

Sports

UT picks Penders for basketball job

AUSTIN (AP) — Tom Penders, basketball coach at the University of Rhode Island for the last two seasons, Wednesday was named head coach at the University of Texas.

"We got the best coach," said UT Athletic Director DeLoss Dodds, who had interviewed several coaches since firing Bob Weltlich on March 14.

Dodds told a news conference he was impressed with Penders, whose team made the Sweet 16 in this year's NCAA basketball tournament.

"The coach, in my mind, is one of the top coaches in the United States," Dodds said. "We talked to a lot of coaches. . . . There was great interest in this job."

Penders said recruiting for next season would begin immediately.

"I've already made a couple phone calls," he said.

"There are a couple of prospects that might consider the University of Texas. When I look at this facility and some of the tradition behind it. . . . This is a beautiful campus, it's a beautiful city. . . . If I can't sell this, then I should get out of this," Penders said.

He said he had talked with Rutgers as well as Texas.

Emphasizing that he enjoyed his job at Rhode Island, Penders said he hadn't been looking for a new job.

However, he said Texas presented an opportunity he couldn't resist.

Saying "the job finds you," the coach said he first was approached by Texas athletics officials over the weekend during the NCAA's Final Four tournament in Kansas City.

"I was (surprised)," he said. "I don't know if I'm a household name down here."

Penders said he had met with the Texas team and would meet with the coaching staff.

"We have a ways to go. We have a building situation," he said.

"We will improve next year. We will play exciting ball, entertaining basketball. And I think before too long, winning basketball."

Penders was hired in October 1986 as Rhode Island's head basketball coach and compiled a 48-17 record in two seasons, leading the team to the East regional semifinals in this year's NCAA tournament.

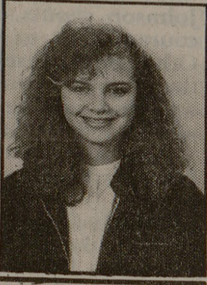
Rhode Island lost to Duke, the regional champion, by a 73-72 score, finishing the year with a 28-7 record.

NHL play brings end to overkill

Sports seasons come and sports seasons go.

I am happy to say goodbye to the college basketball season that has stayed around far too long.

One of our own assistant sports editors is a self-confessed basketball junkie. He was in a channel-switching frenzy to get the most basketball crammed into his day.



Cray Pixley
Sports viewpoint

During the NCAA playoffs, basketball seemed to be on every station every day, at every hour.

I'm definitely suffering from basketball overkill. My hand is sprained from changing the television stations

in hopes of finding something other than basketball.

There were even ladies' basketball games — some relief from the men's scene.

There is no reason why I should be pleased with the way the college basketball season ended.

The Aggies failed to do anything, and I lost money on the Kansas and Oklahoma game.

Guess what? There is still professional basketball — that's swell! More suffering.

I know there will be justice in the world only if the Boston Celtics lose.

There is some joy in the form of major league baseball.

As soon as the Final Four was over, fans and sports writers switched their fascination to baseball. We have all cooed over the new turf in the Astrodome.

We are equally thrilled to see Billy Martin with the New York Yankees. If there is one thing to count on ev-

ery baseball season, it's that Martin will be manager at a new ball club or with the Yankees.

My struggling team, the Texas Rangers, even had Martin for a time.

So college basketball is over and the major leagues are gearing up, but there is another sport heading toward that final confrontation — hockey.

Yes, this is a promotional spot for the NHL Playoffs.

Basketball is gone from ESPN and the Stanley Cup playoffs started Tuesday.

ESPN will televise every playoff game, and it's a good thing. Hockey had been lost in the shuffle of all the basketball games during the past month.

There are new and old facets to the NHL Playoffs.

The New Jersey Devils are in the playoffs for the first time since moving to New Jersey.

The Edmonton Oilers are battling to save their reputation. Nobody believes that the Oilers will be champions for long. Critics seem ready to hand the Stanley Cup to Calgary before the playoffs really begin.

Don't write off Gretzky and the Oilers that quick.

The only disappointing outcome about the playoffs is the missing Pittsburgh Penguins.

The Penguins' Mario Lemieux was a high point in the Wales Conference and even in the Campbell Conference. His expertise will be missed.

The bid for the Stanley Cup will probably come down to a confrontation between Canadian teams in the early rounds.

From the U.S., the Philadelphia Flyers are my favorite team to take on Calgary or Edmonton for the Cup.

Goodbye Final Four, hello Stanley Cup.

Mavs throttle Suns to end losing streak

DALLAS (AP) — Rolando Blackman scored a season-high 32 points and the Dallas Mavericks broke a four-game losing streak Wednesday night with a 119-93 NBA victory over the Phoenix Suns.

Dallas improved its lead in the race for second place in the Western Conference standings to a half-game over idle Denver. The Mavericks started the game .004 ahead of the Nuggets for the runner-up spot in the conference behind the Los Angeles Lakers.

The Suns failed to gain ground on San Antonio in the race for the eighth and final Western Conference playoff berth. Phoenix started the night 3½ games behind the Spurs.

Starting centers James Donaldson

of Dallas and Mark West of Phoenix were ejected for fighting with 2:57 left in the game.

Donaldson and West had words under the Dallas basket, then began throwing punches. Players from both sides rushed in and fell to the floor in a tangled pile, but no meaningful blows landed.

Mark Aguirre added 21 points for the Mavericks.

The Suns cut a 10-point halftime deficit to 71-67 with 6:18 to play in the third quarter. The Mavericks outscored the Suns 19-8 the rest of the period for a 90-75 advantage entering the final quarter.

Dallas scored 10 straight points and received back-to-back 3-point plays from Detlef Schrempf and Blackman during its 19-8 run.

Lady Ags come back for big win over TCU

The Texas A&M women's tennis team swept the doubles matches to gain a 5-4 comeback victory against Texas Christian in Wednesday's dual match in Fort Worth.

The 25th-ranked Lady Aggies move to 16-5 on the season and 5-1 in the Southwest Conference, assuring them at least a No. 2 spot in the SWC standings.

A&M's No. 4 Cindy Crawford and No. 5 Susan Williams beat their opponents while the Lady Aggies were defeated in the other singles matches to find themselves down 4-2 going into doubles play.

"The tide starting turning in the doubles," A&M Coach Bobby Kleinecke said. "A comeback like

this comes once every leap year."

Gaye Lynne Gensler and Lisa Keller came back from a 5-0 deficit in the second set to win seven straight games and take a 7-6, 7-5 victory in their match over the top 30 team of Rene Simpson and Tory Pulunkett.

A&M's Cindy Churchwell and Derryn Haygarth defeated Melannie Breed and Aubrey Abbot 7-5, 2-6, 6-0 in the No. 2 seed and Crawford and Williams continued their winning ways, slaming Kris Clevenger and Lidwein Loonen in twin 6-2 sets.

A&M will face Southern Methodist Saturday at 1:30 p.m. at the Omar Tennis Center. A Lady Aggie victory could mean a share of the conference title.

Houston rips Padres 5-1

HOUSTON (AP) — Glenn Davis hit his second home run in as many games, a two-run shot in a three-run first inning, leading the Houston Astros to a 5-1 victory over San Diego Wednesday.

Bob Knepper, 1-0, allowed seven San Diego hits and struck out seven in seven innings.

Juan Agosto pitched the last two innings without allowing a hit. Billy Hatcher doubled to left field and Bill Doran singled to left field

before Davis homered off Andy Hawkins, 0-1.

Knepper kept his shutout until the fourth inning when Tony Gwynn led off with a single to right field, went to third on Keith Moreland's single to center. Gwynn scored when Carmelo Martinez hit into a double play.

The Astros added two runs in the fourth inning on singles by Rafael Ramirez and Doran.

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