



**Alan Lehmann**  
Senior Sports Writer

## Take my word: Rangers will take AL West division

Every day people come up to me and say, "Hey, who's gonna win the American League West?" I smile and reply that the Texas Rangers will. Then I try to ignore the laughter.

I'm getting better at it. I've been picking the Rangers to win the division since the early 1980s (when the Rangers usually lost 100 games), so I'm used to skepticism.

True, I've been wrong every time, but sooner or later the law of averages will catch up to me and Texas will win the West.

The Rangers were tantalizingly close in 1986 — the year that the team was loaded with rookies like Pete Incaviglia, Ruben Sierra, Oddibe McDowell, Bobby Witt, Jose Guzman and Edwin Correa.

They built up my hopes, playing like kids who didn't know how to lose. But, like their predecessors, they wilted in August and finished five games behind the Angels.

Since then, Texas hasn't even been close. They fell below .500 in 1987 and suffered from miserable pitching in 1988.

Last season, the Rangers started the season sizzling. They opened by winning 10 of their first 11, and were 16-4 before they faltered and were passed by the eventual World Series champion Oakland A's.

Things don't look much more promising for the Rangers this year.

The Kansas City Royals bring back the strongest pitching staff in the major leagues. The Angels strengthened their staff with Mark Langston — the best

See Lehmann/Page 14

## Cason's ban lifted

### Sprinter released from suspension, allowed to compete

By NADJA SABAWALA  
Of The Battalion Staff

Texas A&M track star Andre Cason can breathe a little easier. The Athletics Congress on Wednesday decided to lift a two-year suspension which was imposed on the sprinter March 28.

The announcement released Cason, the 1990 NCAA 55-meter indoor champion, from suspension imposed when he failed to report for a December 1989 drug test.

"I'm relieved by the decision and I hope it dispels any misconceptions which might have resulted," said Cason through a statement released by the Sports Information Department.

"I'm not too thrilled about my name being dragged through the mud," he said. "But at least now I can put it behind me and concentrate on running."

The suspension would not affect his college eligibility, but would bar him from competing in any TAC and IAAF-sanctioned events.

Cason said that last year he notified TAC officials that he would be enrolled at Blinn Junior College-Brenham for the fall semester. Since he did not know what his address would be, Cason listed his previous address at Cain Hall.

On Dec. 11, TAC, the governing body of track and field in the United States, sent a notification of the drug test to that same Cain Hall address, but because of his absence, the letter went unopened for three days.

When Cason called the A&M track office Dec. 15, he was told of the letter and he gave permission to assistant coach Robert Parker to open it. Upon studying the contents of the letter, Parker told Cason to call TAC officials and explain his situation.

Cason contacted TAC officials immediately and was informed that he had violated a 48-hour deadline and faced suspension according to TAC's drug testing policy.

Although he was denied a stay, the circumstances surrounding the suspension allowed Cason an appeal to be reviewed by a three-member board.

The board then reversed its earlier decision, and the suspension was lifted.

"We are very happy for Andre," head coach Charlie Thomas said. "I'm pleased



Battalion file photo by J. Janner

A&M sprinter Andre Cason had his TAC suspension for failing to appear for a drug test lifted Wednesday.

the review board understood the circumstances and reversed what was a highly unfair and misleading decision."

At the end of last year, Cason was ranked No. 6 in the world in the 100-meter dash by Track & Field News magazine.

Cason was the only American to receive two gold medals at the 1989 World University Games, and has earned All-American honors five times at A&M.

In the NCAA Indoor Championships, Cason set a school and Southwest Conference record in the 55-meter dash. His time of 6.04 is the fourth best ever recorded.

He also runs a length on the 400-meter relay team which is just .02 seconds away from qualifying for the NCAA Outdoor Championships in May.

On the prowl ...

## Wolfpack hungers for Valvano resignation, offers compromise

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — Jim Valvano is willing to compromise on the \$500,000 buyout clause his contract requires North Carolina State to pay if the school forces the basketball coach's resignation, his lawyer said Wednesday.

"He doesn't want to stick it to the university that's been good to him," attorney Woody Webb said. "By the same token, he's been good to it, too."

Though Valvano's contract has the \$500,000 buyout clause, Webb said, "It's safe to say he's willing to come off that."

Webb said a compromise proposal would be delivered to university attorneys, who have told Valvano he would not be permitted to remain as coach.

Webb also said he thought State was softening on its initial offer of a \$106,000 pay-off, but he declined to give details.

Valvano's salary is \$100,035, but sneaker contracts, product endorsements and local TV and radio programs would make his total income many times that amount.

Meanwhile, N.C. State guard Chris Corchiani was still pressing for an exemption to NCAA rules that would make it easier for him to transfer should Valvano leave, the player's attorney said.

Attorney Mark Rodgers, in a telephone interview from West Palm Beach, Fla., said he filed an appeal Tuesday with the NCAA Rules Interpretation Committee. A hearing will be held by teleconference April 13.

Rodgers said it would be unfair for Corchiani, who will be a senior, to sit out a year before playing for another team as NCAA rules specify.

"For him to transfer to another school and sit out a year means he will have to stay in school one more year than he'd anticipated," he said. "It's almost like a one-year probation to the kid."

Webb said several members of the Board of Trustees are annoyed with reports that the school's attorneys have shut out Valvano's overtures to keep his job.

Trustee Bill Burns wrote a letter to Valvano supporters saying the board wants to be fair.

"Jim Valvano's request to remain one more year has not been turned down. The

press does not know everything that is going on," Burns said.

Burns vowed to "do everything I can to effect a resolution that, when it is all said and done, Coach Valvano will say that it is his choice and the university has been very fair to him."

Webb suggested that it would be in the university's best interest to keep Valvano, particularly since other state school are struggling with a statewide budget shortfall.

"From an economic standpoint, it makes no sense," Webb said of the buyout. "Moreover, they'll have a team that will be competitive and generate more revenues."

Valvano, who has coached the Wolfpack the last 10 years, led North Carolina State

"Jim Valvano's request to remain one more year has not been turned down. The press does not know everything that is going on."

—Bill Burns, NC State trustee

to the NCAA championship in 1983.

Since January, however, he and the basketball program have been the targets of controversy.

State was placed on two years' NCAA probation last fall for violations involving the sale of sneakers and tickets, although Valvano was never accused of any wrongdoing.

Recently, there were allegations of point-shaving involving former Wolfpack players. Valvano came under increased pressure when former player Charles Shackleford, now with the New Jersey Nets, admitted accepting loans while playing at N.C. State — an NCAA violation that could cost the school up to \$1 million in postseason revenue.

**OSHMAN'S SPORTING GOODS**

## PRE-EASTER SALE

**SAVE \$40**

**TUNTURI**

**DUAL-ACTION EXERCISE BIKE**

Features rowing and pedaling actions in a practical modern design with minimum space requirement. Speed, distance meter and timer.

**99<sup>99</sup>**  
orig. 139.99

**SAVE \$40**

**Wilson**

**WILSON WIDE-BODY STING TENNIS RACKET**

69<sup>99</sup>  
orig. 109.99

Wide-profile graphite composite racket featuring the newest technology for firmer play with maximum control. 1/4 cover included.

**SAVE 33%**

**Wilson**

**WILSON CLUB TOTE**

39<sup>99</sup>  
orig. 59.99

This all-purpose locker-style tote has a large wet pocket, door pockets for toiletries, shoe compartment, and a large compartment for clothes.

**HALLMARK**

**HALLMARK™ READING RACK**

Enables you to read or study while you pedal away calories. Fits most exercise bikes.

**9<sup>99</sup>**  
orig. 19.99

**SAVE 50%**

**SPALDING**

**SPALDING XPS 100 VOLLEYBALL**

19<sup>99</sup>  
orig. 24.99

A molded synthetic-leather ball with nylon mix windings in high-visibility yellow.

**SAVE 38%**

**DUNLOP**

**DUNLOP BLUE MAX GOLF BALLS**

7<sup>99</sup>  
orig. 12.99

Two-piece construction with Surlin™ cover for distance and durability. White or orange.

**WOMEN'S NIKE MULTI-SPORT FITNESS CROSSRAINER**

The perfect choice for various workouts, including exercise and running.

**44<sup>99</sup>**  
orig. 59.99

**SAVE 25%**

**TRETORN**

**MEN'S TRETORN PRO SWEDEN TENNIS SHOE**

Cool breathable white canvas uppers in super lightweight construction with shock-absorbent midsole and dual-density sole.

**29<sup>99</sup>**  
orig. 36.99

**SAVE \$7**

**VALUE PRICE**

**NIKE**

**NIKE AQUA SOCKS**

Designed with four-way stretch spandex and breathable mesh uppers for all-around aquatic sports.

**25<sup>99</sup>**

**SAVE 25%**

**Reebok**

**WOMEN'S REEBOK RHAPSODY HI-TOP AEROBIC SHOES**

Smooth white leather uppers, deep cushioning and non-marking rubber soles make a great aerobic shoe.

**39<sup>99</sup>**  
orig. 52.99

**SAVE \$8**

**Reebok**

**MEN'S OR WOMEN'S REEBOK NEWPORT CLASSIC TENNIS SHOE**

Supple garment-leather uppers in the best-fitting lace-to-toe pattern. Sole performs well on any court surface.

**41<sup>99</sup>**  
orig. 49.99

\* Good on identical items while available at the advertised price. Just bring us the ad. 03023

BRYAN/COLLEGE STATION'S LARGEST

# BOOK SALE

ONLY 3 WEEKS LEFT

**Thousands at 70% off** Publisher's Retail

**WIN A \$500<sup>00</sup> Book Shopping SPREE** At Publisher's Retail

**BRING IN REGISTRATION FORM & WIN!**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**BE 1 of 5 Winners of A \$500<sup>00</sup> Shopping Spree DRAWING: APRIL 14, 1990-4:00 PM**

Children's Books 1/2 off Publisher's Retail 100's of Categories Including:

- COOKBOOKS
- Novels
- Dictionaries
- TEXTBOOKS
- Paperbacks
- Computer
- REFERENCE
- Fiction
- Medical
- TRAVEL
- Business
- Crafts

**AND MANY MORE!**

OLD LOWE'S BUILDING  
7500 East By-Pass Hwy 6  
College Station, TX

HOURS:  
MON-SAT  
10:00 AM-9:00 PM  
SUN-NOON-6:00 PM

This Sale Is An Authorized Liquidation of New Books from Bankruptcies, major publisher's overruns and bookstore returns. Personal checks accepted.

POST OAK MALL, 696-0546