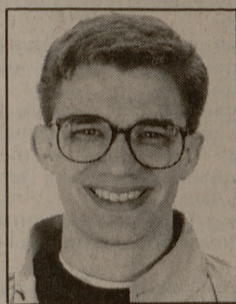


# Sports

## Innocent Coog footballers could be going down in slowly sinking ship

Earlier this week the University of Houston joined in on the NCAA's cat-and-mouse game with Southwest Conference football programs when it received a letter outlining alleged violations and giving Houston until October to respond with its defense.



**Anthony Wilson**

Essentially UH is now in the same boat as A&M's football program, waiting to see if they will be put on probation, and if so, how severe it will be.

The best possible scenario for the two teams would be for the Aggies to be able to prove that their alleged 38 violations and the Cougars' 27 alleged violations are unfounded. The worst scenario would have each team losing bowl game privileges and television revenues (no big loss for the struggling Cougar program) and a reduction in scholarships.

In the NCAA's letter to Houston, violations were traced back to 1978

and up to 1984. Bill Yeoman was head coach of the Cougars at the time. Yeoman retired in 1986 when rumors of the violations surfaced and is now in an administrative position in the UH athletic department.

Former A&M All-American Jack Pardee, Class of '57, has manned the reigns of the run-and-shoot Cougars since 1987 and cleaned house with the UH coaching staff, replacing eight of the ten coaches. Since then rumors of illegal activities have disappeared.

Houston seems to be headed in the right direction following the lead of other SWC role models Rice, Arkansas, and recently probated Texas and Texas Tech. So it seems that to now punish coaches and players who had nothing to do with UH's problems four years ago would seem to be a moot point and an unfair reprimand.

The same thing goes for A&M's situation. A good portion of A&M's alleged violations supposedly involve players whose eligibility expired and are no longer in Aggieland.

A&M's football team has become a national powerhouse in recent years with many Aggie athletes graduating to the National Football League and its huge pro contracts, fame and fortune. Many high school players commit themselves to A&M with aspirations of acquiring a few SWC championship rings along with some Cotton Bowl experience and possibly a professional football career.

For the ones who are playing by the rules, someone else's screw-ups can ruin all of those dreams.

However, if the programs were at one time, or still are, in violation of NCAA rules, they should be punished in some way that negates the unfair advantage that illegal enticements create for the rest of the conference.

Of course the best way to do that would be to take away scholarships. However, if the illegal payments to players continue, a reduction in scholarships would not be much of a punishment. The schools would just go for the top blue-chip players instead of wasting money on marginally talented prospects.

To punish innocent coaches and players is unfair and to take away scholarships isn't harsh enough, so what's the solution?

The best possible solution would be to punish only those who are involved in illegal activities. For instance, a player who takes inducements to sign a letter of intent or is receiving payments while enrolled in a university would lose x number of years of eligibility up to four years.

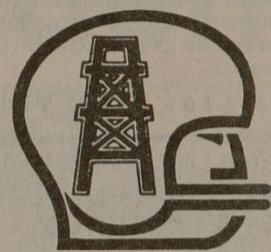
Critics to this sort of punishment would cry that 18-year-olds aren't worldly or experienced enough to resist the temptation of money, cars, and gifts. But this issue has been in the news for so long that every high school athlete is well aware of the problems of college recruiting.

Also players who have received large amounts of money should be reported to the Internal Revenue Service. Former UH players Lonnell Phea and David Roberson received a combined \$28,000 in their four years. That's 28,000 tax-free dollars. Frankly, I'm not to wild about my parents having to make up the difference with their middle-class incomes.

Coaches who implement illegal activities would face a similar fate. If found to have conducted themselves in an unethical fashion, the coach would be forced to leave his job and seek employment at another university. He would then be put on probation for the remainder of his career. If he were caught making the same mistake, the NCAA would banish that coach from coaching at an NCAA-regulated school.

These punishments may seem tough, but it's the only way to protect those who are upholding the integrity of collegiate athletics.

## Houston looking to build on 1987



**OILERS**

HOUSTON (AP) — Houston Oilers quarterback Warren Moon spent an anxious off season checking on the status of the Oilers' coaching staff.

He kept fearing offensive coordinator June Jones would be hired away from the Oilers one year after installing the Oilers' wide open offensive attack.

Moon's fears were unfounded as Jones is back to help the Oilers seek their second straight trip to the playoffs after a controversy-filled 1987 season.

The Oilers begin their 1988 quest Tuesday when training camp opens on the campus of Southwest Texas State at San Marcos for the first time.

Rookies report Tuesday, the veterans follow on Wednesday and the first full workout will be Thursday.

"This is my first year having the same guy coaching me," Moon said. "I was crossing my fingers the whole off-season that he wouldn't get plucked away. He has a good reputation around the league as a good coach."

Moon is also happy that several other distractions are missing from the 1987 season.

"We're so much more relaxed this year," Moon said. "You don't have the things one your mind, such as going to Jacksonville or the strike."

The Oilers reached the playoffs for the first time since 1980, beating Seattle in the AFC wild card game before losing to Super Bowl runner-up Denver in the second round.

The Oilers improved from 16th to eighth in the NFL in total offense and passing jumped from 13th to seventh.

"We put in about 40 percent of the run-and-shoot last year and we put in a lot more this off-season," Moon said. "Now when teams adjust to certain looks, we have more options."

The Oilers starting backfield also returns intact, although last year's No. 1 draft pick, Alonzo Highsmith, is still recovering from off-season knee surgery.

"Don't worry about me," Highsmith said. "I'm a competitor and I'll be ready to play."

Mike Rozier also is back after his best season in the NFL. He earned his first Pro Bowl trip and was fourth in the NFL in rushing with 957 yards.

The Oilers also added Michigan State All-American Lorenzo White as their No. 1 pick in the draft. White is still unsigned.

The Oilers' elite receiving corps also returns including starters Ernest Givins and Drew Hill, the top pass receiving combo in the NFL last season.

The Oilers slipped defensively from 13th in total defense in 1986 to 17th last season but new-comer Sean Jones thinks the Oilers have the defensive talent to win.

"We have a young team and the worst thing that can happen to a young team is to lose its confidence," said Jones, obtained from the Los Angeles Raiders in the off-season.

"But this team has its confidence and they are hungry."

The Oilers open their preseason in the Astrodome Aug. 4 against Buffalo.

The regular season opener is Sept. 4 at Indianapolis.

## Former Tech coach back as Hogs' assistant

LUBBOCK (AP) — After sitting out two football seasons as a businessman, former Texas Tech head football coach Jim Moore has signed on as a volunteer assistant coach under Arkansas' Ken Hatfield and will work with the offense and special teams, according to the Arkansas sports information office.

Moore said he's happy to be back in the coaching business, "even if it's just to thread a projector."

Fired as head coach in 1985 after five seasons and a 16-37-2 mark with the Red Raiders, Moore worked for Hallmark Service Corp., a real estate company, in Atlanta.

But attending games and practices at South Carolina, Clemson, Georgia and Tennessee convinced Moore, 48, that he still had the football bug.

"I've probably been thinking about it for some time, because it's always been in my blood," Moore told the Lubbock *Avalanche-Journal* on Wednesday.

"They're good people up here, and the opportunity was here, so I did it," he said about the move to Fayetteville. "I really decided this is what I wanted to do."

Although Moore said his experience as a businessman was financially successful, he wanted something more.

"I wasn't sure I was making much of a difference," he said. "Financially, I was. Financially, I was probably better off than when I was coaching, but I'm not sure I wanted to make a difference financially."

Now he's living off his earnings until he can get a paid coaching position.

Moore compares the start of his second coaching career to when he began as an assistant coach at Corsicana High School 25 years ago. He led the Tigers to a 39-7-1 record in four seasons. Corsicana won the Class 3A state championship in 1963.

"I try to be as enthusiastic as I can," Moore said. "I'm taking notes just like a beginner. I'm learning like a rookie."

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