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Sale of Rangers to be finalized soon

FORT WORTH (AP) — Several roadblocks have slowed final details of the Texas Rangers sale to a group of investors headed by President Bush's oldest son, but the deal should be closed before major league owners meet March 10, according to a published report.

Potential legal problems, overlooked protocol and questions about financing have posed some roadblocks for the proposed sale of majority owner Eddie Chiles' interest in the team to a group headed by George W. Bush and Edward "Rusty" Rose, the Fort Worth Star-Telegram reported.

But the issues are expected to be settled by the time major league owners meet March 10 in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., the newspaper reported.

A baseball committee has recommended that the owners reject a previous effort by chief minority owner Edward L. Gaylord to purchase Chiles' 58 percent majority interest in the American League franchise.

The owners also are expected to approve the Bush-Rose contract, which was formed at the request of Baseball Commissioner Peter Ueberroth.

Gaylord, who already owns 33 percent of the club, has indicated he might file suit against baseball to stop the sale, or at least use his right of first refusal to delay it like he did last year when a group from St. Petersburg, Fla., tried to buy the club.

At one point, the newspaper reported, Chiles closed the Rangers' books to the Bush group, but later allowed the group to examine them.

Chiles reportedly was unhappy because Bush had not met or talked with him after the announcement by Ueberroth that the Bush-Rose group had been preapproved as the team's buyer.

"As far as I know (the sale) is on track," Chiles said. "I'm very happy and comfortable, and everything's fine. I don't have a bone to pick with anybody."

Girls' UIL state hoops tournament nears finals

AUSTIN (AP) — Cinetra Henderson of Duncanville and Trenia Tillis of Grapeland — two of the top college prospects in Texas high school basketball — will play this weekend at the girls' 38th annual state basketball tournament.

The tournament starts today, with championship games in five divisions scheduled for Saturday.

Henderson scored 60 points and snared 28 rebounds in leading Duncanville to a state Class 5A title a year ago, including a 31-point performance in the championship game.

The Pantherettes have won 58 consecutive games and are 37-0 this season. The other 5A teams are LaPorte, Lewisville and Victoria.

Lewisville and LaPorte — Duncanville's semifinal opponent Friday — are making their first trips to the tournament.

Victoria, like Duncanville, is making its 12th appearance.

"She's tough," LaPorte Coach Sharon Higgins said of Henderson. "I watched her in the finals last year, and she does what she wants to play inside. She's good enough to be play-

ing with many, many college teams right now."

The 6-foot-4 Henderson is averaging 20 points and seven rebounds a game, and is being considered by all the top women's schools in the country.

No one seems to know what school she likes as she refuses to talk to recruiters or reporters until after the season.

Tillis, a 6-footer who averages 20 points a game, and the 32-4 Swiftettes will have a huge obstacle in trying to prevent Abernathy from winning its sixth 2A title.

Abernathy, 25-9, plays Marlin 32-5, in its semifinal match, while Grapeland takes on China Spring 28-6.

In 4A, Levelland will search for a fourth consecutive title and fifth since 1983. The Lobosettes, 32-1, have given up more than 40 points only twice this season.

Nazareth, 31-2, is seeking its 10th state championship in the past 12 years. The Swiftettes have a 27-game winning streak, and will be tested in the semifinals by Moulton.

Friend of Jones sees overhaul for Pokes

DENISON (AP) — Bobby Roper, an all-Southwest Conference performer for Arkansas when it went undefeated and won the national football championship in 1964, predicts a virtual complete overhaul of the Dallas Cowboys now that a former teammate has bought the team and hired another former teammate as head coach.

A former college coach himself (Texas A&M, Oregon State, Tennessee, Pittsburgh, Iowa State, Virginia, Citadel and Alabama), Roper is excited about Jerry Jones' purchase of the Cowboys and Jimmy Johnson's appointment as head coach.

"Both Jerry and Jimmy were always full of life in college," said Roper. "Underneath they both had a very serious side. Jerry was always trying to make a buck, selling a car, or insurance. Jimmy was a very serious student, a psychology major and an excellent bridge player."

College football players are known for being ambitious and University of Arkansas players in the mid-1960s were no exception, Roper said.

Fred Marshall was an all-SWC quarterback for the Razorbacks in 1964. Today Marshall is a Wall Street broker. Marshall was the leader of the pack during those glory days for the Pokers, whose contingent included — besides Roper, Jones and Johnson — such standouts as Bobby Burnett, Glen Ray Hines, Loyd Phillips and cur-

rent Arkansas coach Ken Hatfield.

"Coach (Frank) Broyles recruited talent, and he coached that talent pretty good, too," Roper said.

"We had a reunion recently and I was really surprised how successful most of the guys have been, since some of us were simply worried about graduating."

Roper now resides in Denison and owns car dealerships in Ardmore, Okla., and San Antonio.

In addition to a new coaching staff, Roper sees "almost a 100 percent turnover in the Cowboys' roster during the next two years."

Herschel Walker's job is obviously safe, and Danny Noonan will be around for several seasons to come, Roper claims. However, Randy White and Doug Cosbie are history,

he says.

Further, Roper is not convinced UCLA quarterback Troy Aikman will be the Cowboys' top draft pick either, despite Jones' assurance that he will.

"I've always liked the Cowboys, but then most coaches like the Cowboys because of Gil Brandt," said Roper. "But I don't like the way the Cowboys have been playing. They were a lazy football team. The secondary and the linebackers will not be around long."

Roper said he has no inside information concerning his predictions. His views, he said, are based on his experience as a coach and the fact he was a former teammate of Jones and Johnson.

"Jerry and Jimmy will give the

Cowboys a rejuvenation. If Jimmy can't get the job done, Jerry will find someone else."

Jones' handling of Tom Landry firing as head coach did not please Roper, he said.

"I hated to see the way Landry situation was handled," said Roper.

"Even though I was one of the ones who had said Landry should have stepped down earlier, I think that situation could have been handled better. It's my understanding Jones and Bright shook hands Thursday. That's when they should have told Landry and given him a chance to resign."

Others will follow Landry, and Roper is predicting Tex Schramm could be the first.

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