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**Mavericks still in dark concerning Tarpley Adams**

**Adams**

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DALLAS (AP) — Embattled Dallas Mavericks forward Roy Tarpley was in Houston on Tuesday to meet with counselors at a drug and alcohol clinic, but his status with the team remained unclear.

Tarpley, 26, is only one strike away from being kicked out of the NBA because of drug abuse. He left Tuesday morning for John Lucas' drug and alcohol rehabilitation clinic in Houston, where he is an outpatient.

"They will meet sometime today, but when and for how long I don't know — they being Roy, Lucas and Dave Lewis" of the Van Nuys, Calif.-based ASAP Family Treatment Center, which runs the NBA's anti-drug program, said Mavericks spokesman Tony Fay. "It could be early evening."

But Fay said whatever is discussed is "really between Roy and his counselors."

Lucas' clinic is not listed in Houston telephone directories and the Mavericks did not have a number for it.

The 7-foot Tarpley missed a team practice and dinner Sunday because of unspecified personal problems, then walked out of practice Monday morning after making only a brief appearance.

"It seems every fall we have problems (with Tarpley)," Mavericks general manager Norm Sonju said Monday night. "We're trying to do what we can to make it a good season, and this is not helping. It was a real mistake for him to leave practice."

Tarpley called Lucas' clinic and requested a meeting for Tuesday "to discuss whatever problems have been on his mind," team spokesman Kevin Sullivan said late Monday.

"He's looking for a little counseling on a personal matter. It has

nothing to do with drugs," Jay Ethington, Tarpley's attorney, told The Associated Press.

Sonju said officials at the Houston clinic promised they would call club officials after the session with Tarpley.

"If it's drug-related, it's totally out of our hands," said Mavericks vice president Rick Sund.

"If it's insubordination, which we are considering at this point, that is our problem and we have to deal with it appropriately. With regards to collective bargaining ... we fine him," he said.

Tarpley injured his right knee in the 1990-91 season and was out for the year. While he was recuperating, Tarpley was arrested March 30 in Dallas and charged with driving while intoxicated, but was later found innocent. Tarpley acknowledged he had drunk three beers that evening. He was found innocent in the case.

"We've coached him like anybody else. Right from the first day or so you could see he was a rare talent."

Slocum said Adam's speed is his biggest asset.

"He's a big guy who can move," Slocum said. "In coach's terminology, he has a great punch to him. When he hits guys, he knocks them back."

Being a big time high school player doesn't always carry over to college for a lot of players. But this wasn't the case with Adams.

"He took the coaching and took it the right way," Slocum said. "He has adjusted to major college football."

Slocum knew Adams would contribute this year, but the coach wasn't sure if it would be as a starter.

"I thought he would help us this year," he said. "After seeing him in two-a-days, I said 'this guy has a chance to really help us this year.'"

An injury helped Adams move into the starting role, but his play against Tech means he will start again this weekend against Baylor.

"They're a good team and we respect them," Adams said. "We're just going to have to do the best job we can."

The job will include stopping Baylor's offensive line and sophomore quarterback J.J. Joe.

"They're line comes off the ball low and hard and we're going to have to do our very best," he said. "We have to control the line of scrimmage and we can slow Joe down."

Younger players, like Adams and other freshmen, help each other out, he said.

"We all hang together on the football team," he said. "The younger guys have a little incentive."

"This freshman class, we have a lot of fun together."

Part of Adam's incentive comes from his family.

His father, Sam Sr., played professional football for the New England Patriots from 1972 to 1980. But the younger Adams said his father really isn't concerned with his son's performance on the football field.

"He's pleased with how I've played so far," Adams said. "He's not as much into the football as he is into my academics."

"He'd rather see me do better in school than in football."

For now, the younger Adams is taking care of the football part.

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**Bergeron**

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show given by Baylor, the spotlighted SWC team, and even more so from the attention-starved Owls. Rice is readily grabbing its share of the limelight, although the light is quite dispersed in the SWC now.

Whatever the attention, the Owls are on top of the world right now, being audacious enough to talk about holding a spot in the Cotton Bowl. C'mon guys, we know you're excited, but let's not get overzealous after one victory.

What Rice can jump the gun on is the ability of its running back Trevor Cobb, who is averaging 177.9 yards rushing per game.

He is the Owl's prime weapon for knocking out competitors, but, hey, most of the SWC teams do have at least one loaded gun. The Aggies have a cannon in Greg Hill alone.

It's a different story in Austin. Rather than the offense leading the way, the defensive squad is carrying all the weapons. And defensive tackle James Patton is leading the firing squad.

Texas' upset over Oklahoma has brought up the scary possibility that the Longhorns could still win even if their offense never comes around. But that's a very unlikely probability.

Even though they beat sixth-ranked Oklahoma, blame easily falls on the shoulders of the Sooners offense.

Texas A&M is sitting pretty, for the moment anyway, and the cards are in the Aggie's favor. Rice left Baylor in a must-win situation for this weekend and the Bears will be intense after their loss.

Sure, Baylor will possess a vengeance to win, but they will also have the added pressure of a do-or-die situation.

The Aggie's matchup with Baylor this weekend could provide a clear perspective of the future SWC champion, and then again it could appear just as cloudy as it is now.