

# Sports

## Help wanted: NBA coach San Antonio pursues Albeck, Brown

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Former Spurs coach Stan Albeck and Kansas coach Larry Brown were being mentioned Wednesday as candidates for the San Antonio coaching job.

The vacancy was created Tuesday with the firing of Bob Weiss, who coached the Spurs to a 59-105 record during his two seasons.

B.J. "Red" McCombs, who gained control of the NBA team last month, said Albeck, now the coach at Bradley, was being considered for the job and that he hopes to name a new coach by Tuesday.

Sources, meanwhile, told the San Antonio Express-News and the San Antonio Light that Brown, who guided the Jayhawks to the NCAA title this year, also was among the candidates. Brown earlier this spring rejected an offer to return to UCLA as coach, and as recently as Monday, when his name was mentioned for the Houston Rockets job, insisted he was staying at Kansas.

Several players said they were surprised by the firing. "Personally, I didn't think it was going to happen," forward David Greenwood said. "But then again, I haven't really kept up with the situation."

### Spurs' job could be ideal for Brown's return to NBA

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Kansas coach Larry Brown, who guided the Jayhawks to the NCAA championship and was described as a candidate for the San Antonio Spurs coaching job, says he won't leave Kansas for just any NBA post.

The *San Antonio Light* and the *San Antonio Express-News* quoted sources as saying that Brown is the top candidate on Spurs owner Red McCombs' list.

Brown told the *Light* Tuesday he had not spoken directly to McCombs about the vacancy, but added the San Antonio coaching position could be perfect for him. "I'm partial to (former) ABA cities," Brown said. "I love San Antonio."

Brown, however, said any new job would have to meet certain conditions.

"A lot of things have to be right," he said. "I have to work for people who will let me coach. I would want to align myself with a young team, and I want to see the potential of winning."

Center David Robinson will be in San Antonio within two years and with McCombs regarded as a hands-off owner, Brown's list coincides with the status of the National Basketball Association team.

"Sure, that (San Antonio) is the type of situation that would appeal to me," Brown said.

Money, however, could be a stumbling block in attracting Brown.

He is expected to demand at least \$600,000 a year to jump from the Jayhawks to the Spurs, more than three times what Weiss was paid last season.

"The way I see it, it's Red McCombs' team. He paid the money, he can do what he wants."

Free agent forward Kurt Nimphius said he could sympathize with Weiss, saying the second-

year coach was essentially a victim of "big business."

"I've never been a coach, so I can't say how Bob Weiss feels, but I've been pushed and shoved around a lot as a player and that's

just the way basketball works sometimes," Nimphius said. "People forget that it's a business and in business, people are fired and hired all the time."

McCombs, who battled for two months to acquire a majority ownership of the team, had been concerned about poor attendance and the team's play during the past two seasons.

"Oddly enough there is no bitter disappointment, resentment, and it's a really a thing of circumstance," Weiss said. "I'm walking away with my head held high. I really felt we were on target. I'm happy with the way this team is. I think we're on track and this is going to be a great team and I'm just sorry I'm not going to be here."

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

Weiss' ouster is the second change McCombs has made. Bob Bass, vice president for basketball operations, last week was appointed administrative assistant and is now responsible for free agents and contract negotiations.

## 'Air' lone unanimous All-League selection

NEW YORK (AP) — Chicago guard Michael "Air" Jordan, the NBA's most valuable player and defensive player of the year, gained another major honor Wednesday, being named the only unanimous choice on the All-League team.

Boston forward Larry Bird, the three-time MVP, missed being a unanimous choice by one vote.

Jordan, the league leader in scoring and steals, was named to the first team on all 80 ballots for a total of 160 points in voting by a nationwide panel of sports writers and broadcasters — three from each of the league's 23 cities and 11 members of the national media.

Bird, named to the squad for the ninth straight year — every season he's been in the league — received 79 first-team votes and one second-team vote for a total of 159 points.

Joining Jordan and Bird on the All-NBA first team were forward Charles Barkley of Philadelphia,

and guard Magic Johnson of the Los Angeles Lakers.

The second team was comprised of forwards Karl Malone of Utah and Dominique Wilkins of Atlanta, center Patrick Ewing of New York, and guards Clyde Drexler of Portland and John Stockton of Utah.

Bird's ninth selection leaves him one short of the record of 10, shared by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Elgin Baylor, Bob Cousy and Jerry West.

Of the other top vote-getters, Olajuwon collected 77 first-team votes and 157 points, Johnson, the only unanimous first-team selection last year, got 55 first-team votes and 155 points, and Barkley had 40 first-team votes and 113 points.

All the first-team members except Barkley were named on all 80 ballots. And all except Barkley were named to the first team last year.

This is the first time Malone, Ewing, Drexler and Stockton made either All-NBA team.

## Lady Aggies sign Australian player

The Texas A&M volleyball team has signed an Australian player, who Head Coach Al Givens called A&M's best recruit ever, to a national letter of intent.

Fiona Cassidy, a 5-foot-11 middle blocker from Glen Waverley, Victoria, Australia, will enroll at A&M in January and will begin her freshman season in the fall of 1989.

"We are extremely excited about having Fiona join our team in January," Givens said. "Because of her background and international, she will be the most highly touted recruit we have ever signed at A&M."

"She is a very solid performer in all the skill areas, and her training at the middle blocker position should help lead us to the goals we have set for our program."

"It will be a tremendous advance for her to come in this spring and learn our system. That will certainly enhance her freshman season next fall."

Cassidy plays on three teams in Australia, including the Australian 19-and-under national team, which will play in the Asian Junior Championships in August. She led her high school team to the 1988 Victoria state championship.

Cassidy was also selected as the Most Valuable Player at the Australian national tournament in the 15-and-under division in 1985 and the 17-and-under division in 1987.

Cassidy caught Givens' attention last December at a United States Volleyball Association tournament in Long Beach, Calif. where her team won the tournament's Division III championship.

## Chaney in running for Rocket position

HOUSTON (AP) — Atlanta Hawks assistant Coach Don Chaney has talked to the Houston Rockets about the team's head coaching job, Rockets General Manager Ray Patterson said.

Patterson also told the *Houston Chronicle* he's considering three other candidates: Utah assistant Jerry Sloan, Miami scout Dave Wohl and Denver assistant Allan Bristow.

"I would absolutely love to coach the Rockets," Chaney told the *Houston Post*. "It's an exciting possibility because I see so much potential there."

Chaney, who played college basketball at the University of Houston, has eight years of NBA coaching experience, including two seasons as head coach of the Los Angeles Clippers.

Patterson said he first started

year coach was essentially a victim of "big business."

Free agent forward Kurt Nimphius said he could sympathize with Weiss, saying the second-

year coach was essentially a victim of "big business."

"When you look at a coaching situation and don't see any talent, that's when you worry," Chaney said. "When you have talent, other problems are correctable."

Bill Fitch was fired Monday as the end of a dissent-filled fifth

year as head coach of the Rockets.

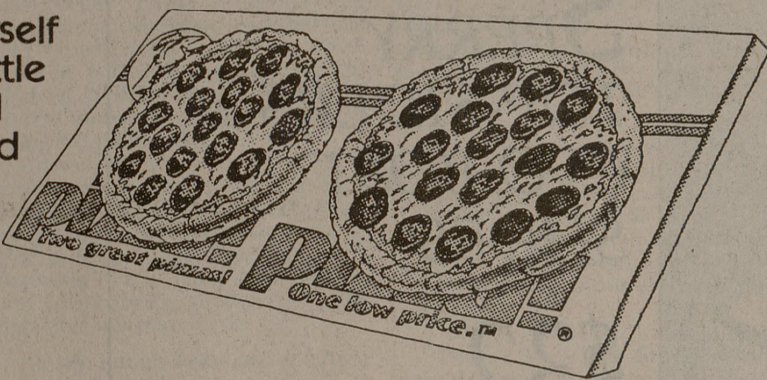
Bristow also is being considered for the head coach position in San Antonio after Tuesday's firing of Bob Weiss.

Sloan, former coach of the Chicago Bulls, also is believed to be a candidate for the expansion Miami Heat.

The Miami club has received permission from the Jazz to talk with Sloan. Sloan has not contacted the Rockets.

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