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Mattox issues deadline to SMU in providing scandal evidence

DALLAS (AP) — Attorney General Jim Mattox has given Southern Methodist University until a week from Monday to provide him with all evidence documenting the participation of Gov. Bill Clements and other SMU officials in the school's pay-for-play scandal, the *Dallas Times Herald* reported.

In a strongly worded letter to the university's chief lawyer and the four bishops who investigated the scandal, Mattox asked SMU to produce all files, reports, sworn statements, taped interviews and other materials relating to the officials' admitted misconduct, the newspaper said.

"Pursuant to my responsibility as attorney general, I have determined to initiate an investigation of the misconduct by various members of the

board of directors of SMU," Mattox wrote.

If SMU fails to cooperate with the Aug. 10 deadline, his investigation will be "much more time-consuming and expensive to SMU and the state of Texas," Mattox warned.

Officials in the attorney general's office said that if the university fails to release the evidence they will issue a civil investigative demand letter — a procedure that permits Mattox to seize documents.

Leon Bennett, SMU's vice president for legal affairs, told the *Times Herald* that the attorney general's letter is "under study" and will be answered in a "timely fashion."

Bennett said officials did not immediately turn over the information because they are concerned that Mattox's request is too broad.

An investigation by a bishops'

committee detailed how Clements late last year had orchestrated the continuation of payments to players and revealed that he and other board members had attempted to cover up the governor's role in the scheme as he sought and won the state's highest office.

A spokesman for the bishops has maintained repeatedly that the attorney general's authority to oversee charitable trusts does not give him the right to the committee's investigative materials.

Clements said earlier this year that as chairman of SMU's Board of Governors he authorized the continuation of improper payments to football players when the university was on probation for that very infraction of National Collegiate Athletic Association rules.

Ashby, Bass lead Astros past Braves

ATLANTA (AP) — Atlanta's Ashby singled home two runs in the fourth run sixth inning and Kevin Bass hit a two-run homer in the eighth Thursday night to lead the Houston Astros to an 8-5 victory over the Atlanta Braves.

Atlanta starter Rick Mahler, 11, had allowed only one hit — single by Bass in the second — until the sixth when he was victimized by an error and his own wildness.

Billy Hatcher reached on one-out error by shortstop Andres Thomas before Mahler walked Denny Walling and Glenn Davis with two out to load the bases.

Ashby then singled to score two runs for a 2-2 tie and Mahler then balked home Davis with Bass at the plate. Bass then singled to score Ashby for a 4-2 lead.

The Braves cut the Astros' lead to one run on an RBI groundout by Graig Nettles in the sixth, but the Astros wrapped things up with a three-run eighth capped by Bass' 10th homer.

The Braves had taken a 2-1 lead off Bob Knepper, a last-minute replacement for Jim DeShaias, whose left shoulder stiffened while warming up, on a lead-off home run by Dion James — his seventh of the year — and run-scoring double by Mahler in the second.

Knepper, 4-12, gave up six hits in five innings, walked two and did not strike out any. He had four in a row and seven of his last eight decisions.

Relievers Charlie Kerfeld and Dave Smith finished up. Smith recorded his 18th save after putting down an Atlanta uprising in the eighth when the Braves scored on RBI singles by Kevin Griffey and Dion James.

Reds hope Parker can lead them to former NL West pennant glory

CINCINNATI (AP) — The Cincinnati Reds are hoping that Dave Parker, their offense's leader the past three seasons, is reasserting his No. 1 role.

Parker, 36, tied his career high for runs batted in for one game when he drove in six runs for the second time in a week in Cincinnati's 15-5 pounding of the San Diego Padres Wednesday night. The 15 runs represented Cincinnati's highest scoring output of the season.

"We had all our offensive cylinders working," Parker said. "It was a fun night."

The right fielder started Cincinnati's assault with a two-run single in the first inning, put the Reds comfortably ahead with a three-run homer in the sixth, and was hit by a pitch with the bases loaded in the midst of a five-run seventh.

"When the big guy has a big night, we usually score a lot of runs," Reds Manager Pete Rose said. "It would be nice to see him go on a tear."

Parker's home run was his 21st this season. Going into Thursday night's game closing out the San Diego series, he was batting .264 with 73 RBI.

Last Thursday at Montreal, Parker also drove in six runs, matching a career high he notched May 9, 1975 when he was with the Pittsburgh Pirates.

He has hit erratically this season, compared with his consistently dominant seasons since Cincinnati signed Parker as a free agent in December 1983. He had 31 homers, 116 RBI and batted .273 last season, 34 homers, 125 RBI and .312 in 1985 and 16 homers, 94 RBI and .285 in 1984 for the Reds.

He declined to predict, even after Wednesday night's performance, that he is back on track.

"I've seen spurts of me coming around, and then it falls off the next day," he said. "I feel extremely comfortable at the plate now. I hope it continues."

The Reds have led the National League West steadfastly since May 29 despite inconsistent play. Parker said, however, he knew of no way to guard against a possible letdown after the laughter and second consecutive victory over San Diego.

"No, not really," he said. "That's baseball. We're all human."

Parker's hitting Wednesday overcame a fielding error.

The Padres scored four runs in the fourth off starter Ted Power, aided by Parker, who dropped Benito Santiago's fly ball with one out, paving the way for the final two unearned runs in the inning.

Erkenbeck brings new approach to Cowboys

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. (AP) — Jim Erkenbeck held up his Dallas Cowboys' coaching shirt and his stomach looked like he had been the victim of a shark attack.

A fresh, red scar ran from above his navel almost to his chest.

The offensive line coach got the scar six weeks ago while he was on vacation in California.

Erkenbeck was on the 15th tee box playing golf when he was doubled over with pain. The next day he underwent emergency surgery for a perforated ulcer.

But when the Cowboys' training camp opened July 19, tough guy Erkenbeck was there, barking orders and running around like nothing had happened.

"I wasn't going to miss it," Erkenbeck said. "We're going to have a lot of fun and knock some folks around this year."

Erkenbeck replaced the retired

Jim Myers after one of the worst offensive line performances in Cowboys' history.

The Cowboys ranked near the bottom of the NFL in permitting quarterback sacks last year.

There were 60, all told, and the Dallas offense was in shambles the last half of the season, when the team went 1-7.

Erkenbeck's job is to make sure such a disaster never occurs again.

Erkenbeck, who coached last year for the New Orleans Saints, believes in an aggressive approach.

He has the Dallas offensive linemen attacking defenders.

"I tell them, they can give up 1 yard and that's it," Erkenbeck said. "I want 'em to hit and lock out. I want them to be able to be good at using their hands, legally of course."

Erkenbeck, who was also with the Baltimore Stars of the now defunct USFL, is constantly shouting at his

players with a combination of instruction and praise.

"You're quitting on yourself," he'll shout to one player.

"That's decent, we can win with that," he growls to another.

Cowboys' scout John Wooten, who was an offensive lineman blocking for the great Jim Brown at Cleveland, says, "I just love Erkenbeck and his philosophy. It's aggressive and that's what we need around here. We had been too passive."

The Cowboys are moving to the NFL trend of larger offensive linemen but they still lack depth.

"I get down on my knees and pray for a left tackle every night," Erkenbeck said. "Just give me one guy at that position where I can say 'big boy it's your job' and not have to worry about it any more."

Erkenbeck said the NFC East has some of the best defensive right ends in the NFL and the Cowboys haven't

had a left tackle in the 1980s so can stop them.

"It's a great division for ends," Erkenbeck said. "I hope we can find for a tackle if one doesn't develop in camp. We'll do the best we can with what we've got if we can't make trade."

"Erkenbeck will find one if he can't find one," Wooten said. "He's a good coach. He'll find us a player or make one, whatever it takes."

Head Coach Tom Landry said Erkenbeck is a demanding coach.

"I think we have a great chance with him in there," Landry said. "Of course, we haven't lost a game yet."

The players respect him, although he can be hard on them.

"He's tough but fair," said Newt Newton, who is trying to win a starting guard.

Rookie Jeffires thinks he'll fit in with Oilers' receivers

SAN ANGELO (AP) — Houston's Drew Hill and Ernest Givins were small receivers who played big for the Oilers last season, each gaining over 1,000 yards in receptions.

This season they've got North Carolina State's Haywood Jeffires, 6-foot-2 and 198 pounds — a big receiver who can play small.

"It's very unusual to find a player of his size to have the quickness and speed of a little guy," said Oilers receivers coach Milt Jackson.

"He's a big guy who can play the little man's (speed) game but when the ball's in the air, he's more difficult for the defensive backs to handle."

Jeffires, the Oilers' second selection in the first round of the April NFL draft, towers over Hill and Givins, both 5-9.

And he doesn't anticipate a long wait before getting into the Oilers' game plans, scheduled to have more three- and four-receiver alignments this year.

"I can learn a lot from them and I can teach them a little about taking a lick across the middle," Jeffires said. "They shouldn't take the hit too wide open and be on that stretcher. They were on the stretcher a lot last year."

Jeffires closed out his collegiate career as North Carolina State's No. 2 all-time receiver with 111 catches and was third on the all-time list with 1,733 yards.

He caught 40 passes for 591 yards last season. In his final regular season game, Jeffires caught

seven passes for 164 yards and one touchdown in a 31-18 victory over Western Carolina.

Jeffires said he was surprised that the Oilers selected him with two 1,000-yard receivers already on the roster.

He thinks Givins and Hill were surprised too.

"Nobody's going to come right out and say they're not happy you're here, but I think they were a little surprised," Jeffires said.

"But as you get into camp and meet the other guys, you sort of become a family and you overlook other things."

Jeffires thinks he may have to learn from the starters for a couple of years before getting his chance as a starter.

"I think Drew's got a couple more years and then they'll want someone to fill his spot," Jeffires said.

Hill caught 65 passes for 1,112 yards and five touchdowns to lead the team and Givins, a rookie from Louisville, caught 61 passes for 1,062 yards and three touchdowns.

Jackson thinks Jeffires can make an impact on the Oilers' offense this season if he maintains proper concentration.

"I think he'll have to discipline himself to keep his poise when he lines up against people that he's read about since he was a kid," Jackson said.

"If he can do that, he can play for us and play good. Ernest proved it could be done last year."

Tyson says only thing on his mind is Tucker

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (AP) — Mike Tyson said Wednesday that he has only one thing on his mind — beating Tony Tucker for the undisputed heavyweight championship.

"The rumors are not true about me having problems with my camp or anything," said Tyson, a 10-1 favorite to win Saturday night's scheduled 15-round fight at the Las Vegas Hilton.

The 21-year-old World Boxing Council and World Boxing Association champion also said, "I'm not talking about that Los Angeles thing."

But, he added, "Anything I do, I always think about the circumstances. Anything that could interfere with my career or get me off the track, I won't do."

Tyson has been charged with misdemeanor assault and battery stemming from an alleged scuffle with a parking lot attendant June 21 at Los Angeles.

He was ordered to appear July 30 for arraignment, but his co-manager, Jim Jacobs, said Wednesday the arraignment has been postponed. He said he did not know the new date.

Rumors that there was discord in Tyson's camp began after it was reported that he went to Los Angeles for four days last week to see a female friend.

Jacobs said Tyson did not go to Los Angeles, but home to Catskill, N.Y., for three days to visit 81-year-old Camille Ewald, who is ill. She was a sister-in-law of the late Cus D'Amato, who was Tyson's mentor, and the fighter resides at her home.

Trainer Kevin Rooney called cobs to tell him of Tyson's desire to go home and the request was granted after Rooney said Tyson was ready to fight, the manager said.

Tyson said he has had no problems concentrating on fighting the 28-year-old Tucker, who is the ternational Boxing Federation champion, and that he is not lull by the odds.

"In my heart I always think aponent has a chance," Tyson said.

At 10-1, Tyson would be strongest favorite in a heavyweight championship fight since Muhammad Ali, an 8-1 choice, was upset by Leon Spinks on a 15-round split decision here Feb. 15, 1978. That was the last undisputed heavyweight bout.

"It motivates me," Tucker said of his underdog's role.

"I'm a guy who's been in the game seven years and I've had fights. I don't know anything about losing."

Tucker has scored 30 knockouts in posting a 35-0 record. Tyson's third year as a pro, has won 21 of his fights, 27 by knockout.

"He's a good mover, a good counter puncher and has a potent right hand," Rooney said of Tucker. "He has experience. He reminds me of these like Boncrusher. I just hope he's not as strong as Boncrusher."

Green, James "Quick" Tillis and James "Boncrusher" Smith are three men who have gone the distance with Tyson.

The Tyson-Tucker match is culmination of the HBO heavyweight title unification series.