

Jackson could be the man for Aggie coaching job



Steve O'Brien
Sportswriter

Do we want a nice guy or a winner?

With all that's gone wrong with the A&M basketball team and the athletic program of late, the NCAA axe of death is poised above the neck of Aggieland.

And with the pulse of A&M on the cutting blocks, the search begins for a new basketball coach.

Athletic director John David Crow has formed a five-member advisory committee to find a new coach, and the faithful in College Station sit quietly and wait.

But hopefully, the committee won't sit quietly and wait.

The committee should actively search for qualified coaches and not make their selection from the group of applications that they've received.

No real coach, who is respected for his winning percentage and integrity, will submit his application.

Not because of the situation here at A&M, but because most coaches who are worth their salt are probably coaching in the NCAA tournament right now. And if they're not coaching, they're in retirement.

But we all know, coaches don't retire. They're just taking some needed time off.

The committee should come up with a list of let's say 15 coaches. From that list, the committee should pursue a head coach.

And I have a nomination for the first slot on the list, Stuart Wayne Jackson.

Better known as Stu, Jackson is just what the A&M athletic program and campus needs.

He scored over 1,000 points in his collegiate playing days at Oregon and Seattle University.

He was an assistant coach of the New York Knicks under Rick Pitino for two years before becoming head coach in 1989.

Jackson is also a winner. In his first year as the Knicks head coach, which was his initial assignment as a head coach on any level, Jackson took the Knicks to their second consecutive Eastern Conference Semifinals.

I know, he got fired at the beginning of this year, but getting fired in New York is like the people in drought-ridden California waiting for rain. The question is not whether it's going to rain, but when.

The greatest attribute Jackson would bring to the A&M program, besides his winning ways, is youth.

But it would be youth unfazed by the pressures of a big-time college athletic program.

Compared to the pressures to win created by the press in New York, Bryan/College Station will be a relaxed environment for Jackson.

He won't be tempted to break NCAA regulations to win.

Bringing in coach from a small-school environment will put us in the same situation we've been in.

I can just hear alumni telling Jackson, "Hey, we're not winning a lot of games. We've got to do something."

Jackson would quietly reply, "So?"

Fishin' for fun, profit

If you want to get out and do some fishing, the next two weeks are the time to do it.

Spring not only means big bass in shallow water, it also is prime time for tournaments. Some of these are for the serious angler looking for big bucks, while others are strictly for fun.

Next Saturday marks the date for the Fifth Annual Gibbon's Creek Open Tournament. The entry fee is \$50 per person with an 80 percent payback to be divided among the first seven places. Gift certificates will be awarded to the remaining three spots and 20 percent of the proceeds will go to benefit needy families of the Brazos Valley.



Kevin McDaniel
Outdoors Writer

An optional "Big Bass" pot is available for an extra five dollars added to the entry fee so that even if you only catch one good fish, you still have a shot at some cash.

Entry blanks can be found at Broz Sporting Goods in Bryan or stop by the Ranger Station at Gibbon's Creek. For official rules and regulations, contact tournament director Mark Brown at (409) 873-2424.

If a \$50 entry fee is a little out of your league, the Bryan Parks and Recreation Department has an event of a different sort.

This Saturday, March 23, they will be sponsoring the "Family Fishing Contest" at Bryan Utilities Lake Park in conjunction with 98 Country KORA.

This contest is strictly for family fun and it is to get our kids hooked on fishing, not drugs. There is no entry fee and trophies will be given to first, second, and third places in each category for both adults and children. Door prizes such as T-shirts and scuba lessons will be awarded as well.

Other activities at the lake will include a children's casting contest, food and beverage vendors, and displays from local merchants. This contest is guaranteed to be a good time for friends and families alike who want to get out and just enjoy a (hopefully) sunny day of fishing.

Registration can be done through the Bryan Parks and Recreation Department or late entries will be allowed at the lake on the day of the event.

For additional information, call 361-3658 and ask for Sarah Cliver. Fishing will begin at 6 a.m. and the contest ends at 3 p.m.

A third type of activity that will be happening this weekend is a combination of a big money tournament and a family get-together. It is the Crappiethon on Lake Livingston.

The contest, which began in February, runs through April 9. The objective is to purchase a \$6 "Bounty Hunter" badge and stalk those elusive crappie for a possible cash payoff.

The rules are simple. Catch any crappie that weighs at least 30 ounces, turn it in to a participating marina, and collect \$25. If you happen to hook one that weighs 34 ounces, the bounty jumps to \$50.

There are also some big money fish worth \$100 on up to a possible \$65,000 with each having to meet a special weight requirement.

Remember to purchase your badge prior to fishing or else risk

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Sooners advance to NIT semis

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP) — Bryan Sallier scored 20 of his 26 points in the second half, as the Oklahoma Sooners advanced to the National Invitation Tournament semifinals with an 83-74 win over the Providence Friars on Wednesday night.



Oklahoma (19-14), with six points from Sallier early in the half, went on a 16-4 run to pull ahead 58-44 at 13:22.

Providence (19-13) could get no closer than 60-57 with 10 minutes left.

The Sooners held Friar guard

Eric Murdock to 15 points. Marques Bragg added 14 for Providence.

The Friars got in foul trouble early, sending Oklahoma into the bonus at 14:12. Sallier capitalized on it, scoring 6 of his second-half points from the foul line.

Oklahoma came out running in the first half and built a 22-12 lead at 13:37. Providence, with Chris Watts hitting two 3-pointers, fought back to 24-24 at 7:27.

But the Sooners kept going to Jeff Webster, who scored most of his 13 first-half points underneath.

The Friars closed to 40-34 on a desperation 45-foot shot by Trent Forbes at the halftime buzzer.

Webster ended with 17 for Oklahoma.

Fishing Report

GIBBON'S CREEK- Guide Clark Wendlandt reports that the bass are between spawns and fishing has been tough. Some fish are hitting Rat-L-Traps and spinnerbaits at two and four foot depths. He adds that two fish in the nine pound range were caught this week but the quantity just is not there. Fishing should improve with the next full moon later this month.

SOMERVILLE- Action on the main lake has been less than desirable due to the gates at the spillway being wide open. However, this is good news for anglers looking for stripers. Anyone who can cram their way onto the pier at the spillway and put a live shad on a hook has been rewarded with excellent catches of these hybrids. Guide Randy Kettler did report that some white bass have been caught in the creeks feeding the lake and that Crappie are fair in deep water.

LAKE LIVINGSTON- The Crappiethon is heating up with two fish worth \$1000 each being caught. One was landed near Galloway's Marina and the other was awarded by Parr's Marina on White Rock Creek. Bethy Creek Resort paid \$50 on Tuesday and \$25 yesterday.

CONROE- Guide Billy Mills reports fair to good bass fishing this week with the mornings being the most productive. Bass have been hitting Carolina-rigged smoke/blue and pumpkinseed colored worms in seven to ten foot of water. Crappie are slow and catfish are fair at 20 feet. White bass are excellent on Lightning spoons.

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