

Sports

Probation may end for UT's football program

AUSTIN (AP) — The University of Texas is expected to announce soon that the NCAA is taking the Longhorn football program off probation after one year of sanctions, the Austin American-Statesman reported Tuesday.

UT compliance officer Butch Worley said the Longhorns have implemented all 13 changes ordered by university President William Cunningham as a result of NCAA penalties against the school on June 17, 1987.

The National Collegiate Athletic Association had said the Longhorns' two-year probation would be reduced to one year if those 13 reforms were completed.

"All the points President Cunningham made to the committee have been achieved," Worley said Monday.

UT Athletic Director DeLoss Dodds confirmed that UT has received a letter from the NCAA's Committee on Infractions and said

that "it's not bad news." He said the NCAA had stipulated that the letter not be released until June 17.

UT's sanctions included the loss of five scholarships and 10 paid recruiting visits for the 1988 recruiting class.

The 13 changes, and what has been done, include:

- A policy prohibiting a player who knowingly violates NCAA rules from competing. Athletes were notified by letter of such a policy and it is included in the student-athlete handbook.

- Stressing compliance with alumni. Letters and brochures explaining NCAA rules were sent to 5,000 alumni and donors in the spring of 1987 and again in January.

- Requiring athletes to register their cars, including a loan or lease agreements, with the school. UT

adopted this measure, as well as requiring athletes who live off campus to complete forms detailing their lease agreements.

- Letters of reprimand or admonition from the president to boosters and staffers involved in violations and the dissociation of boosters who were guilty of more serious violations.

The American-Statesman said Cunningham sent letters of dissociation to two boosters and admonished five others. Head coach David McWilliams, Assistant Coach John Mize, Assistant Athletic Director Ken Dabbs and team physician Dr. Paul Trickett received letters of reprimand.

Dabbs, who was involved in three cases of providing extra benefits to athletes, has been relieved of any responsibilities for handling problems by prospective and enrolled athletes, the newspaper said.

Lakers get driven by Pistons

"The Los Angeles Lakers looked exactly the way everyone expected in the first game of the NBA Finals Tuesday. An early 8-0 lead, a potent fast break, and powerful help from their bench helped the Lakers to a 17-point lead at half-time..."



Hal L. Hammons

Or something like that. That was the lead every sportswriter in the country had in his head before the game started.

It'll still do fine. Just reverse the teams.

The 105-93 final tally was as shocking as not being subjected to a bombardment of star cameos by

CBS. Jack Nicholson looked as absent as Michael Cooper.

The message was clear. The young Turks are on the rise, and they're walking up the old guard backs to do it.

When the Pistons eliminated Boston in four games — it took six to knock off the referees — we overlooked it. When the Lakers took seven games to knock off Dallas — and that after barely surviving against Utah — we overlooked it.

It can't be overlooked any longer.

Oh, the cameos and the Lakers made a late run. The lead was cut to seven with 1:27 to go. But two free throws by Isiah Thomas with 51 seconds left gave the Pistons a 10-point lead, and the few fans remaining in The Forum headed for the parking lot.

The brutal fact of the matter is that the Lakers went out on their home court and just got stomped by a team that looked considerably better in all phases.

You saw it. You all saw it.

You saw LA held to 37 points in the first half. And Magic Johnson had 16 of them.

You saw Adrian Dantley score almost as well against anyone he was matched up with. A near-perfect 14-for-16 and 34 points for A.D.

You saw two perfect pick-n-rolls between Magic Johnson and Mychal Thompson — not one, but two — end in stuffs. Not Thompson stuffs, Dennis Rodman stuffs of Thompson stuff attempts.

You saw the Detroit bench outscore the Laker bench 18-0 in the first half and 32-4 for the game, as Cooper looked as accomplished in three-point land as Dyan Cannon.

Of course, much of the blame will slide to Laker ineptitude rather than Piston defense, especially out West. Sure, LA missed a bucketload of open shots. So did Boston. That excuse, a couple of six-packs and a buzz will be as much consolation as the Celtics get, as they watch the finals sitting down.

Spurs give Weiss pink slip

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — The San Antonio Spurs' owner fired Coach Bob Weiss Tuesday, saying the team needs a change after two consecutive losing seasons.

"My decision is a subjective one, but it was mine to make and I just felt it was best for this operation at this time," B.J. "Red" McCombs said.

Weiss, a former assistant coach with the Dallas Mavericks, has a 59-105 record in his two seasons with the Spurs. He could not im-

mediately be reached for comment.

The Spurs have also been plagued with dwindling attendance that last year was the NBA's lowest. Gate revenue was \$78,000 per game, compared to an NBA average of \$170,000.

McCombs said he has talked with former Spurs Coach Stan Albeck.

Weiss' firing was the second at a Texas NBA team in two days.

Maverick could be on trading block

DALLAS (AP) — Dallas Mavericks owner Don Carter attributed Mark Aguirre's absence from a mandatory team meeting to the forward's absent-mindedness, but reports say the team's leading scorer could be on the trading block.

Newspaper reports say the club is split between Carter and his basketball management about whether to trade Aguirre.

Neither Aguirre nor Mavericks officials returned calls made by The Associated Press on Tuesday.

Aguirre's defensive shortcomings and his moodiness could work against him, some of his teammates and team officials have stated.

Aguirre played golf Monday in the Big Brothers-Big Sisters of Arlington charity tournament and missed a mandatory team meeting before the team broke up for the summer.

Carter dismissed Aguirre's absence and failure to tell team officials he would miss the meeting.

"You may find I'm wrong, but I'll bet you that he will feel like one of my sons," Carter said. "When they were younger they'd say, 'Ooh, I forget to do something I told momma or daddy I'd do.' Mark Aguirre is a child at heart, and I love him for that. So this meeting was the furthest thing from his mind this morning."

Aguirre probably will be fined \$250 for missing the meeting, Carter said.

Now that the team is adjourned until Oct. 7, Coach John MacLeod and his staff are expected to hold a meeting in the next couple of weeks to discuss the state of the club after their most successful playoff season.

Dallas defeated the Houston Rockets and Denver Nuggets and stretched the defending champion Los Angeles Lakers to a deciding seventh game in the Western Conference Finals, which Dallas eventually lost.

"You win championships playing defense, and he (Aguirre) has to get better in that area," assistant coach Gar Heard said.

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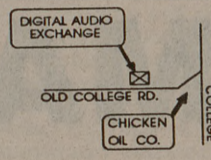
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