

Recruiting war is declared

A&M starts slow; Tech, Texas off and running

Associated Press

Basketball coaches at Texas A&M haven't announced any signings of recruits, but they have indicated they will soon be trying to catch up to the quick start of some of the other Southwest Conference schools.

Texas Tech basketball coach Gerald Myers announced Wednesday the signings of three players, including two guards he said will fill one of the Red Raiders' biggest recruiting needs.

The Red Raiders, on the first day of the NCAA early signing period, signed Barron Brown, a 6-3 guard from Lancaster; Leslie Wallace, a 6-1 guard from Lubbock; and Brad Dale, a 6-7 forward from Amarillo.

"Signing good, young guards was one of our top recruiting needs, and we feel good about both of these players," Myers said.

Other SWC programs also concentrated their signing efforts in Texas. High school or junior college players who don't commit in the early signing period, which extends through next Wednesday, must wait until April 13.

Finding guard prospects was one of Tech's priorities, Myers said, because two of the top three guards on this season's roster are seniors.

Wallace, listed among the country's top 100 recruits by Basketball Times magazine, averaged 23 points, 7 rebounds and 3 assists as a junior. Brown averaged 16 points for a Lancaster team that advanced to the Class 4A state semifinals.

Dale averaged 15.6 points and 7.9 rebounds at Amarillo High, traditionally among the state's top programs. "He's a good athlete and plays for an outstanding high school coach and program," Myers said. "That is one of the reasons we recruited him."

First-year Texas coach Tom Penders, focusing on inside players, signed 6-8 Gerald Houston of Atlanta (Ga.) Douglas and 6-9 Cory Lockridge of Abilene.

Houston, a top 100 recruit according to a UT athletic department spokesman, averaged 16 points and 6 rebounds as a junior. Lockridge averaged 12 points and 11 rebounds.

Rice coach Scott Thompson signed

four players he says will help the Owls in their attempt to develop a nationally respected program.

The Owls signed Marvin Moore, a 5-11 guard from Killeen; Scott Tynes, a 6-6 forward from Klein Forest in suburban Houston; Brent Scott, a 6-9 center from Lansing, Mich.; and Dajuan Eubanks, a 6-8 forward from Dallas Kimball.

"What we have done is put two classes together of kids who will be cohesive," Thompson said. "We plugged the holes that we needed to plug, with youngsters who can help us. They are capable of being a very good Southwest Conference recruiting class. It's another step towards Rice basketball making the big move to being a top-notch program."

Moore and Tynes, named the most valuable players in their respective districts last season, have been recognized as among the top 20 players in Texas by the Texas High School Basketball Scouting Service. Moore averaged 23 points and 7 rebounds as a junior; Tynes averaged 22 points and 7 rebounds.

Scott averaged 17 points and 13 re-

bounds, and Eubanks averaged 10 points and 8 rebounds.

"I think that after this season, people are going to look at each one of these kids and say, 'Wow, how did Rice steal those kids?'" Thompson said.

First-year Southern Methodist coach John Shumate signed his first prospect of the fall, Greg Kinzer, a 6-10, 245-pound center from Richardson Berkner.

"Greg will be one of the keys to our future," Shumate said. "He has the size, strength and shooting ability to be a legitimate front-line player in college."

Texas Christian coach Moe Iba announced the signings of Bart Beasley, a 6-8 center from Eustace, and Ray Kelly, a 5-10 point guard from San Francisco.

Beasley averaged 34.3 points and 17 rebounds and was a Class 2A first-team all-state selection last season. His father, John Beasley, starred at Texas A&M in the mid-1960s.

Kelly averaged 10 points and 9 assists in leading Riordan High to the city's West Catholic League title and a runner-up finish in the Central Coast Section.

AL Cy Young goes to Viola

NEW YORK (AP)—Frank Viola, the Minnesota Twins left-hander who led the major leagues in victories in compiling a 24-7 record, was named the winner of the 1988 American League Cy Young Award on Wednesday.

Viola received 27 of a possible 28 first-place votes and 138 of a possible 140 points from the Baseball Writers' Association of America.

Dennis Eckersley of the Oakland Athletics got the other first-place vote and was second with 52 points.

Mark Gubicza of the Kansas City Royals was third with 26 points, Dave Stewart of Oakland had 16, Bruce Hurst of the Boston Red Sox had 12 and teammate Roger Clemens, Cy Young winner in 1986 and 1987, had eight.

"I didn't know what to expect," Viola said from his Orlando, Fla., home.

"I didn't want to worry about it," he said. "You don't want to get your hopes too high so that they get shot down."

Viola, the first Twins player to win since Jim Perry in 1970, said there was no reason to be upset that he wasn't a unanimous pick.

"Twenty-seven out of 28, that's not bad, is it?" he said.

Viola, most valuable player of the 1987 World Series, had a 2.64 earned-run average this season and 193 strikeouts, ranking third in the AL in each department.

"It took me five-plus years to find this kind of consistency. This year is just a carryover from last year," Viola said just before the season ended.

"It's been a dream," Viola said. "Any pitcher who tells you he doesn't dream of winning 20 games or starting the All-Star Game or winning the Cy Young is a flat-out liar."

"I know that after the season ends, it will have been a pretty good year to look back on."

Viola, 15-2 at the break, was the winning pitcher for the American League in the All-Star Game.

His 20th victory of the season came on Aug. 30 against Texas.

It also was the 100th victory of his career.

"Actually the goal of winning was more important to me," he said. "It means you go out every fourth day, be consistent and healthy."

"I just hope the next 100 are easier than the first 100."

Viola won 19 consecutive games the Metrodome over 25 starts between May 22, 1987, and late 27. And he won two more starts during the 1987 World Series.

Twins Manager Tom Kelly said Viola's performance created expectations that were impossible to fulfill.

"He doesn't have an 'S' on his shirt," Kelly said. "A lot of people around here think he's Superman. He's strong as an ox every three or four games. There's just no way."

Although he has settled into Minnesota life, Viola is a native New Yorker and at one time wanted to play in his hometown.

"I'd be so close to home and have a chance to make so much money in commercials," he said. "I was MVP of the World Series in Minnesota last year and, except for the World, I haven't endorsed anything."

Now he's not so sure he wants to go home.

"The more I've learned about baseball organizations, the more I realized that it would be hard to come home again," Viola said.

"We may not get the big commercial money here in Minnesota, but do get some privacy and some peace of mind."

He's so well-liked in Minnesota that when a poll was held as to whom the Vikings should start at quarterback, Viola got five votes.

"He has a better arm than I do," a respondent said, referring to Tommy Kramer and Wade Wilson. "And he can't lose in the Dome."

Viola earned a \$100,000 bonus winning the Cy Young award, plus a \$1.6 million income this year.

He made \$150,000 in performance bonuses during the season in addition to his \$1.35 million salary.

He gets a \$1.55 million base salary next year.

Aguirre key for Mavs to take title

DALLAS (AP)—The Dallas Mavericks have eight months to find the heart and discipline it takes to be champions.

They started this season like they left off last year, smothered by the pressure of a close game against the Los Angeles Lakers.

Make no mistake about the 116-113 loss to the Lakers in an NBA opener on Nov. 4. The Lakers delivered a message to Dallas.

"I hate to say it again," said Dallas' Rolando Blackman, "but I do hope we can learn from it."

Dallas said the same thing when it fell to the Lakers in Game 7 of the Western Conference playoffs.

What's the key for the Mavericks to learn to play on the Lakers' level? You might start with moody Mark Aguirre. Will Aguirre, soon to become another NBA million-dollar man, finally start showing up in the final two minutes of big games?

If he doesn't, you can kiss the Mavs championship hopes goodbye again in 1988-89.

Off-guard Rolando Blackman is a great streak shooter and point guard Derek Harper has his moments, such as beating Houston last week with a last-second shot.

Roy Tarpley and James Donaldson aren't good enough shooters to dominate a game in the closing minutes.

Small forward Aguirre has to be the Mavs' leader but has yet to display the capabilities of being one.

In case Dallas had forgotten its lesson, the Lakers gave them another one on opening night.

Dallas and Aguirre played great until it counted. Leading by six points with 2:34 to play, Los Angeles' Magic Johnson and James Worthy took charge while the Mavs stood around wondering what happened.

The Mavs pressed and panicked. Aguirre had a forced air ball and missed another shot. Sam Perkins let Worthy steal an inbounds pass.

Dallas found out again why it still isn't in the Lakers' class.

Let's tune in to Johnson about prime-time play: "You can't worry about how you've been shooting or how long it's been since you had a shot. You have to worry about how you're going to shoot when you shoot the big one. That comes in the last two minutes. We don't miss too many of those."

Are you listening, Mark? Those are the words from your good buddy, Magic, the best man at your wedding.

Aguirre yearns to have a world championship ring just like his friend, Magic. And the same respect from the rest of the NBA.

But until Aguirre steels himself to take charge of the Mavericks' offense when it counts, the only way he'll get a ring will be as a gift from Johnson.

Let's hear from Dallas center James Donaldson about the Lakers' pressure-proof play.

"We had bad shot selection at the end," he said, candidly. "We didn't even listen to our coach (John MacLeod) who was trying to get us to call a time out. You can't beat a quality team like the Lakers in a close game doing things like that."

Owner Donald Carter questioned the Mavs' "killer instinct" last year.

He didn't say much after Dallas stretched the Lakers to seven games in the conference finals.

However, he's still worried about it. "We made the Lakers uncomfortable but they weren't willing to accept defeat under any conditions," Carter said. "We need to get that way."

Dallas is shooting for the world title but the Mavs still don't seem to have all the ammunition they need.

The big bang in the final two minutes is still missing.



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