

SWC pulls in recruits

Kermit Davis Jr. has more ground to build the Texas A&M men's basketball program by signing three top Texas high school players to letters-of-intent Wednesday.



Kermit Davis Jr.

Wednesday was the first day of the weeklong NCAA early signing period for several sports, including basketball and baseball. The early signing period ends Nov. 21.

During the first day of early signing, the Aggies signed: Longview Pine Tree forward Kevin Barker (6-9, 215), Converse Judson forward Damon Johnson (6-6, 215) and Corey Henderson, a 6-6, 180-pound guard from Houston Lee.

All three signees have passed either the ACT or SAT college entrance examination.

"Kevin, Corey and Damon are all solid players with good academic backgrounds," said head coach Davis. "We think that each one will make a tremendous contribution to our program."

Barker, averaging 19 points and 14.5 rebounds per game as a junior, was a unanimous all-district selection and was runner-up in voting for the district's most valuable player.

As an All-East Texas choice earning honorable mention all-state honors, Barker connected 60 percent of his three-point attempts. Barker is a member of

the Dallas Times Herald's state top 20.

Like Barker, Johnson averaged 19.6 points per game and was a unanimous all-district selection. He, too, is a member of the Dallas Times Herald's top 20 list and chose A&M over Oklahoma and Colorado.

"I like A&M a lot," Barker said. "I found it to be a pretty good situation. They have a young, energetic coach. I know they're going to win and I'm excited and ready to be a part of it."

Henderson, whose brother Chuck is a member of A&M's Sixth Man team, averaged 15 points per game and chose the University over Arizona, Vander-

bilt, Boston College and Providence.

"I wanted to play with my brother and I liked the environment and the academics at A&M," Henderson said. "With the new arena being built and the young coaching staff, I felt like it was the place for me."

Elsewhere in the South-west Conference, the Arkansas Razorbacks, who made it to the Final Four last season and had a No. 2 national ranking in this year's pre-season Associated Press poll, hope their basketball fortunes continue to improve.

Arkansas coach Nolan Richardson apparently outrecruited Kansas, UNLV, DePaul, Kentucky, Rice

and Georgetown for one of the nation's top high school players, 6-9 center John Carter of Atar-Spencer High School in Oklahoma City.

For 1991-92, the Texas Longhorns have seven scholarships available. They have received oral commitments from Terrence Rencher, a 6-3 guard from New York City; Todd Barton, a 6-9 center from Columbus, Texas; Michael Richardson, a 6-3 guard from West Texas Junior College; and Rob Garner, a 6-1 guard from Oxon Hill, Md.

Both Texas Tech and Baylor each received three oral commitments and Rice finished its recruiting for the year with two.

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World League announces season

DALLAS (AP) — The World League of American Football announced Wednesday that it will kick off its inaugural season on schedule in March 1991 with a three-division, 10-team alignment that will include seven North American cities and three European sites.

The announcement was made by President Mike Lynn, following a report to shareholders in the unique operation.

Charter franchises and a divisional setup include:

- Europe: London, Barcelona and Frankfurt.
- North American East: New York, Montreal, Orlando, Fla., and the Carolinas.
- North American West, Sacramento, Calif., San Antonio, and Birmingham, Ala.

Lynn said that the team in the Carolinas will either be Raleigh or Charlotte, and that decision will be made by Dec. 1.

Lynn said the owners of the franchises will be announced beginning today as he embarks on a tour to the franchise sites.

"Starting today, we will hold a series of press conferences in league cities involving ownership, front office executives, team nicknames, logos, and uniform colors and other league news," said Lynn, who has approved franchise ownership commitments in eight of the cities.

"For business reasons, the league will own and operate the London and Frankfurt franchises and will announce management groups for those franchises," he said.

The league will announce its 1991 playing schedule by Dec. 1, including its inaugural World Bowl championship location.

The WLAFF will open its 10-week regular season on March 23 with semifinal playoffs game scheduled for June 1-2, followed by the World Bowl on June 9.

ABC Sports will televise a national game of the week each Sunday and USA Network will cablecast prime-time games every Saturday and Monday nights. There will also be six telecasts on Saturday afternoons during the season.

The league will have its first player evaluation combine and draft Feb. 11-24 in Orlando.

"We've signed some 100 players and we intend to sign about 1,000 players by February," Lynn said.

Lynn said that he received no opposition from the NFL about the league, although some of the shareholders discussed whether the spring league should have been delayed a year because of the unstable economy.

"It was decided that the time to negotiate is over and that everything is in place and we need to go on with it," Lynn said.

Louisiana TV announces Archer's firing

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP) — Louisiana State University officials have decided to fire football coach Mike Archer at the end of what could be his team's second consecutive losing season, a television station reported Wednesday night.

Chancellor Bud Davis and athletic director Joe Dean denied the report by WBRZ-TV. Archer cautioned his team not to be distracted by such stories.

"There's no truth to the story," said Davis.

"A decision has not been made. It will come after the season, as we have said all along," said Dean.

WBRZ-TV quoted unidentified LSU sources as saying Archer's fate was sealed after the Tigers' 24-3 loss last weekend to Alabama. The loss dropped LSU to 4-5 for the season with games remaining against Mississippi State and Tulane.

The station said Dean and Davis made the decision to fire Archer, and have received the support of members of LSU's Board of Supervisors.

Mack Brown, head coach at North Carolina, is reportedly at the top of Dean's list to replace Archer, WBRZ-TV said.

Judge upholds coin flip holding Chapel Hill from 4A playoffs

AUSTIN (AP) — A state district judge Wednesday upheld a coin flip that will prevent the defending Class 4A Chapel Hill High School football champions from going to the playoffs.

The ruling by Judge Will Wilson leaves Corsicana and Athens as District 17-4A representatives to the playoffs. Attorneys for Chapel Hill said they will not appeal.

"This is a great disappointment," said Jim Cunningham, president of the Chapel Hill school board.

Wilson's ruling followed a 1 1/2-hour court hearing, and an hour-long meeting with attorneys behind closed doors in his chamber.

"The only thing that hurts is we're the defending 4A champions, and to not be given the opportunity to go back, that's what really hurts," Cunningham said.

Chapel Hill, which is outside Tyler, sued the University Interscholastic League to contest Saturday's coin flip that eliminated Chapel Hill and allowed Athens and Corsicana to advance to the playoffs.

Chapel Hill attorney Jim Raup of Austin said the District 17-4A executive committee bypassed its own rules when it allowed the teams to flip coins for playoff berths, rather than consider first downs and penetrations.



"This is not about football, it's about following rules," Raup said.

The district's tiebreaker system depends on team records against each other, then points scored against each other. But the point differential has a 21-point cap to prevent teams from running up the score.

Class of 1992

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