

Sports

NCAA slaps Longhorns with two-year probation



AUSTIN (AP) — The NCAA slapped the University of Texas football program on two years' probation Wednesday, cutting five scholarships for 1988-89 and reducing the number of official visits prospective recruits may make to the UT campus.

It was the first time the NCAA had imposed sanctions on the Longhorn football program, although the Southwest Conference school was placed on probation without sanctions in 1964 and 1982.

The violations included excessive entertainment by a school booster and other improper recruiting contacts, the sale of complimentary football tickets by 10 players, comments to prospective recruits that they could expect special benefits, and loans and cash for athletes' personal use, including a car repair loan by a former recruiting coordinator.

The penalties imposed would reduce the number of football scholarships that may be awarded in 1988-89 from 25 to 20 and cut the number of recruiting visits in the coming academic year from 95 to 75.

A report by the NCAA Committee on Infractions said the probation period could be reduced to one year if the university complied with 13 changes the school proposed at a June 3 meeting before the committee in Kansas City.

Those changes would send a "clear message" to the athletic staff that anyone who knowingly violated an NCAA rule or attempted to cover up a violation would be fired, the report said.

UT President William Cunningham said the penalties announced Wednesday would not be appealed.

"The NCAA has conducted a professional investigation and we are

pleased that the process is now complete," Cunningham said. "The university will continue to work closely with the NCAA during the probationary period and beyond. Our goal is to have an exemplary intercollegiate athletic program."

The penalties, which also include a public reprimand and censure, were announced two weeks after the Kansas City hearing, at which the university responded to 51 rules violations cited by the NCAA after an 18-month investigation of the football program covering 1980-86.

The NCAA said a significant number of rules violations were found but that except for a single exception, "none of the serious violations involved the recruitment of prospective student-athletes, and it does not appear that the violations resulted in a significant competitive advantage for the University of

Texas."

The NCAA's report said one finding involved a serious violation of recruiting rules and the gift of "very substantial, improper extra benefits to a very talented enrolled student-athlete."

The organization said other violations, although less serious, were sufficient in number "to raise questions about the adequacy of athletics department administrative policies and practices."

David McWilliams, the Long-

horns' new head football coach and a former assistant, was mentioned as having arranged for or provided various amounts of cash, most between \$20 and \$56, for players' personal use, as well as the loan of gas money for a player to go home.

"Speaking for myself, our coaching staff and our players, we are pleased to have this matter resolved so that we can move on to the upcoming season. We have all dedicated ourselves to be sure we do not make these or other mistakes in the future," McWilliams said.

He was hired in early December after UT fired Fred Akers.

DeLoss Dodds, UT men's athletics director, said he thought the NCAA's action was fair.

"This marks the end of an investigation in which our football program has undergone scrutiny as intensive as any university has ever

faced," Dodds said. "Now it is time to get on with the business of working with our new football leadership to re-establish our program in a first-class way in all areas."

UT was given a one-year probation without sanctions in 1964 for providing excessive entertainment to recruits.

It was slapped with a one-year probation in 1982 over the sale of 14 complimentary game tickets by running back Johnny "Lam" Jones to a Lampasas banker for \$700 and the mysterious purchase of boots by Marcus Dupree — it was never determined who paid for them — during a recruiting visit to Austin. Dupree eventually went to the University of Oklahoma.

Of nine Southwest Conference schools, only Rice and Arkansas are not either on NCAA probation or under investigation.

Howser dies after battle with cancer

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Dick Howser, who as manager helped bring championship baseball to New York and Kansas City, died Wednesday afternoon after a year-long struggle with brain cancer. He was 51.

Howser died at 2:45 p.m. CDT at St. Luke's Hospital, where he was admitted June 4. On July 22, 1986, doctors partially removed a malignant tumor from the left side of Howser's brain.

"This is a sad day for baseball. Dick Howser was one of the great men of our game," baseball commissioner Peter Ueberroth said.

A memorial service will be held in Kansas City. Burial will be in Tallahassee, Fla., Howser's hometown. Dates have not been set.

He is survived by his wife, Nancy, and twin daughters, Jill and Jan.

The week before he underwent surgery last July, Howser was the winning manager of the American League at the All-Star Game in Houston. During the game, his players and coaches noticed he was often forgetful, had trouble recognizing

people and complained of headaches.

Doctors were unable to remove the entire tumor and twice afterward used experimental procedures to try to stop the cancer from spreading.

After 10 years as a coach for the New York Yankees, Howser became manager in 1980 and guided the team to 103 victories and the American League East title. He became manager of the Royals in 1981, taking them to AL West titles in 1984 and 1985 and to the '85 World Series championship. He never managed a team that finished worse than second.

Although the three operations had weakened him, Howser vowed to return this season to manage the Royals. He greeted his players when they opened spring training in February, but resigned three days later, admitting he wasn't up to the job.

"It just wouldn't be fair to the team," he said at the time.

Howser made his last public appearance April 6 when the Royals opened their home season.

As an undersized shortstop, Richard Dalton Howser compensated for his shortcomings with intelligence and heart. As manager of the 1985 Royals, he became a central figure in one of the most unlikely comebacks in World Series history.

"Never once in his life did anybody ever question his courage," said Hank Bauer, a former Yankee slugger and Howser's big league manager. "He fought to beat cancer the same way he fought to win games."

Howser broke into professional baseball in 1958 and made his major league debut with Bauer's Kansas City A's in 1961. He retired in 1968 after playing for the A's, Cleveland Indians and Yankees, compiling a career batting average of .268.

Taking over in Kansas City when Jim Frey was fired during the strike-shortened 1981 season, he guided the Royals to the second-half AL West title, then managed them to second-place finishes in 1982 and 1983. His 1984 team won its fifth AL West crown but lost to the eventual world champion Detroit Tigers in three straight playoff games.

Reds cruise past Astros 9-1

HOUSTON (AP) — Tracy Jones hit a three-run homer and Kal Daniels had four of Cincinnati's 19 hits, helping the Reds to a 9-1 victory over Houston Wednesday night that protected Cincinnati's National League West lead.

Houston had won seven of its last eight games and had beaten the Reds in the first two games of the series. The Astros could have taken the division lead with a victory.

Ron Robinson, 2-2, got his first

start of the season and allowed one run in six innings. Bill Landrum finished for his first major league save.

Jones' seventh homer of the season, over the left-field fence in the sixth, scored Daniels and Kurt Stillwell, who singled off reliever Aurelio Lopez. Ron Oester also had singled off Lopez and scored on Stillwell's single.

Lopez pitched two-thirds of an inning, yielding six hits in relief of starter Nolan Ryan, 4-6.

Cowboys waive 2 notables

DALLAS (AP) — The Dallas Cowboys have waived a veteran tackle and a touted quarterback, and more Cowboy veterans could be on the way out, team president and general manager Tex Schramm said Wednesday.

The Cowboys have placed Howard Richards and Reggie Collier on recallable waivers, which gives other National Football League team 10 days to express an interest in either

player.

If either player is claimed, Dallas can pull them off the waiver wire and try to make a deal. If neither is claimed, they will become free agents.

The Cowboys may make more changes in the team roster as they try to rebound from their first losing season in 22 years. Schramm said it is possible that other veterans may be waived.



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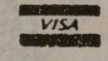
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