

TV basketball grabs attention, new matchups

A change was in store for professional basketball fans after years of watching CBS Sports broadcast the NBA.

Last Saturday, NBC ended almost a decade of selfishness by the league's former network, when it presented the Los Angeles Lakers-San Antonio Spurs season opening game. And what a breath of fresh air it was.

For the past 8 years, CBS had been using tunnel vision when selecting the games it would broadcast to its national audience. Sunday after Sunday basketball fans would turn on their television and see the same picture.

Ninety percent of the time, the screen would include either the parquet floor of Boston Garden or the sleek, yellow-highlighted court of the Great Western Forum.

To CBS, the league consisted of maybe four teams.

CBS could have broadcast the same game week after week, who would know the difference?

If the Boston Celtics and Lakers weren't playing each other, they were usually hosting a Philadelphia or Chicago team on an off day. But the network didn't want to make a habit of reaching for teams that weren't good enough for the rest of their clientele.

But after CBS unloaded millions of dollars to major league baseball, it had to part with its long-time friend, who had since grown tremendously, no thanks to the network.

NBC wasted no time snatching the professional basketball league. Now the NBA is its baby.

NBC's inception into the league last Saturday was for the most part a success. From the very start it showed that it was committed to making its broadcast a class act.

Bob Costas guided former Laker coach Pat Riley through the finer points of the broadcasting game during the pregame show. Riley, slick head of hair and all, trembled through his first few comments but soon caught an air of confidence.

The former NBA player and coach calmly sat at his desk and sank a shot in a miniature basketball hoop ten feet away. A left-handed Costas, who was foolish enough to challenge Riley to the shot, could do no better than hit a studio light behind him.

Riley's butterflies are now behind him and he soon will show the same prowess in front of the camera as he did as a player and a coach.

But the game was equally impressive. With an attention to detail, the network created some brilliant graphic displays to

Scott Wudel

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UIL: Dallas Carter must forfeit wins leading to championship

AUSTIN (AP) — The University Interscholastic League said Wednesday it has no option, following a court ruling, but to order Dallas Carter to forfeit four victories that led to the school's 1988 Class 5A football championship.

The 3rd Court of Appeals on Wednesday denied a motion by the Dallas Independent School District to clarify or modify its Oct. 3 ruling, in which both sides claimed victory, or to be granted a rehearing.

UIL Director Bailey Marshall said the league's State Executive Committee would proceed as if it had won the case, pending possible appeal to the Texas Supreme Court.

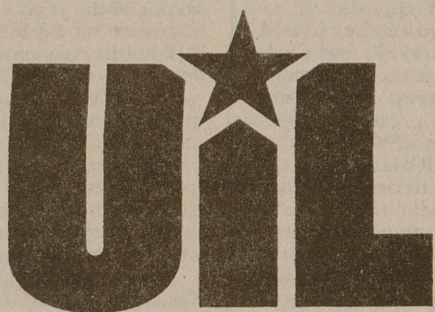
No one was immediately available for comment from the Dallas ISD when contacted by The Associated Press.

The appeals court Monday rejected a plea by the Odessa Permian football coaching staff for relief from a judge's ruling that barred the defending Class 5A champions from this year's playoffs.

The Panthers were declared ineligible by the UIL, which said the school violated its rules by holding practice before Aug. 20.

The Carter case is a dramatic example of what the UIL and Texas Education Agency perceive as a problem that has gotten worse since the Legislature enacted the no-pass, no-play law.

Under that law, a student must pass all classes to be eligible for extracurricular activities, such as sports. It is considered a key



element of educational reform in Texas' public schools.

In the Carter case, the school was temporarily forced out of the 1988 football playoffs by a ruling from state Education Commissioner W.N. Kirby that Carter had violated the no-pass, no-play law by changing an algebra grade for backfield star Gary Edwards from failing to passing.

But hours later, on Nov. 18, 1988, state District Judge Paul Davis of Austin issued a temporary restraining order that enabled Carter to continue in the playoffs.

The following month, Davis forbade Kirby from determining Edwards' eligibility, and he forbade the UIL from knocking Carter out of the playoffs.

The UIL appealed to stay Davis' tempo-

rary injunction, which was denied by the 3rd Court on Dec. 9, 1988.

On Dec. 17, Carter won the 5A football title by defeating Converse Judson, 31-14.

In July 1989, Davis again ruled in favor of Carter and filed a permanent injunction against the TEA and UIL, which was appealed.

On Oct. 3 of this year, the 3rd Court of Appeals dismissed the case as moot and set aside Davis' decision that had prevented the TEA and UIL from declaring Carter ineligible for the playoffs.

The UIL's Marshall said Wednesday the executive committee has no choice but to uphold its 1988 decision that Carter forfeit four games in which Edwards played after Oct. 10 of that year.

Whether the committee would take back Carter's trophy and individual player medals is up to the committee, Marshall said.

"I don't expect to get every medal back — some of them are probably lost," he said. "But they should make a good faith effort, if and when this takes place."

Although the school board accepted the UIL's sanctions, Permian coaches filed a lawsuit Sept. 28 in an effort to restore the school's eligibility this season and also to lift penalties imposed by the UIL against head coach Tam Hollingshead and three assistants.

State District Judge Peter Lowry of Austin upheld the UIL decision, ruling that Permian was ineligible.

Tagliabue pulls '93 Bowl from Arizona site

NEW YORK (AP) — NFL commissioner Paul Tagliabue summarily pulled the 1993 Super Bowl out of Phoenix on Wednesday after Arizona voters rejected a proposal to make a holiday of Martin Luther King's birthday.

"I do not believe that playing Super Bowl XXVII in Arizona is in the best interests of the National Football League," Tagliabue said after the Arizona electorate rejected by 15,000 votes of nearly 1 million cast a proposal to make a holiday of the slain civil rights leader's birthday.

While Tagliabue's statement doesn't make the move official, it's expected that most if not all of the 28 NFL teams will go along with his recommendation. A total of 21 votes are necessary to move the game, which will probably go to San Diego, Los Angeles or San Francisco, the other cities that bid for it.

"I can't imagine that people won't go along with the commissioner," said Norman Braman, owner of the Philadelphia Eagles and chairman of the Super Bowl site selection committee. "I think it's tragic for the people who worked so hard to get the game there. But I think it would be an affront to our public and our players if the game is played in Phoenix."

Cardinals owner Bill Bidwill said the proposal to make King's birthday a holiday was "the right thing to do" and that he was disappointed both at the voters' decision and Tagliabue's action.

"I was not pleased that the NFL issued its statement so quickly after this election," he said. "I can understand that the NFL felt such a statement was necessary, but it unfortunately added to an already emotional situation here."

"I am calling on the Governor and legislative leaders of Arizona to take whatever steps are necessary to accomplish an enactment of the King holiday."

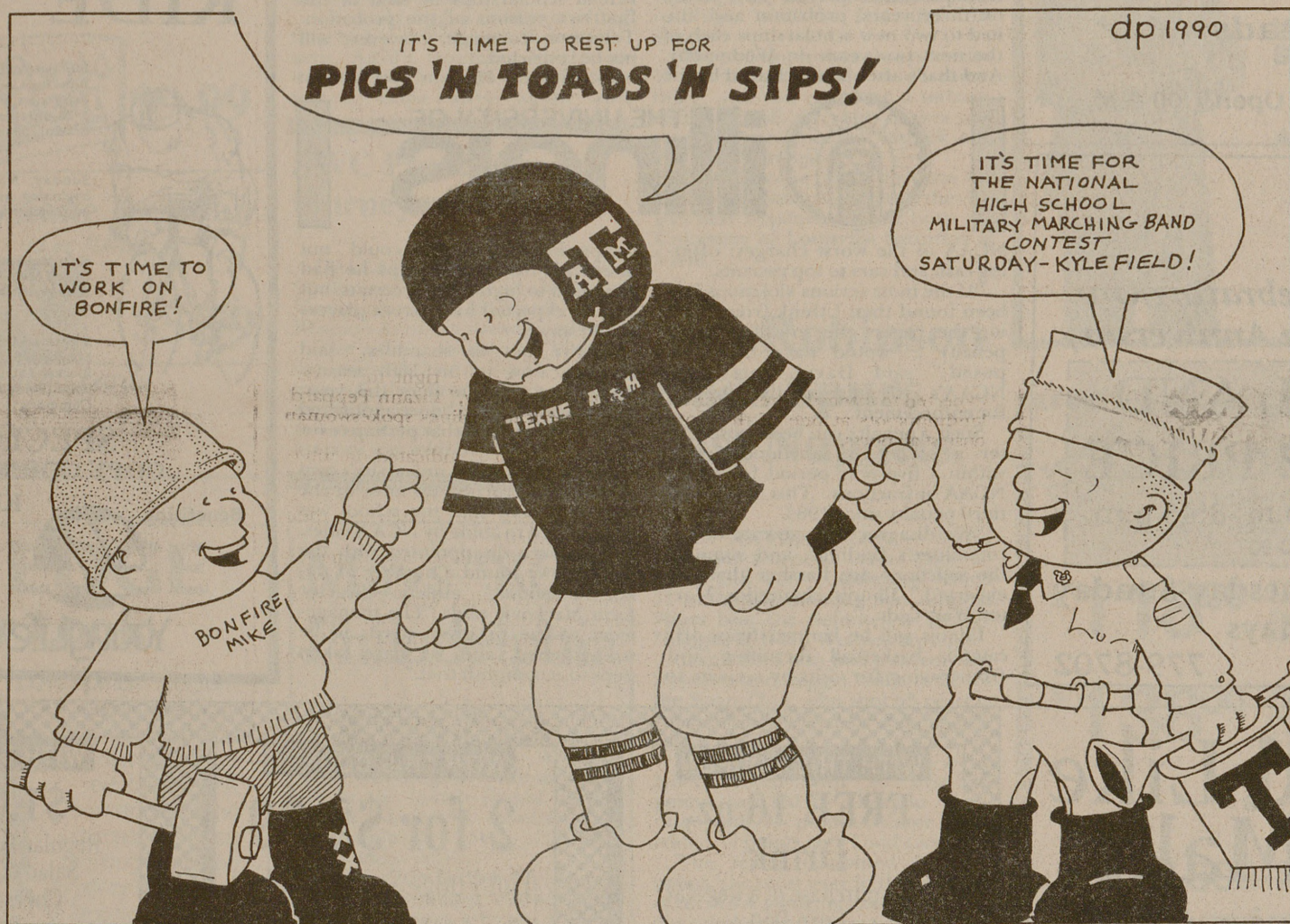
An estimated 60 percent of NFL players are black and the league has been highly sensitive in recent years to calls to add minorities to its coaching and front-office staffs. Art Shell of the Los Angeles Raiders, appointed last season, is the only black head coach in the league and there are no black general managers.

Phoenix was chosen last March as the host city, although both Tagliabue and Braman said at the time that the league could change its position if there was no holiday to honor King.

It was with that in mind that the state legislature ended nearly two decades of divisive debate last year by passing a bill making the third Monday in January Martin Luther King-Civil Rights Day in Arizona, one of three states without such a law.

But King Day opponents, led by impeached former Gov. Evan Mecham, circulated petitions to force a referendum on the issue.

Both issues appeared on Tuesday's ballot and both were rejected. The King Day for Columbus Day swap was turned down by a 3-1 margin and the holiday without the swap lost by fewer than 15,000 votes.



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