

NCAA Report

Mobley responds to probationary ruling

(Editor's note: The following is the text of Texas A&M President William Mobley's speech made Friday at a press conference following the release of the NCAA Committee on Infractions report.)



Battalion file photo
William Mobley

The football program at Texas A&M University has been under scrutiny for a number of years, by the media, by the NCAA and by independent investigators retained by the University. A variety of allegations were heard by the NCAA Committee on Infractions at a hearing in Syracuse on August 13, 1988.

This morning, the NCAA released its findings and sanctions.

In reviewing the results of the investigations and the NCAA findings, it is encouraging to note that a number of allegations were found not to be violations and were withdrawn.

The findings focused primarily on issues of recruitment and institutional controls.

We continue to have questions about the facts, interpretations and/or conclusions in several of the findings. We will seek clarification of these over the coming days.

Nevertheless, in the aggregate, there are a number of findings that appear to be valid.

As I have said on numerous occasions over the past six weeks, I consider even one finding of a violation to be a serious matter. We have multiple findings of violations.

This is indeed a serious matter.

Since Mr. Sherrill took over as Texas A&M's athletic director in 1982, he and the University administration have taken significant steps to increase appropriate internal checks and balances, ensure the academic integrity of our athletic program, enhance the fiscal integrity of our athletic program and enhance the positive interactions among our student athletes and the student body at large. He implemented a strong drug testing program and took steps to discourage alumni and friends of the University from inappropriate involvement in recruitment of student athletes.

As pleased as we are with these accomplishments, the results of the investigation indicate that there is more than we can, must and will do. A series of actions is being imple-

mented with the full support and assistance of Athletic Director and Head Football Coach Jackie Sherrill, to ensure total compliance and to minimize any perceptions of non-compliance. Among the specific steps that have been taken are:

1. Assigned to the University's vice president for finance and administration (Robert Smith) primary responsibility for operational and compliance auditing of the athletic program.

2. Created the position of intercollegiate athletic compliance director to report to the vice president for finance and administration. The search to fill this position has been initiated.

3. Directed that external resources be retained to provide an annual review and recommendations on strengthening our comprehensive intercollegiate athletic compliance program. The first such external review will take place this fall.

4. Communicated with the athletic director expressing my grave concern regarding the need to strengthen compliance and compliance monitoring and directed a number of initiatives designed to enhance our compliance and compliance monitoring.

5. Wrote an open letter to former students and friends of the University to discourage any possible inappropriate involvement in the athletic program. A program of periodic communications from the president to external constituencies regarding compliance is being implemented.

6. Communicated directly with several former students regarding

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—Texas A&M President,
William Mobley

their involvement in violation of NCAA rules and regulations and informed them of our intent to dissociate them from the Texas A&M University athletic program.

7. Communicated with University administrators that we intend to fully comply with the letter and spirit of NCAA regulations and that allegations of violations will be fully investigated and reported to the NCAA.

8. Communicated directly with members of the athletic department staff that failure to comply with NCAA and SWC rules and regulations will lead to appropriate disciplinary action.

9. The president will meet regularly with the faculty athletic representative and the Athletic Council. The vice president for finance and administration will become an ex-officio member of the Athletic Council, effective immediately.

10. Communicated with all student athletes that full compliance with NCAA regulations is expected and that all violations will lead to appropriate disciplinary action.

11. Disciplinary proceedings have been initiated against athletic department staff found in violation and/or accountable for compliance. Appropriate reports will be made to the NCAA as prescribed in the NCAA report.

These actions are intended to strengthen our compliance and compliance monitoring and to meet the NCAA requirements and our institution's own high standards. I am committed to full compliance as is the university community at large. We

will not accept arguments such as "others are violating the rules" or that "we don't like the rules." Where we differ with the rules, we will seek constructive change through appropriate channels. We will, however, abide by the rules as they exist at any point in time.

The penalties levied by the NCAA Committee on Infractions are harsh, in particular the loss of possible post-season competition. In all honesty, I had hoped that the fact that the University retained independent investigators to carry out the investigations, the corrective actions we initiated prior to the hearing and testimony at the hearing would demonstrate our commitment to full compliance, and thus warrant less severe sanctions. The Infractions Committee ob-

viously saw the need for relatively more stringent penalties.

Although we received the report only late yesterday (Thursday), I do not believe we will appeal the penalties.

I believe this investigative process has been, and will be, good for our institution. As a former dean of a college of business administration, I recognize the importance of independent fiscal, control and operational audits of complex organizations. As the chief executive officer of a large, complex academic institution, I view the results of this process as a means to further strengthening our organization, controls, policies, operating procedures, and staff and public education in what clearly is a major problematic area to the Uni-

versity, intercollegiate athletics.

Texas A&M University is committed to excellence in all its academic, research, service, athletic and student development programs. Impeccable integrity is an integral part of the definition of excellence. I look forward to the removal of the cloud that has hung over the athletic program for some time, to taking appropriate corrective action and to getting on with the University's pursuit of excellence in all areas, including intercollegiate athletics. Attainment of this goal will take the understanding and full cooperation of the athletic department, faculty, student body, former students, friends of the University and administration. There is no doubt in my mind that this cooperation will be forthcoming.

A&M football players pledge loyalty despite NCAA ruling

By Hal L. Hammons

Sports Editor

Texas A&M football players said Friday the NCAA sanctions would not damage their loyalty to the University or dampen their determination to play hard the rest of the season — despite being ineligible for a bowl game.

Linebacker Dana Batiste said he's not embarrassed about the ruling. "I'm proud to be here," Batiste said. "I have three rings to show for it. I love this place."

"They can take our bowl game away, but they can't stop us from winning. We play to win."

Quarterback Bucky Richardson said he didn't realize the seriousness of the situation.

"I didn't know how serious it was," he said.

"Now that it's out, I feel for the coaches. This has been hanging over their heads for a long time."

Linebacker Basil Jackson said, "The way I was brought up, if a person does something wrong then he

should be punished, but not for things done by others.

"It's a team game. We play as a team, we lose as a team. It's just something we have to deal with."

Several players said the penalties would not hurt the team's attitude during the rest of the season.

"It doesn't hurt at all — it helps," Batiste said.

"It makes us angry. The NCAA has done their job, now it's time to do ours."

"They can't tell us to lay down and let Texas beat us. They can't tell us to lay down and let Rice beat us. They can't stop us from winning on the scoreboard. They can't stop us from winning on the field."

Richardson shared Batiste's optimism.

"I think it's going to make us play better," Richardson said.

The players downplayed their recruiters' not telling them about the investigations.

"That wasn't the determining factor," Richardson said.

"I wasn't told, but that wasn't the important factor."

Running back Darren Lewis said, "I wasn't caring about the investigation. I came to A&M because I wanted to win and play football. The coach that recruited me didn't tell me about the allegations, but I wasn't worried about that. When you're at the top, people want to tear you down."

Correction

In Friday's *Battalion*, a graphic for MSC Political Forum was incorrectly run with a story on Gov. William Clements' speech. The graphic was intended to run with a story on Political Forum, which also ran in Friday's paper. Political Forum is a non-partisan organization and did not sponsor Clements' speech.

Capitalizing on Engineer Opportunities CAREER FAIR

Tuesday, September 13, 1988

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm. Blue-Jean reception. ★

Eat Free BAR-B-Q and show some TEXAS A&M friendliness

Wednesday, September 14, 1988

9:00 am - 12:00 noon, 1:30 pm - 5:00 pm
Student Interactions* 2nd Floor MSC

Thursday, Sept. 15, 1988

★Blue-Jean reception will take place at the Hilton on University Drive.

ENGINEERING CAREER FAIR...

Otherwise known as CEO-Capitalizing on Engineering Opportunities-is an annual event sponsored by the Student Engineers Council and the College of Engineering in conjunction with the Placement Center.

WHEN AND WHERE?

On Tues. evening from 6:00 to 8:00, there will be a blue-jean reception at the Hilton on University Dr. This is a casual reception so leave your resumes at home, bring your blue-jeans and a hearty appetite for the BAR-B-Q being served. Everyone is invited.

WHO CAN GO?

Students of all majors and levels are invited and encouraged to attend. In past Career Fairs, company representatives extended a welcome visit with faculty also.

- Alcoa
- Amerada Hess Corp.
- Amoco Chemical Co.
- Amoco Oil Company
- Arajat
- Arco Oil & Gas
- Arthur Anderson & Co.
- AT&T
- Bechtel, Inc.
- Bell Helicopter
- Camp Dresser & McKee, Inc.
- Central Intelligence Agency
- Chevron Corporation
- Compaq Computer Company
- Conoco, Inc.
- Cooper Industries
- Dow Chemical
- E.I. Du Pont de Nemours & Co.
- Electronic Data Systems
- Exxon
- Frito Lay
- General Dynamics
- Greenhorne & O'Mara, Inc.
- Hewlett Packard
- Houston Lighting & Power
- IBM
- IMSL
- International Paper
- Lockheed Missiles and Space
- LTV Aircraft
- LTV Missiles
- Marathon Petroleum Co.
- Martin Marietta Astronautics
- Mason & Hanger-S. Mason & Co.
- McDonald Douglas
- Mobil
- Nasa +
- Northern Telecom, Inc.
- RNR Inc.
- Schlumberger
- Standard Oil
- Stonhard
- Sun Oil
- Texas Instruments, Inc.
- The Boeing Co.
- U.S. Air Force
- U.S. Navy
- United Parcel Service
- UTC-Pratt & Whitney
- Vista Chemical Company
- Houston, TX
- Vista Chemical Company
- Westlake, La
- Weyerhaeuser Paper Co.
- York International Corporation

*Students will have the opportunity to meet the Company Representatives and talk to them one on one.