

Sports

UH football program accused of infractions by NCAA probe

HOUSTON (AP) — The NCAA formally notified officials at the University of Houston Tuesday of its investigation into allegations of recruiting violations and that coaches frequently gave football players cash.

School officials on Tuesday released copies of the three-page letter from the NCAA, which was dated July 9.

The school has until Oct. 17 to respond to the letter. After that, the NCAA will consider what penalties, if any, to assess.

The allegations center on the Cougar football program from 1978 to 1984 when Bill Yeoman was head coach. Yeoman resigned as head coach after the 1986 season.

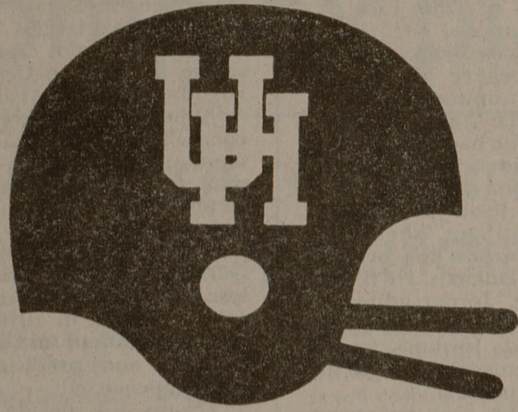
Yeoman admitted last year that he gave money for humanitarian purposes to players who were broke or whose families needed money to cover rent or utility bills.

Yeoman told a Houston in-house investigation that players were never given more than \$35 at a time and the cash was used to buy gas and take care of specific needs.

In March 1986, several former Cougar athletes told of receiving large amounts of money during their playing careers at Houston.

Former players Lonell Phea and David Robertson said they received \$18,000 and \$10,000.

Former walk-on running back Kelvin Gill said



he received about \$150 over two years. Gill also said he knew of an estimated 20 to 30 players who got personal loans of up to \$200.

In the copies of the NCAA letter released to the news media, names of players or coaches were blanked out and in their place the phrase "a player" or "a coach" were substituted.

One allegation involves a coach giving three players \$500 during the 1984 season. During the fall of 1981, a coach allegedly gave a player \$900

while riding in an automobile.

During the 1982-82 academic year, a coach was alleged to have given \$100 to an athlete so his mother could pay her electric bill, and then arranged for the player to obtain a free round-trip airplane ticket so he could travel between Houston and Dallas to give the money to her.

In another alleged incident, a student athlete received \$500 in an envelope from another player while he was in a bathroom stall in the football dressing room.

In incidents that allegedly occurred in each summer from 1978 to 1984, coaches sent athletes to two Houston hotels, where they were allowed to stay free. They were supposed to have had jobs as security guards, but their work was unsupervised and they were not required to perform any duties, the letter alleged.

The NCAA specified 13 instances in which coaches either loaned money or credit cards so players could buy gasoline.

The NCAA said a coach allegedly gave a high school athlete \$200 at his high school after he signed a letter of intent to play for the Cougars.

Another allegation said UH athletes spent more than NCAA regulations permit on potential recruits during visits to the campus. Players also bought souvenirs for the recruits, the NCAA said, another violation.

Weakest All-Star hitter propels AL to 2-1 win

CINCINNATI (AP) — Terry Steinbach, the weakest hitter in the All-Star Game, hit a home run and sacrifice fly Tuesday night as the American League beat the National League 2-1 in another pitcher-dominated matchup.

Steinbach's homer off Dwight Gooden, in a year when home runs are down almost 25 percent, and sixth-hit pitching enabled the AL to win for only the fourth time in 26 games but two of the last three.

The NL still leads the series 37-21, with three of those losses coming under St. Louis Cardinals manager Whitey Herzog. He became the only NL manager to lose three times.

Steinbach, batting only .217 for Oakland, homered in the third inning and hit a bases-loaded sacrifice fly to the warning track in the fourth against Bob Knepper. That was all for the AL, which had scored five runs in the last four All-Star games.

That was enough, however, as eight pitchers shut down the NL. Frank Viola set down the six hitters he faced for the victory and Dennis Eckersley, leading the majors with 26 saves, got the final three batters.

A crowd of 55,837 saw 30 first-time All-Stars give the game a new look.

The best of them was Steinbach, who became the eighth player to homer in his first All-Star at-bat and was named the game's most valuable player. He sent Gooden's 0-1 pitch over right fielder Darryl Strawberry's outstretched glove.

Gooden, the starter and loser in the 1986 game, was nicked for three hits in three innings. Knepper, his relief, did no better as Dave Winfield hit a one-out double in the fourth. Winfield's seven All-Star doubles are

a record and he tied Mickey Mantle and Joe Morgan by hitting safely in his seventh straight game.

A walk to Cal Ripken and Mark McGwire's single loaded the bases and Steinbach flied out to left field, scoring Winfield.

A great play in the seventh inning by three-time Gold Glove first baseman Don Mattingly helped preserve the AL's third victory in the last 17 games.

The NL, retired in order by Viola and Clemens, got three of its hits in the fourth against Kansas City's Mark Gubicza. Vince Coleman led off with a soft single to left field, promptly stole second and continued to third when Steinbach's throw bounced into center.

After Ryne Sandberg struck out for the second time, making him 1-for-12 in All-Star competition, Coleman trotted home on Gubicza's wild pitch. Gubicza's eight wild pitches this season are the most on either team.

Andre Dawson and Darryl Strawberry followed with infield singles, but Gubicza avoided further trouble by getting Bobby Bonilla on a fly ball and Will Clark on a grounder.

After that, the pitchers dominated.

Gubicza settled down for a perfect fifth and Dave Stieb gave up Sandberg's single in the sixth but got Strawberry on a fly ball to end the inning and leave Sandberg at second.

Gary Carter hit a two-out single in the seventh against Texas' Jeff Russell and Cincinnati pinch-runner Chris Sabo, the only rookie in the game, stole second.

Bluebonnet Bowl faces SWC debt deadline, extinction

HOUSTON (AP) — The Bluebonnet Bowl is running short of money and time but officials for the postseason college football game say they haven't yet given up.

The bowl, which would mark its 29th annual game this year in Houston, is suffering from the lack of sponsorship and shrinking television

revenues. Its future will be decided at a board meeting next Monday, game officials said.

Meanwhile, a prospective sponsor has fallen through and the bowl faces a Friday deadline on a \$160,000 payment to the Southwest Conference.

"Last week we thought we had a

(sponsorship) deal and this week we don't, so it doesn't look good right now," Executive Director Ted Nance said Tuesday. "But we still have prospects and I don't believe it's over until the final gun."

"We feel we have to have sponsorship to continue the game." Nance estimated the bowl lost

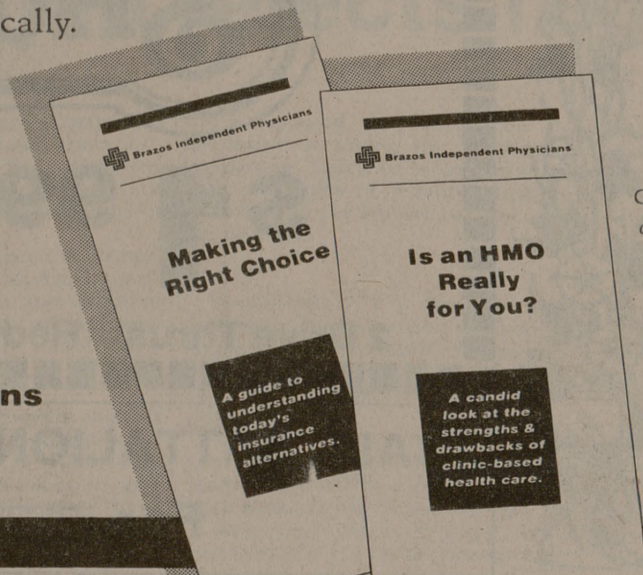
\$275,000 from last December's Texas-Pittsburgh game. The \$160,000 debt, originally due April 1, is part of the total \$500,000 the bowl owed the conference, he said.

Nance said if sponsorship is not found, the 50-member board of directors could discontinue the bowl.

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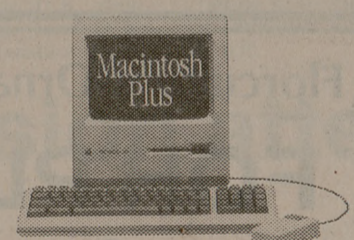
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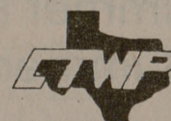


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