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**Post-season tournaments in full force**

(AP) — Post-season tournament time begins today for basketball powers from the Big East and Atlantic Coast conferences, which have six of the nation's top-ranked teams.

Also getting under way today are the Metro, Big Eight and Southwest conference tourneys.

The winner of Thursday night's Atlantic-10 tourney title between No. 8 Temple and West Virginia joins previous NCAA tournament qualifiers Alabama-Birmingham, Xavier (Ohio), Penn, Wichita State, Fairfield, Navy and Marshall in the 64-team field.

The Western Athletic, Mid-American, Pacific Coast Athletic and Southeastern were among the conference tourneys beginning Thursday.

No. 7 Georgetown, the top seed in the Big East tourney at New York's Madison Square Garden, will play the winner of Thursday night's first-round game between Boston College and Connecticut. Georgetown shared the regular season title with No. 10 Syracuse.

In today's other Big East games, Syracuse faces Villanova, No. 11 Pittsburgh meets Seton Hall and St. John's opposes Providence.

In first round ACC competition at the Capital Centre in Landover, Md., second-ranked North Carolina, which swept through the ACC regular season with a 14-0 record, faces Maryland, 0-14, No. 13 Clemson meets Wake Forest, No. 14 Duke plays North Carolina State and Virginia faces Georgia Tech.

"Our seniors have not won the ACC tournament," Tar Heels Coach Dean Smith, whose team is 27-2 overall, "so I'm sure they'll be ready and have our team ready."

North Carolina's top seniors are guard Kenny Smith and forward Joe Wolf, both all-ACC players.

Duke is the defending champion, but no team has won consecutive post-season ACC titles since North Carolina in 1981 and 1982.

**TANK McNAMARA**

by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds



**SMU Board of Governors hopes bishop will clear it of misconduct**

DALLAS (AP) — Members of Southern Methodist University's Board of Governors, shaken by Gov. Bill Clements' claim that some in their ranks knew of payments to athletes, said Thursday they hope a bishop's investigation will clear them of wrongdoing.

"For anybody to think that we're sitting up in a governors' meeting discussing payments is ludicrous," board member Ruth Collins Sharp of Dallas said.

Clements has said that he and other board members authorized continuing the payments after the university's football program was placed on NCAA probation in 1985 for recruiting violations.

The governor, who was chairman of the Board of Governors until his inauguration in January, said the payments were to be phased out.

The NCAA recently suspended the Mustang football program for the 1987 season and limited the school to seven road games in 1988. SMU has been placed on football probation seven times.

On Wednesday, board members vigorously denied Clements' claims and invited the scrutiny of a United Methodist church committee to be appointed by North Texas area Bishop John Russell.

The panel will determine if any current representatives of the university were involved in or knew about improper payments to athletes, Russell said in a prepared statement released Thursday.

"A breach of integrity in any part of the university destroys the reputation of the university. As United Methodists we are embarrassed and greatly concerned that SMU did not abide by NCAA rules," he said.

Sharp said she hopes the committee will be able to vindicate board members.

"Certainly no one can question the bishop," she said.

Russell is a member of the board of governors and the president of the Methodist church's College of Bishops South Central Jurisdiction, which owns SMU. He said the church expects SMU to maintain a high moral and ethical quality and the university deserved the severe penalty meted out by the NCAA.

Russell did not elaborate on the statement, although a spokeswoman said he planned to call a news conference early next week to announce names of appointees to the panel.

Board members and NCAA officials say they knew nothing of the arrangement.

"I've been on the board 15 years and I rarely miss a meeting. We were just assured that everything was cleaned up," Sharp said.

She said statements by Dallas banker Robert H. Stewart III, a former member of the SMU board of governors, confirming Clements' claim, "didn't make much sense."

Meanwhile, the university Thursday announced the appointment of another committee to examine the structure of the 75-member board of trustees. The board of governors acts as an executive committee to the trustees.

Chairman Leighton Farrell said the self-study committee would look at the mechanics of university government and probably would have little to do with Russell's committee.

"This actually came before the last round of revelations. It wasn't so much an anger type of response as it was a concern," said Farrell, senior

minister of the Highland Park United Methodist Church.

Farrell said the 10-member committee will present a report to trustees in May and will probably call on other governing boards for help in assessing the SMU structure.

Clements' revelations Tuesday topped a week of bad news at SMU that started when the NCAA suspended the school's football program. The NCAA said a \$61,000 slush fund set up by a school booster was used to pay 13 players.

SMU already had been placed on three years probation beginning in August 1985. In assessing SMU's latest probation last week, the NCAA said payments continued through December 1986.

The widening scandal has disturbed church leaders. Pastors and staff members of area Methodist churches called for the resignation of SMU officials who knew of the payments and asked Clements to publicly apologize for his actions.

Hutchison said Wednesday that Clements indicated the continued payments were discussed by an inner circle of board members instead of the entire board.

Roy B. Shilling, president of Southwestern University and president of the board that advises the United Methodist Church on its affiliated colleges, said the panel would call an emergency meeting in the next two or three weeks to give SMU officials an opportunity to explain the latest revelations.

The University Senate had in January decided to continue to list SMU as a Methodist institution after looking into previous scandals involving football recruiting, Shilling said.

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