

# Rockets' center seeing highs, lows CFA criticizes Irish for 'greed' of deal

MIAMI (AP) — The big man is the center of attention again in the NBA.

Call him Patrick Akeem Robinson.

He blocks a shot on the defensive end.

He runs the length of the floor, outrunning players a foot shorter.

He leaps for the return pass, ducking his head to avoid the rim, then turns and reverse-slams as bodies scatter.

The perfect center. In his component parts, he's Patrick Ewing, Akeem Olajuwon and David Robinson, the three young centers who will join 36-year-old Robert Parish at Sunday's NBA All-Star Game.

The decade of the '80s featured Julius Erving, Larry Bird, Magic Johnson and Michael Jordan, and while all but Erving are still around, pleasing crowds and winning games, the '90s might belong to the three big guys.

Patrick's the strongest and Akeem is a little ahead if you take strength and quickness together."

Asked which center he would want if he was starting a franchise, Seikaly said, "I'd flip a coin and close my eyes."

The three centers have the ability

to overwhelm an NBA game with their presence.

Olajuwon: 32 points, 24 rebounds, 10 blocks against Orlando on Dec. 17; 24 points, 21 rebounds, 12 blocks against Utah on Nov. 11.

Ewing: 44 points, 24 rebounds at Golden State on Nov. 29; 44 points,

22 rebounds, 7 blocks against the Los Angeles Clippers on Jan. 7.

Robinson: 27 points, 15 rebounds, 11 blocks Feb. 2 at Charlotte; 33 points, 21 rebounds, 5 blocks the following night against Chicago.

Robinson, now a 7-footer, was only 6-foot-7 coming out of high school in Manassas, Va. Influenced by his petty officer father, he went to the Naval Academy and grew to his present size while retaining his small-forward quickness.

After two years of relative inactivity on active duty in the Navy, he's already reached admiral status in the NBA. His coach, Larry Brown, is convinced that Robinson's modest beginnings and lack of experience translates to awesome potential for improvement.

"If David puts in the time like Magic and Bird, he'll be the best," Brown said.

Brown left Kansas after winning the national championship with a team led by the 1988 No. 1 draft choice in order to coach a team with the 1987 No. 1, Robinson.

"I wouldn't have come to San Antonio had David not been in their plans," Brown said. "The whole reason for coming to the Spurs was David. He has a chance to be as good as anybody."

NEW YORK (AP) — The College Football Association, trying to plug a huge hole in its television package

left by the defection of Notre Dame, rallied its members Wednesday as schools denounced the greed of the Fighting Irish.

The CFA, formed in 1977 to negotiate TV rights separate from the NCAA, messaged its 64 members not to follow Notre Dame's lead. At the same time, CFA executive director Chuck Neinas set up a conference call Wednesday afternoon, presumably for the same purpose.

"The CFA is re-negotiating with ABC and ESPN," Arkansas athletic director Frank Broyles said. "We'll see what the money is without Notre Dame."

On Monday, NBC-TV and Notre Dame announced that they had signed a five-year, \$30 million deal to televise six home games a year beginning in 1991, removing the Fighting Irish from the CFA's TV package.

The CFA and ABC agreed to a five-year, \$210 million deal last January, and ESPN has a five-year, \$110 million contract with the CFA that begins in 1991.

Steve Bornstein, ESPN executive vice president and the No. 2 man at the cable network, said he still was hopeful Notre Dame would be included in the CFA package.

"Hopeful, but I'm not sure reasonable to expect," Bornstein said.

"We're talking to every right now, but our primary negotiations have been with the CFA. We negotiated a deal last fall that included all 64 members of the league, frankly, we think we have a deal with all 64 teams."

Bornstein said the network not ruled out legal action against CFA, Notre Dame or NBC. "I'm not giving up any of our options," said, "and that's one of the things we're exploring."

"They said they were doing their fans and alumni," Rudy Ibañez, athletic director at CFA-member Houston, said, "but I don't think there was a real big problem with Notre Dame on TV."

"I call it greed. Certainly, it's an option, but it hurts the effectiveness of the CFA when people go walking."

Eleven of Notre Dame's 12 regular-season games were televised nationally last season for an estimated \$4 million. They'll make \$6 million a year from NBC, or \$1 million more if they could make from road games.

"The bottom line is money, and it boils down to one word: greed," Colorado State athletic director Jaynes said.

## Akeem may consider trade

HOUSTON (AP) — Houston center Akeem Olajuwon's thoughts about asking for a trade if the team doesn't improve have not been a distraction to the team, Rockets coach Don Chaney said Wednesday.

Olajuwon told The Houston Post he may never reach his full potential with the Rockets and has considered asking for a trade if management doesn't upgrade

its playing personnel.

"I'm not concerned with Akeem's attitude at all," Chaney said. "He comes to play every night and I like what he's doing."

"A person's personal thoughts are their personal thoughts. If it bothers the team in practice or performance, I would address it. But these guys came to play today. They are no different from three games ago."

## Former UT player keeping quiet

AUSTIN (AP) — A former University of Texas football player, whose name police say was found on betting sheets and was reported to UT athletic officials last year, won't comment on the incident, his lawyer says.

"He is not going to make any statement," said lawyer Michael Orsak, representing former Longhorn center Tal Elliott.

"There will be no comment. Not at all. Not any tonight or tomorrow, or ever. He has nothing more to say about anything and will say nothing," Orsak told The Daily Texan.

Elliott's name surfaced this week in the wake of allegations in the Austin American-Statesman that as

many as 20 UT football players may have bet on college and pro games.

Gambling on college games is considered a serious violation of National Collegiate Athletic Association rules. The school is not liable to an NCAA penalty unless it is determined that school officials knew of the betting and didn't report it.

Meanwhile, the American-Statesman reported Wednesday that although vice police told UT coach David McWilliams in November that a number of his players were suspected of gambling, university officials investigated only Elliott.

UT officials said they investigated only Elliott, who has been identified by several team members as the foot-

ball team's bookie, because they had no evidence implicating other athletes, the newspaper reported.

Elliott's name appeared frequently on betting slips confiscated last fall during the arrest of three Austin men on gambling charges, police said. Elliott wasn't charged.

"I told Coach McWilliams I doubted very seriously that Tal was making \$200 and \$225 bets on his own with just his own money," said Senior Sgt. Byron "Bubba" Cates.

"Tal was the only one dumb enough to put his name on the (betting) lists. I told them I was sure the players were putting up money through Tal. They said, 'We'll definitely look into it,'" Cates said.

UT officials told the American-Statesman that they didn't recall being told by police that athletes other than Elliott could be involved in betting.

School officials said their investigation in November was confined solely to Elliott, a walk-on deep snapper on the UT football team who quit the team for "personal reasons" in early November.

Elliott placed as much as \$225 in his total weekly bets and bet on Southwest Conference football games, said Lt. Jerry Slatton, vice section commander of the Austin Police Department Organized Crime Division. Slatton said the police had no evidence of Elliott betting on University of Texas games.

Worley said he remembered the meeting with Cates but does not recall the specific conversation. McWilliams, who was out of town recruiting, was unavailable for comment.

## Husband: good caddies hard to find

HONOLULU, Hawaii (AP) — Long-term relationships between golfers and caddies are rare on the PGA Tour.

Caddies who make the tour constantly grouse about being cut loose. Some golfers fire more often than others.

Brian Tennyson's wife, Jeanne, used to caddy for her husband. Until, he fired her.

She's still Mrs. Tennyson and is with her husband this week at the Hawaiian Open.

The firing took place during the 1987 U.S. Open, Brian's rookie year on the PGA Tour. He laughed when he told the story.

"On Friday, I was grinding away to make the cut. On about the 16th, I needed to par in to make it. I bogeyed the hole and I hit a bad tee shot on the 17th.

"She's glaring at me. She says, 'you're choking;

you're choking.' So I fired her.

"It was just a case of being too close, of her knowing what's going on in my mind and me knowing what's going on in hers," Tennyson said.

Jeanne also occasionally caddied for Tennyson in the those struggling years before he qualified for the PGA Tour. He made three unsuccessful tries at the qualifying school before gaining his playing rights in 1987.

He played 10 tournaments on the Asian tour in 1987 and won the Indian and Philippine Opens.

And he has shown steady progress since joining the American circuit. He won \$189,345 last year and, with a runner-up spot at the Bob Hope and a fifth-place finish in Arizona, he's collected \$128,320 in four starts this season.

## Lehmann

(Continued from page 11)

have to be replaced, and Texas may get a skilled coach this time.

That would prove disastrous, because McWilliams has consistently proven that he can't beat anybody except Arkansas and Oklahoma. Two years ago, Texas' near-losses to teams like Rice and North Texas could be attributed to the poor talent left behind by former coach Fred Akers.

However, even after two banner recruiting years, Texas still had a losing record last year, bringing McWilliams three-year coaching record at Texas to 16-18.

The knock against McWilliams is that he hasn't been able to win the big games.

What about Oklahoma and Arkansas?

They were grudge matches where the Longhorns needed no encouragement to get up for the game.

Last year, McWilliams was heralded as a great recruiter, but R.C. Slocum easily out-recruited him.

If you like beating Texas, pray they keep McWilliams.

Because Texas is not on probation, they would certainly not receive the death penalty that SMU received. However, any NCAA penalties, such as loss of scholarships, would surely make Texas easier to beat.

## Tarpley's court hearing delayed

DALLAS (AP) — Attorneys for Dallas Mavericks' forward Roy Tarpley on Wednesday won another battle to keep the star player out of criminal court and on the basketball court.

Jay Ethington, who is representing Tarpley, Wednesday successfully

delayed for a third time a hearing on charges that Tarpley was driving while intoxicated.

Dallas County Criminal Court Judge Mike Schuille set a June 25 trial date for Tarpley, who was arrested in mid-November on a north Dallas freeway and charged with

DWI and resisting arrest.

Ethington said he argued for delay so the star forward could complete the NBA season and possibly playoff games before going to court.

Ethington said Tarpley wanted the trial so the public can hear evidence in the case.

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By BILL HET Of The Batt

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