

# Patriots decide on Steelers' Rust

FOXBORO, Mass. (AP)— Grandfatherly Rod Rust, who was running out of time to become an NFL head coach, got that job Tuesday with the New England Patriots, who had little time to find one.

Rust, Pittsburgh's defensive coordinator, replaced Raymond Berry, who was fired Monday after resisting General Manager Pat Sullivan's desire for an offensive coordinator from outside the organization.

The white-haired, bespectacled Rust, 61, was an NFL assistant the past 14 years but never a head coach. Minnesota's Jerry Burns, 63, is the league's only older head coach.

Although the Patriots were 5-11 and missed the playoffs for the third straight season, Sullivan gave Berry a vote of confidence in early January.

But events escalated swiftly last week when Sullivan pushed Berry to make changes. Berry wanted to let current assistants handle the coordinator's job, and Sullivan got permission last Friday from owner Victor Kiam to fire Berry.

With the draft less than two months away and a possible March 1 deadline for hiring another team's assistant, the Patriots moved quickly. An NFL guideline states that no team can seek permission after March 1 to hire another team's assistant to become its own assistant. A league spokesman said that probably could apply if the new job is head coach.

From 1983 through 1987, Rust was the Patriots' defensive coordinator, the last 3½ seasons under Berry. The Patriots went to their only Su-

per Bowl in 1985.

Rust became defensive coordinator in 1988 under Kansas City coach Frank Gansz but lost the job when Gansz was fired, and moved to Pittsburgh in 1989.

In taking his fourth job in four years, Rust rejoins a club he had left temporarily in one of its more bizarre situations.

Midway through the 1984 season, on Oct. 24, Patriots coach Ron Meyer fired Rust before telling Sullivan, who was in New Orleans at league meetings. Sullivan rushed home, hired Berry that night and fired Meyer the next morning. One of Berry's first acts as head coach was to bring Rust back as defensive coordinator.

"He gets a lot of respect because of his intelligence," Pittsburgh linebacker coach David Brazil said.

Rust began his coaching career as an assistant at New Mexico from 1960 through 1962. He spent the next four years as a Stanford assistant then served as head coach at North Texas State from 1967 through 1972.

From 1973 through 1975, he was defensive coordinator of the Montreal Alouettes of the Canadian Football League. He joined the NFL in 1976 as linebacker coach with Philadelphia, then began a four-year stint as Kansas City's defensive coordinator in 1978.

Berry's future is uncertain. He said Monday he had no plans but might consider coaching again.

He said his departure was "a very mutual process." The Patriots will honor the final year, worth a reported \$550,000, of his five-year contract.

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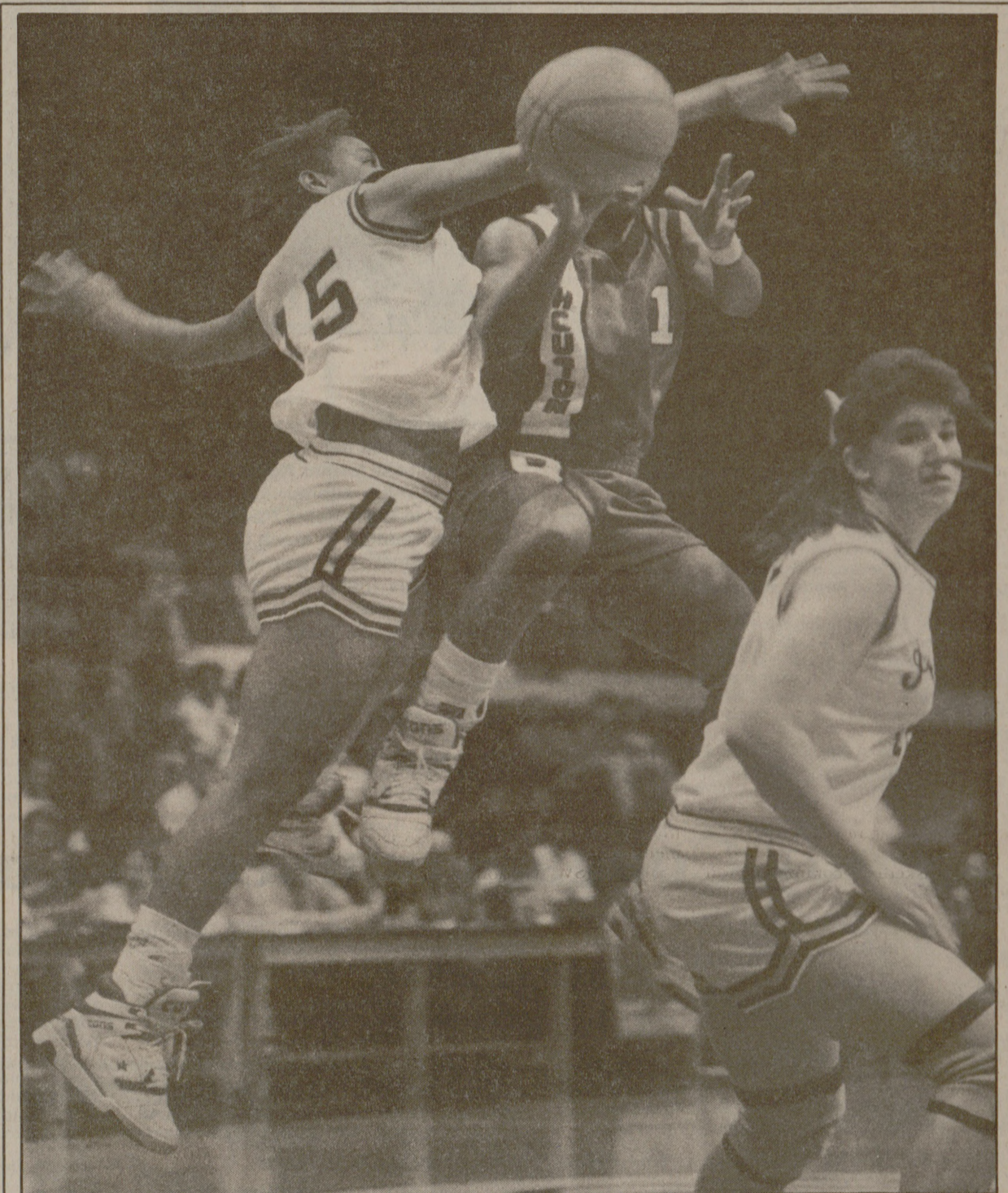
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A&M guard Yotisha Boshia blocks a Lady Cougars' shot in the Lady Aggies' 94-76 loss Tuesday night. The loss drops the Lady Aggies to 8-7 in SWC play, 18-10 overall.

## Lady Aggies sweep softball doubleheader

FROM STAFF & WIRE REPORTS

The Texas A&M women's softball team improved to 5-2 on the year with a doubleheader sweep of the University of Texas-Arlington Tuesday.

A&M won 3-1 and 7-0. In the first game, Erica Erickson had a pair of doubles to pace the Lady Aggies. Her first-inning double knocked in two runs, which was more than the Lady Aggies needed in the game. Dana Mitchell limited UTA to four hits in seven innings to improve her record to 3-1.

In the nightcap, which was called in the fifth inning on the run rule, Angie Hughes led the Lady Aggies. Hughes was three-for-three with two runs batted in, and scored three runs. Michelle Mayfield and Dawn Wuthrich each had two hits.

The Lady Aggies' home opener is Thursday, as they host Nebraska at 5 p.m. at the Lady Aggie Softball Field.

## Mavs look hapless in loss to Knicks

NEW YORK (AP)— The New York Knicks' on Tuesday night rebounded from an embarrassing loss by outbounding the Dallas Mavericks in embarrassingly easy fashion.

Charles Oakley and Patrick Ewing led the Knicks to a 62-29 rebounding advantage, and a 30-7 second-half scoring burst carried them to a 110-87 rout.

"A win after any loss is important to us," said Ewing, who had 21 points and 10 rebounds.

"The key was rebounding and getting out on the break. We played an outstanding game."

Oakley had 15 points and 15 rebounds for New York, while guard Gerald Wilkins added 19 points and eight rebounds.

"We came into the game thinking they have a big lineup and we have to keep them off the boards," Wilkins said. "We got all the loose balls and rebounds."

"They completely dominated us on the boards and they were hungrier going for the ball," Dallas' Rolando Blackman said.

"When a team like the Knicks loses at home the game before, you have to be ready to accept the challenge."

Harper scored 20 points for Dallas, winners of seven of their eight previous games, but the Mavericks shot only 37.8 percent from the field.

## UT assistants leave Lady Longhorns

FROM STAFF & WIRE REPORTS

Two Texas Lady Longhorn coaches, including one who was a former head basketball coach at Texas A&M, say they will be leaving the team to pursue business interests.

Lynn Davis Pool and Cherri Rapp have been with the team 11 and four years, respectively.

Pool and Rapp announced their decisions Monday night prior to

Texas' 91-51 victory over Texas Christian.

The victory got the Lady Longhorns back on the winning track after losing to Arkansas over the weekend, a loss that snapped their 184-game winning streak against Southwest Conference opponents.

Both will relinquish her duties after the season.

Rapp coached the Lady Aggies from 1979-84. She compiled a 59-85 record at A&M. The Lady Aggies

finished seventh in the SWC in 1983, and sixth in 1984.

Pool has been Coach Jody Conradt's top assistant since 1979, and is credited with developing the Lady Longhorns' defensive style.

Rapp is a part-time assistant, stepping down after four years.

"Even though Lynn is leaving this year, the tradition of tough Texas defense will remain forever," Conradt said.

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