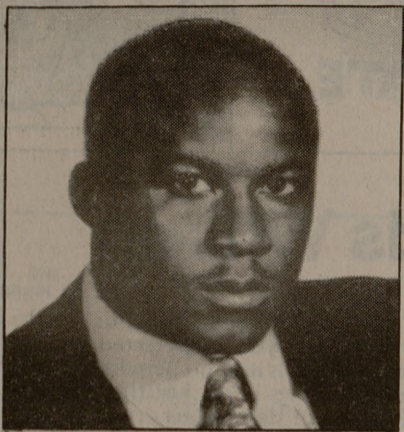


Sports

OU drops Aggies

A&M's Graves sparks Ags with 20 points



Keron Graves

The 11th-ranked Oklahoma Sooners, behind the scoring of Tim McCalister and Harvey Grant, defeated the Texas A&M men's basketball team 93-79 in the Aggies' season opener Tuesday night in Norman, Okla.

McCalister accounted for 21 points and Grant scored 19 as the Sooners cut away at a 41-39 A&M halftime lead. The Aggies were down by just four points, 73-69, with eight minutes left, but the Sooners ran off three straight baskets to begin to pull away.

The Aggies were particularly bothered by the shooting of Oklahoma's Ricky Grace, who hit three of five three-point shots.

Junior transfer Keron Graves sparked the Aggie offense with 20 points, hitting 6-of-9 from the floor and 8-of-9 from the line. Guard Todd Holloway led the Aggies with

21 points. Forward Winston Crite had five points before fouling out with 8:10 remaining in the game.

"OU just kept coming at us," A&M Coach Shelby Metcalf said. "They pounded away; they were tougher mentally and physically on the front line."

"We were prepared for the (OU) press. But their strength on the boards (51 rebounds to A&M's 47) bothered us more than anything."

LSU council likes Archer as successor

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP) — The Louisiana State University Athletic Council recommended defensive coordinator Mike Archer on Monday as the successor to Bill Arnsperger, who is resigning Jan. 1 as the school's head football coach.

If the LSU Board of Supervisors accepts the recommendation when it meets Friday, Archer, 33, would become one of the youngest head coaches in major college football.

Prior to an executive session of the athletic council Monday, Chancellor James Wharton asked the panel of faculty, staff, alumni and students to name someone already on the coaching staff to succeed Arnsperger.

Arnsperger, who compiled a 26-7-2 record in three seasons at LSU, announced Saturday that he was retiring as coach.

Archer, a former University of Miami defensive back, became a defensive coach there in 1978.

UH names Pardee coach

HOUSTON (AP) — Jack Pardee, who coached the Chicago Bears and Washington Redskins in the National Football League, was hired as coach by the University of Houston Tuesday with the task of lifting the school's sagging football program.

The 50-year-old Pardee succeeds Bill Yeoman, who retired from coaching after 25 years to take a post in the university administration.

Pardee was left without a job when the U.S. Football League suspended operations for a year. He was to have coached the New Jersey

Generals after their merger with the Houston Gamblers. Interim Athletic Director Michael Johnson said Pardee was given a four-year contract that pays \$100,000 annually.

Pardee takes over a team that won only one of 11 games this season and lost all eight Southwest Conference games. The team also played under the shadow of allegations that players were paid.

Pardee said school officials briefed him on an NCAA investigation into the allegations.

"The impression I have gotten is

that no violation should be catastrophic in any category," he said.

Pardee said his goal was for his athletes to get an education, play football and have a good time.

School President Richard Van Horn indicated recently that if the program was not turned around within five years, football might be eliminated.

Pardee, a linebacker at Texas A&M from 1954-56, played 13 years for the Los Angeles Rams and two more with the Redskins.

Dallas is not premier sports town according to Rand McNally book

DALLAS (AP) — Sports fans in Dallas may think Big D is preeminent when it comes to sports, maybe the best anywhere. Just ask the guy yelling at his TV on Sunday afternoons or the guy behind the beer can at Grapevine Lake.

But it appears that not everyone knows what Dallas knows. Now comes a new Rand McNally publication called "Sports Places Rated: Ranking America's Best Places to Enjoy Sports."

According to Rand McNally and the author, Richard Whittingham, Dallas is No. 13 as a sports town.

Houston is ranked ninth.

"Rand McNally should stick to their specialty, printing population figures and maps," says Tex Schramm, president of the Dallas Cowboys.

The publishing company ranks cities according to several categories: professional sports, college sports, sports events and facilities, sports environment, and recreational sports.

For instance, a city gets 100 points if it has a National Football League franchise, another 4 points if the team has won a Super Bowl in the past five years, 4 points for playing in the Super Bowl, and 4 for making the playoffs.

Newark-Jersey City comes in first

in the pro category because four professional teams play there — the New Jersey Devils, the New Jersey Nets, the New York Giants and the New York Jets.

Newark-Jersey City is followed by Los Angeles, Anaheim-Santa Ana, San Francisco, Miami and Washington.

Overall, as a sports city, Chicago finishes in third place. Schramm is mystified.

"They have a football team that has done well one year, a hockey team that never has done anything, a basketball team that hasn't done anything, and two baseball teams that haven't done much," he says.

Dallas' No. 2 professional pride and joy, the Dallas Mavericks, do not make even a blip on the Rand McNally radar. The list of the top 10 pro basketball towns ignores Dallas, a fact that Norm Sonju, the Mavericks' vice president and general manager, finds amusing, especially considering that the likes of Boston and Philadelphia make the top 10.

"Look at where they play in Boston," Sonju says. "They have an old, filthy arena where there are big pillars you have to look around. In Philadelphia, the arena is in an area of town where you don't feel safe walking when you leave."

"Here in Dallas, we have beautiful

Reunion Arena, and when you leave you can walk to the West End, or The Hyatt. With its fountains, it's kind of festive down there. That's gotta be worth something."

Dallas pulls its best ranking — No. 5 — in the area of sports events and facilities mainly because it has so many places to play games and because it attracts such touring events as the Virginia Slims Tennis and the Byron Nelson golf tournaments.

An area of particular embarrassment to Dallas is the category of college sports, where the Big D comes out a Big 0. It is not in the Top 10 in football, basketball (men's or women's), while Houston ranks third, seventh and second respectively.

In the category of sports environment, which considers the proximity and availability of national and state parks, fishing, seashores, biking and rock climbing, Dallas crashes near the base of the cliff, ranking No. 101 among 113 cities.

In the recreational sports category, Dallas does better, ranking No. 6. There are subcategories here too: Dallas is No. 7 in health clubs and fitness centers, No. 7 in tennis facilities and No. 11 in spectator sports.

McWilliams speaks with UT as job search commences

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas Tech football coach David McWilliams, a former University of Texas assistant coach, has talked to UT Athletic Director DeLoss Dodds about returning to Austin as the Longhorns' head coach.

"There was no job offer. He indicated he had some other people he would visit with," McWilliams said of the Sunday interview with Dodds.

McWilliams moved to Texas Tech this season and led the Red Raiders to a 7-4 record and Independence Bowl bid, while Texas struggled through a 5-6 record that ended with the firing of coach Fred Akers on Saturday.

Dodds confirmed the Sunday interview with McWilliams, but said he has discussed the job with more than

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— Texas Tech football coach David McWilliams.

one candidate. He would not identify the others.

Among the names that have come

up are John Cooper of Arizona State, Larry Smith of Arizona, Fisher De Berry of Air Force, Mike Shanahan, an assistant with the Denver Broncos and Allen Lowry, a Dallas Cowboy assistant.

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

Akers described McWilliams as a personal friend and said he would wish him well.

"If David wants it, he's got my blessing, of course. I think David's a good man," Akers said. "If David were to get it and he wanted it, I'd be happy for him."

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