

High school recruiting camp planned by Robert Newhouse

FORT WORTH (AP) — A series of high school recruiting camps showcasing 1,000 Texas athletes to an audience of national college coaches could become a reality this December.

Collegiate Camp '89, which is being developed by former Dallas Cowboy Robert Newhouse and Mid-Cities businessman Jim Gipson, would call for four sessions at the Cotton Bowl on four Saturdays in December and January.

Each camp would test 250 of the state's best seniors for speed, strength and agility and would invite the nation's college coaches to view the tests.

"We're really just starting to bear down on the details right now; everything we've done so far has just been getting the idea out and seeing if it can get done," Newhouse said.

He said the camp has received tentative agreement from the National Collegiate Athletic Association, the National Association for Intercollegiate Athletics, the National Junior College Athletic Association and the University Interscholastic League.

"Everybody is kind of holding hands right now to see if we can pull this thing together and help a few kids," he said.

Newhouse said the main reasons for the camp are to help acquire college scholarships for athletes who normally might be overlooked and to give all Texas recruits some valuable information before national signing day (the second Wednesday in February).

Those who have seen the plan say it could alter the future of college recruiting.

"I think it could have an effect on recruiting for all schools, big and small," said Rick Evrard, director of legislative services for the NCAA. "It's possible that it could have quite an impact in the future."

Gipson said the original plan was to start small and only offer the camp to coaches in a five-state area, eventually spreading to regional camps. But NCAA rules dictate camps of this type must be open to all coaches in all divisions across the country.

"We've gone big time in a hurry, and that's something we're working on right now," Gipson said. "We really don't know if we'll have 500 coaches or 5,000, and that's just one of the things we have to think about."

The rough outline of the camp is set, and time has already been reserved at the Cotton Bowl. Two-hundred fifty athletes will be invited to each camp after all applications submitted by high school coaches, faculty members and parents of the players have been screened.

Offensive and defensive linemen are scheduled to attend camp Dec. 16, and quarterbacks, running backs and receivers would work out Dec. 23. Defensive backs, kickers and punters will be invited Jan. 6, and Jan. 13 will be a makeup day for anyone who wasn't scheduled for the three earlier camps.

That scheduling has drawn some criticism from major-college coaches because it comes at one of the busiest times of the season.

"All of us are essentially on the same schedule, and that's a very hectic time," Texas A&M coach R.C. Slocum said. "You've got the bowls in there, the national college coaches convention in there and the start of our recruiting Jan. 15. If you had it all on one weekend it might work out, but there's really no time for all four weekends."

Gipson and Newhouse both said the dates were sandwiched in at the only possible time — after the comple-

tion of the high school football season (because of NCAA and UIL requirements) and before national signing day.

"When we first came up with the idea, we really weren't looking for the big schools," Gipson said. "We were thinking more about the Howard Paynes and the Navarro junior colleges, and there are plenty of those schools around who could use this information."

At the camps, tests will be given in the 20- and 40-yard dashes, the short shuttle, the vertical jump, the long shuttle and in various strength areas. In addition, accurate information will be collected on the athletes' heights and weights, and players will be allowed to match up in one-on-one, non-contact drills.

The information will be tabulated by computers and provided, for a fee, to coaches who attend the camp. Computer printouts would also be available to coaches not at the camps.

The fee charged to the coaches will be the major force in underwriting the event, but other forms of money-raising have been studied. Major sponsors, including Pepsi Co. and American Airlines, have offered money, and players will be charged \$25 to attend.

"One of the biggest concerns the superintendent's committee has with any (sponsor) is that they will take advantage of the kids," said Gina Mazzolini of the UIL, which provides one of the biggest objections to the project.

"The package that Robert and Mr. Gipson has presented appears very sound because it hardly charges the student anything. What we're worried about now is if we make an exception for them, then we'll have to make them for all entrepreneurs."

One of the rules governing high school athletics in Texas states any tryouts for scholarships have to be given on the campus of the institution providing the scholarship money. As that reads, all athletes trying out at Collegiate Camp '89 would then become ineligible for the remainder of their high school careers — including seasons for basketball, baseball, track and tennis.

Mazzolini said the UIL would consider changing that rule at its next meeting in October, but added, "I really have no feeling as to which way they'll go."

Gipson said the rule change is needed for the camps to provide full opportunity to small-school athletes who often participate in more than one sport but said, "We'll press on even if (the ineligibility) does occur."

Newhouse, who said one of the reasons he got the idea for the camp is he was almost missed by recruiters when he played at tiny Hallsville High School in East Texas, has added a big plus with his National Football League ties.

The 12-year Cowboys veteran has invited a series of current and former pros to speak to the athletes about survival during the intense recruiting season and also how to survive life as a college or pro athlete.

"If we can get a few kids into school who wouldn't have otherwise gone, that'll be great," he said. "If we can get the message to all the kids that they need to stay in school and stay away from drugs, then it will be all the more worthwhile."

Graf, Sabatini make semifinals

NEW YORK (AP) — Steffi Graf and Gabriela Sabatini, last year's finalists, took divergent routes into the U.S. Open semifinals on Wednesday.

Graf, the top seed and defending champion, needed only 44 minutes to rout No. 8 Helena Sukova, 6-1, 6-1. It was the 11th straight victory over Sukova for Graf, winner of six of the last seven Grand Slam events.

Sabatini, seeded third, and Arantxa Sanchez Vicario went more than 44 minutes in the first set, alone. The baseliners played extended points throughout their 2-hour, 17-minute match, won by Sabatini 3-6, 6-4, 6-1.

Graf and Sabatini, who are doubles partners and have reached the semifinals here, will meet in Friday's singles semis. No. 2 Martina Navratilova and her conqueror in last year's Open, No. 5 Zina Garrison, are in the other semifinal. Garrison ended Chris Evert's Grand Slam career on Tuesday.

For Graf, it was business as usual. The West German star has lost only 14 games in five matches and she never allowed Sukova to get into their match.

"I am a machine, you know," she joked. "I tried to do my best. If this is the outcome against Helena Sukova, 6-1, 6-1, then I should do all right."

"I'm happy about the way that I was playing. That's more important than any score or time."

Ominously, Graf said she is stronger now, but still approaching her peak.

"At the beginning of last year, I had easier matches, also," the 1988 Grand Slam champion said. "This year, I had a few matches that weren't 100 percent, so I think I should be ready for the rounds coming up. This year, I think that I'm in better shape and better in form at the right time."

Sukova said she was looking for perfection, which was the wrong approach.

"I really didn't have to play the perfect shot, as I tried to do all of the time," she said. "It puts so much pressure on your serve to do that."

"You know, it doesn't have to be on the line, it can be a meter from the line, and I was certainly pushing it too much, to be a perfect shot, and it didn't work."

Sabatini had to work hard against Sanchez, the 17-year-old French Open champion from Spain. Sabatini's serve was broken four times in the first set — she also broke Sanchez twice in the sloppy set.

"I think I started playing a little slow," said Sabatini, who lost to Sanchez in their last meeting, at the Ca-

nadian Open in August. "I was not moving my legs very much. I knew I had to keep in the match with a better forehand, and attack a little more."

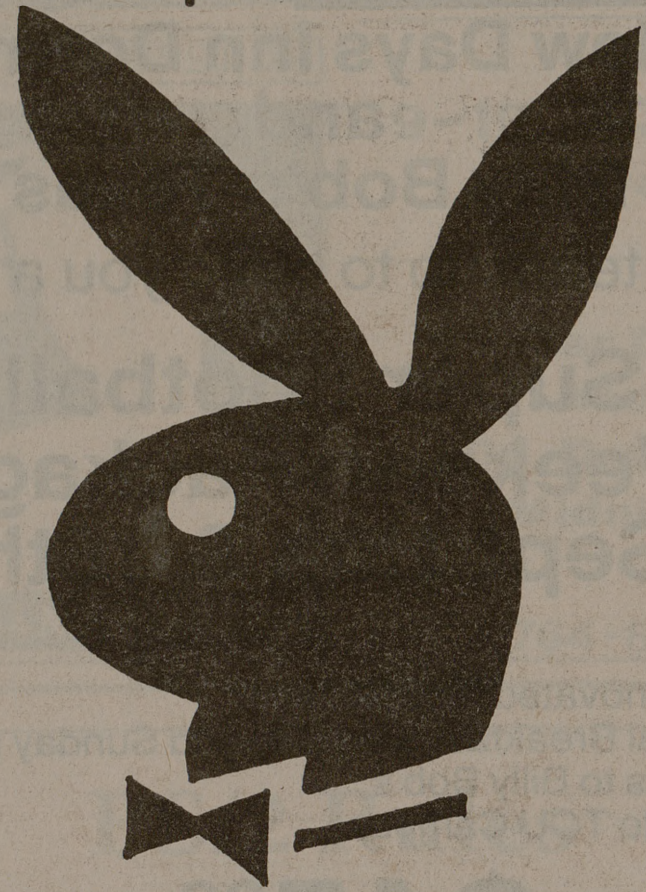
In the middle set, the struggling Sabatini, of Argentina, wasn't much better. But her opponent's level of play slipped significantly.



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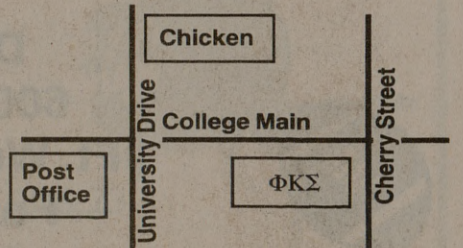


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