

Sports

NCAA infractions plague TCU, SMU Mustangs may be crippled for years to come

By Doug Hall
Assistant Sports Editor

Third in a five-part series

Without a doubt, Southern Methodist University's athletic department has withstood more turmoil, more accusations, more allegations and more investigations than any other major college in the country in the past four years.

Being the recipient of the NCAA's infamous "death penalty," which involves suspension of SMU's football schedule for the 1987 season, loss of scholarships and forfeiture of television revenue, makes the other reprimands received by SWC schools pale in comparison.

SMU has since decided to forgo its 1988 football season also.

No one is quite sure what might go next.

In fact, at the moment, SMU doesn't even have an athletic director since Bob Hitch, the former athletic director, resigned during the NCAA investigation. Head Football Coach Bobby Collins, who led the Ponies to the SWC championship in 1981 (No. 5 nationally) and '82 (No. 2 nationally), also resigned.

SMU's recent disasters however, do not reflect the success their football team has enjoyed over the past century. The Mustangs have won 11 SWC championships and one national championship (1935).



Like TCU, Rice and Baylor, SMU is a private institution. Consequently, its 9,150 enrollment is somewhat similar to Baylor's 11,000 but considerably more than Rice's 3,600.

Because it is a private institution, SMU did not reveal its athletic budget.

Dr. Steven Picou, professor of sports sociology at Texas A&M, said that even with expert supervision, it will take at least five years for SMU to recover from its most recent NCAA probation.

"It will take at least five years for them to recover," Picou said. "And that is with excellent management."

"The reason I say five years is

because of the recruiting. Their image, shall we say, will have to be reconstructed.

"The athletic department has to go beyond the stigma of their continuing allegations. Right now they are in shock."

Considering the length of the rebuilding process, Picou said he is surprised that SMU has not taken action to replace Hitch or Collins as of yet.

However, Picou also said the football program's suspension should not negatively affect SMU's other athletic teams. In fact, he said, those teams "will probably play more inspired in an effort to try and be a legitimate representative of the school."

After finishing fourth in SWC basketball last season, the Ponies finished 16-13 this season including a home-court thrashing of the Aggies. SMU contributions to the NBA include Atlanta Hawks' sixth man Jon Koncak.

Southern Methodist discontinued its baseball program in 1974 and has not distinguished itself in men's golf since it won the conference in 1957, despite having current professional Payne Stewart play on the squad during the late '70s.

The men's tennis team did, however, win the SWC championship in 1982 and in 1983.

Currently, however, SMU's primary concern is getting the football program back on its feet and white-washed clean of its past infractions.

It won't, however, be an easy task.

In wake of the NCAA investigation, both the SMU faculty senate and student senate voiced strong opinions about abolishing the athletic department entirely. Meanwhile, Texas Governor Bill Clements was admitting to knowingly allowing illegal payments to players to continue after SMU was originally put on probation for similar infractions that occurred under former Head Coach Ron Meyer.

Fred Jacoby, the SWC commissioner, perhaps best summed up SMU's situation last week when he said that each school under investigation has a chance to accept its guilt, correct the wrong and re-establish the program in a better state than it was prior to the incident.

Wacker, basketball keep Horned Frogs going

By Doug Hall
Assistant Sports Editor

Texas Christian University is a rather secluded school of nearly 7,000 students located in the quiet section of Fort Worth. The town that used to hold millions of head of cattle is now the home of somewhat fewer Horned Frogs.

But the serenity of Fort Worth burst like a hot-air balloon almost two years ago when second-year Head Football Coach Jim Wacker suspended six of his key players for the season for allegedly receiving illegal cash payments from boosters.

After the ensuing 1985 NCAA investigation and probation that cost TCU scholarships, television revenue and a chance at a bowl appearance, the Horned Frogs stumbled to a 3-8, eighth-place finish. 1986 was much the same as TCU again went 3-8 and finished ahead of only 1-10 UH.

But it there are those who believe that "as the football program goes, so goes the athletic department," let TCU dispel the rumor.

Over the past two years, the Horned Frogs have won one SWC basketball title outright, been part of a three-way tie for that same title in 1986 and won a men's golf title.

Frank Windegger, TCU's athletic director, said he too once be-

lieved the football-first theory, but has discovered his mistake.

"You know, surprisingly that (theory) doesn't hold true all the time," Windegger said. "Since the football program was put on probation, we have won two basket-



ball championships and one men's golf title."

Indeed, the Horned Frogs have been the toast of the SWC over the past two seasons. In 1986, the Frogs finished 12-4 in the SWC and tied for first with Texas A&M and Texas.

In 1987, however, the Frogs went 15-1 in the conference and 24-7 overall to finish in first place. Despite being knocked out of the SWC post-season tourney by the Aggies, TCU went on to the NCAA post-season tournament and finished 18th nationally on the season.

In baseball, the Horned Frogs have won five SWC titles. Most of that success, however, came earlier this century. TCU last made a run at the title in 1972 when they

beat Texas for first place with identical 12-6 records.

TCU, like Rice and SMU, did not reveal its athletic budget because it's a private institution. Windegger did say, however, that student participation at athletic events is in the 60 - 70 percent range.

Concerning the football team's probation and recent struggles, Windegger said he thinks the rough times are over, and the fruits of hard labor will begin to show this year.

"I don't think there's any doubt that we're finally moving up in to the upper class of football," Windegger said. "The culmination of four recruiting classes will finally pay off for us. We've been playing freshmen and sophomores so long that we should have a lot of experience on the field for us."

If there's one area that the Horned Frogs have been able to outdo many of the SWC schools over the past several years, it has been in the area of recruiting. Wacker, who ran the football program at Southwest Texas State before transferring over to TCU, is able to lure prospective recruits to TCU by combining his positive attitude with incredible enthusiasm for the game.

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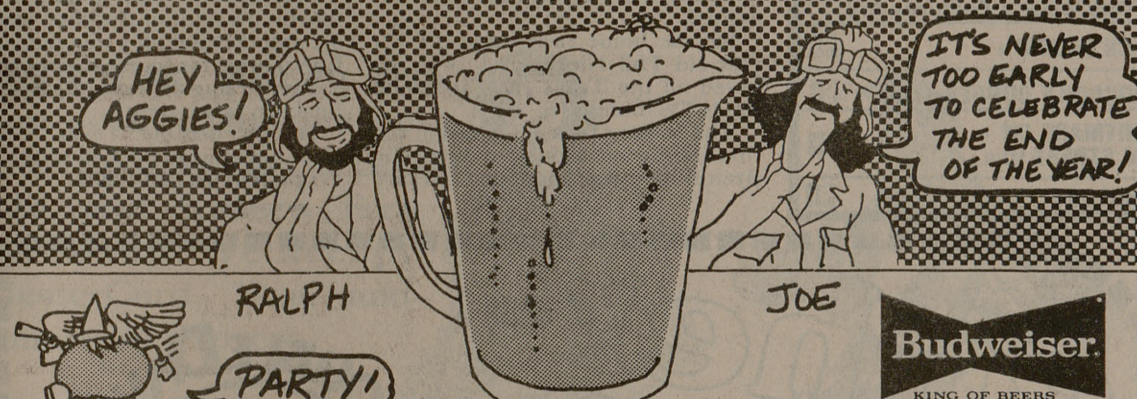
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