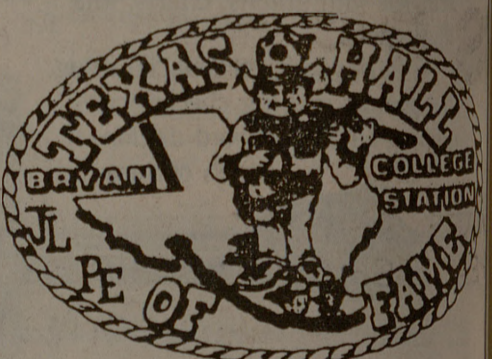
It is the first head coaching job Hill, 37, who spent eight years as top assistant at Kansas.



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