

Johnson coach may receive suspension

TORONTO (AP) — Charlie Francis, coach of disgraced Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson, should be suspended until an investigation is completed into the drug scandal that has rocked Canadian sports, the Ontario Track and Field Association said Wednesday.

The association said Francis, coach of the Toronto track club that has become the focus of the scandal, should be "suspended with pay from all track and field related activities pending the outcome of the (Canadian Track and Field Association) inquiry."

Francis, whose lawyer previously released a statement saying his client wouldn't speak publicly before testifying at a federal inquiry, couldn't be reached for comment.

Johnson, world record-holder in the 100-meter dash, was stripped of an Olympic gold medal and a world record after testing positive for steroids. He has said he didn't knowingly take any banned substances.

The Ontario association, which represents about 100 track clubs and 2,000 athletes, called on the CTFA to begin "immediate and independent action" to investigate alleged drug use by its athletes.

"Our position on the use of drugs is looked upon very seriously," provincial association president Rolf Land said during a news conference.

Navy stays quiet on Robinson case

DALLAS (AP) — Secretary of the Navy William Ball was noncommittal Wednesday when asked about a request made on behalf of David Robinson that he be granted an early dismissal from his military duty.

Robinson, a 7-foot center taken by the San Antonio Spurs with the first pick in the 1987 National Basketball Association draft, is on assignment with the Navy at the King's Bay, Ga., Trident submarine training facility.

His naval commitment runs until May 1989.

Lee Fentress, Robinson's Washington-based agent, asked in a letter sent on the player's behalf that Robinson be dismissed early from the commitment.

"He wrote a personal letter to me, and it was a private communication," said Ball, in Dallas to address a joint session of the Dallas Council on World Affairs and the Rotary Club of Dallas.

"I'll respect his request for privacy. I'll respond to him directly."

"It will be very soon."

There was some confusion over who actually sent the letter.

Ball said he had seen Tuesday a letter sent from Robinson, but a Navy official in Washington said he had seen only Fentress' letter, which arrived Friday.

"All I'm aware of is a letter from Fentress," Lt. Ken Ross said from the Navy Office of Information in Washington.

When asked further about who sent the letter, Ball said, "I'm not certain."

"I've seen a letter from (Robinson)." Robinson was unavailable for comment.

A spokesperson in Fentress' office refused comment.

Robinson, an All-American who set 33 records while playing at the Naval Academy, signed an eight-year, \$26 million contract with the Spurs last Nov. 6 with the outside chance that he would be granted an early release.

The Spurs open their season Nov. 5 when they play host to the Los Angeles Lakers.

"The status is that he has an obligation to serve until next May, which was arrived at after a lot of discussion," Ball said.

"If he chose to submit a request, it would come to me for final decision."

Larry Neal, a spokesman for Sen. Phil Gramm, R-Texas, has said the senator would lobby for Robinson's release once the letter reached Ball's office.

Robinson is not the first professional athlete to request special consideration in regard to military service.

Running back Napoleon McCallum, who played football at the Naval Academy and was a fourth-round draft choice of the NFL's Los Angeles Raiders in 1986, was stationed aboard a ship harbored in Long Beach, Calif., and was allowed to play with the Raiders.

The appointment was made by then-Secretary of the Navy John Lehman, but the decision was overturned in April 1987 by James Webb, the man who succeeded him.

In announcing his decision, Webb said special consideration would not be given to those individuals who wanted to play professional sports.

UT prepares for Arkansas

LITTLE ROCK (AP) — When is getting beat 44-9 better than losing 28-13?

Texas Coach David McWilliams says that's the case when the Longhorns are on the short end against Oklahoma, and Arkansas is up next.

"Last year, we were pretty much blown out," McWilliams said Wednesday of the Oklahoma game. "You look at it, it's a little easier to forget. You just say, we didn't do what you have to do to have a chance to win."

"This year, we played much better against them. We just didn't execute. Take nothing away from Oklahoma, they did the things they had to do to beat us. But I think our players lingered a little bit longer on that game this year because they saw the opportunities that we had."

Year after year, Texas plays Arkansas the week after playing Oklahoma.

"We don't have a choice," McWilliams, a former UT player, said. "As a player, as a coach, you have to be ready."

"You can't sit around — even if you beat Oklahoma — you can't sit around and feel good or gloat over beating them," he said. "If you win, you have to forget the Oklahoma game and get ready to play Arkansas; so if you lose, you've got to do that. Nothing has changed."

On Saturday, Texas plays Arkansas in Austin.

The Longhorns are 3-2 after the loss to Oklahoma but 1-0 in the Southwest Conference. Arkansas is 5-0, 2-0 in the league. Texas A&M is also 2-0 in the conference but ineligible to go to the Cotton Bowl.

McWilliams was asked if Saturday's winner has the inside track for the bowl game on Jan. 2 at Dallas.

"We have to improve a lot before we can go to the Cotton Bowl," he said. "We haven't played a complete ball game this year. I think Arkansas is playing real well. I think that statement is more in their favor than it is in ours because we haven't played real consistent this year. Arkansas has already got two ins in the conference and we've only got one so we still have a longer conference season to play than they do."

"But, certainly, whoever wins it will be undefeated in the conference and, I would hope, would be one of the tougher teams in the conference," he said.

McWilliams also pooh-poohed the idea that the Longhorns look at the Razorbacks as just another SWC opponent while Arkansas views Texas as THE game.

"It's been the game for Texas for years and years, too," he said. "Forever, it's had a bearing on the Southwest Conference standings and who goes to the Cotton Bowl."

DB took cocaine just before death

SUWANEE, Ga. (AP) — Falcons defensive back David Croudpip ingested a fatal dose of cocaine in one dose just hours before his death, according to a Georgia Crime Lab report released Wednesday.

The report, released to the office of Dr. Joseph L. Burton, medical examiner of several metropolitan Atlanta counties, said Croudpip's death Monday was definitely caused by an overdose of cocaine.

Dean Browning, an assistant medical examiner, said the quantity found indicated the drug had been taken in one dose, and not over a period of time.

Croudpip died early Monday after he was taken to a suburban Atlanta hospital

following seizures at his home. He was 29.

Earlier this week, Burton said lab tests indicated cocaine was in Croudpip's body. The results released Wednesday added that his body had begun processing the drug, although a large amount remained in his stomach.

Holly Croudpip, the wife of the football player, told investigators after Sunday's 33-0 loss to the Los Angeles Rams, that she, their daughter Amy, father-in-law James Croudep (who spells his last name differently) and her husband had dined at a restaurant near their Gwinnett County apartment.

"This was the first time he had seen his father since he was a small child," said Gwinnett County investigator B.J. Tkacik, who is in charge of the investigation. "They spent some time getting to know each other. He was very excited about his dad."

After the couple returned to their apartment and put Amy to bed, Holly Croudpip said they began watching television, police Lt. John Latty said.

Holly Croudpip said her husband went into the kitchen, "she didn't know how many times," and fixed himself a drink laced with cocaine, according to the investigators.

Franklin

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SWC game and most yards total offense (222 yards, 526 on the ground). Franklin merely kicked five of five field goals, tying the NCAA record and setting a new SWC standard.

After his long field goal staked A&M to a 3-0 halftime lead over SMU at the Cotton Bowl, the Aggies exploded in the second half, winning 36-0.

In Little Rock Steve Little got the pointers on the board first with a field goal, but A&M came back with 24 unanswered points, winning 31-10.

Rounding out the four-week streak, the Aggies mangled TCU 59-10 at Kyle Field. On a wet Thanksgiving Night in Austin, A&M won for only the second time at Memorial Stadium 27-3.

A&M went to the Sun Bowl, and Franklin put an exclamation point on his glorious year by kicking three field goals, the final one a bowl-record 62 yards.

"Franklin is a comfort to have on your team," Walker said. "All we have to do is move the ball to our 45 yard line to get points on the board."

A&M played Florida in the Sun Bowl, defeating the Gators 37-14. Franklin was named offensive player of the game, inasmuch as his kicking had allowed A&M to overcome a slow offensive performance to lead 16-0 at the end of the first half.

After another fine season in 1977, Franklin broke the NCAA record for most field goals in a career with his 54th, which came in the dying moments of A&M's 20-17 win over SMU.

It was the only time in his Aggie career that Franklin faced such a situation with the game on the line, and he came through even though SMU Coach Tom Meyer called a timeout prior to the attempt.

Along with player-of-the-game quarterback Mike Mosely, Franklin gave new A&M Coach Tom Wilson his second

straight win after taking the helm when Bellard resigned.

"It's the happiest moment I've ever had," Franklin said. "Not setting the record, but winning the game. Not since high school have I had the chance to kick the winning field goal."

Franklin was drafted by the Philadelphia Eagles of the National Football League and played in the 1981 Super Bowl when the Eagles lost to the Oakland Raiders.

Traded to the New England Patriots, he played in another Super Bowl, this time in 1985 when the Chicago Bears demolished the Patriots 45-10.

But he will always be remembered for those two long field goals because afterwards Teaff started a campaign to get the rules changed for missed field goals.

He wanted the ball returned to the line of scrimmage after a miss, not the 20 yard line that was currently the rule.

And the rule was changed starting in 1978 and is the same today.

Heisman hype

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season hype, but we'll never know. Sanders has done greater damage in every offensive category and has done it against better competition.

OSU has beaten A&M, Tulsa, Miami (Ohio) and Colorado. Granted, it's not a lot of heavyweights. Neither is New Mexico, North Texas, Rice and Oklahoma. Oklahoma is the only good team Texas has played and the Sooners held Metcalf in check. A 29-yard run on a fake halfback pass marked the only time he created excitement against Oklahoma.

As for Lewis, A&M's 0-3 start makes a virtually impossible for him to garner any support for the award this year. Besides, sophomores are usually excluded

from major support because of older players who have had excellent careers.

The sophomore factor is a disadvantage for Sanders as well. However, his performance thus far has been so impressive that a great game against Nebraska would make it extremely difficult for anyone to deny that he is one of the best players in college football.

Lewis has just completed the best three-game stretch of any running back in the Southwest conference since Texas' Earl Campbell for 555 yards in the final three games of the 1977 season. By the way, Campbell won the Heisman that year.

Lewis does all his work from the running back position and doesn't get as many chances to handle the as Sanders. It would be interesting to see Lewis re-

turning punts and carrying those skinny little receiver types down the field for about 20 yards.

Sherrill says Lewis still has not recovered from injuries to his toe and shoulder suffered in the game against Nebraska. After seeing him carry 40 times for 201 yards against Houston while only being "90 percent" makes me wonder what he could do when completely healthy.

Lewis' best days are still ahead of him and he should be a solid contender for the award in 1988 and '89.

How much media hype and attention he is give prior to the next two seasons will be big factors in his chances.

The great thing about it is that, regardless of how much publicity he receives, the final determinant will be his performance on the field.



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