

Barone begins search to replace assistant men's basketball coach

By Doug Foster
The Battalion

When Texas A&M assistant basketball coach James Green decided to leave Aggieland for a job at the University of Alabama, head coach Tony Barone was left with the job of finding a suitable replacement to Green on his bench.

Barone is now beginning that search, and said the process should be complete by the first week of August.

Entering his second season as head coach at A&M, Barone said the decision could be vital to establishing the kind of program he wants for the future in College Station.

"I think this decision is critical because the guy who comes into this position is going to have to buy in to what we have to do to be successful," Barone said. "And that's not just going out

and bringing in bodies. We want to bring in a certain type of student athlete and this choice is important for that."

Barone said his selection process will consist of placing the applicants into one of four groups, selecting the best from each of those groups and making the final decision from those four people.

"We have to set up the criteria for the type of person we want," Barone said. "I'm going to look at guys who are veterans in this business, some high school coaches, some people who have strong ties within the state and some people that I am interested in myself."

"I'll pick the best of each of those categories and make my decision."

After making his choice, Barone will recommend his candidate to Athletic Director John David Crow. According to athletic department policy, Crow will then make the final decision on the hiring, taking Barone's recommendation into consideration.

Despite the adversity the A&M basketball team went through last season, Barone said he feels because of the wide amount of interest that has been

shown, this is one of the top coaching opportunities in the nation.

"I've talked to a lot of people to find out what kind of interest there is, and I already have over 60 resumes on my desk," Barone said. "I think this is one of the top 10 assistant coaching opportunities in the country."

Barone said this opening would offer a big chance for an assistant to make his mark, and said the type of person he was looking for was someone who eventually wanted to move on to a head coaching position in major college basketball.

"We want someone who is going to come in here with a tremendous amount of enthusiasm," Barone said. "We also want someone who is going to look at this job as an opportunity to take a program that was floundering and move that program into the top 25 in the country."

"I think assistants who will do those things will become head coaches. If you don't accept those type of things as a challenge, you will never be a head coach in Division I basketball."

And I want assistants who want to be head coaches."

Life on an expansion team

Former A&M pitcher thrives in Rockies' farm system

By Michael Plumer
The Battalion

With the National League expanding by two teams next year, a former Texas A&M pitcher is trying to become a part of baseball history.

Jason Hutchins, a member of the 1992 A&M squad, is striving to be in Denver for the first pitch of the Colorado Rockies' inaugural season. Until then, he is biding his time in the Rockies' minor league system.

"Right now, I am not sure where I will be next year but of course I would like to be in the majors," Hutchins said. "They will let me know sometime in the near future where I will be."

For the moment, Hutchins is pitching in Bend, Oregon, for the Rockies' short season Single A team. He said that the Pacific Northwest did not let him down with its picturesque and beautiful scenery.

"Bend," he said laughing, "well, Bend is different. It is a small town in the middle of a forest but it is pretty."

"This is a lot like the area where Kindergarten Cop was filmed. I keep waiting for Arnold (Schwarzenegger) to come out of the forest with loaded guns," he said.

With all the imagery aside, Hutchins' main job is to get batters out. As his team's closer, it is up to him to slam the door on opponent's rallies. So far, he has performed adequately.

"Right now, I am doing well," he said. "My record is 0-0 but I have 9 saves and 1.61 ERA."

In entering the league as an expansion team along with the Florida Marlins, the Rockies present a unique opportunity to Hutchins that has not been available to players since the late 1960s when baseball last expanded.

"With them being new, this is a good thing to get into but it is not an easy way to the majors," he said. "It can be a quick way up, though."

"The main thing has been the attitudes of the managers, coaches, and owners. They treat us well plus there is a lot of excitement which is an added bonus. That makes me and my teammates want to try harder to succeed."

Although Hutchins was not drafted by an established major league team, A&M baseball coach Mark Johnson stressed that Hutchins should not alter his

approach in getting to the big leagues.

"This is a great opportunity for Jason because there are not many players ahead of him," Johnson said. "Due to that, there are not many people crawling over on the ladder."

"For him, being on an expansion team is awesome but he has to do the best he can by throwing strikes."

Johnson offered a piece of advice that he felt would serve Hutchins well in any situation, whether he is on or off the field.

"He has great potential but what is important is matter where he is, is not to hold anything back."

"Jason must go for it."

Starting anew is never easy. Besides new surroundings, there are new coaches, teammates, and attitudes towards the game of baseball.

Hutchins related his experiences in Oregon to what he encountered about four years ago.

"This is just like starting at Texas A&M," Hutchins said. "You do not know how the coaches are and they do not know you are."

"Also, how the players or coaches are going to act in certain situations is only determined over time. At first, I was a little scared and tense but as time passed I loosened up."

In November, Hutchins will find out his status concerning whether he will play winter baseball or not. Until then, he is enjoying the jostling and playfulness of a team that does not have the overriding pressure of competing for a spot on the major league roster.

"The locker room is loose and that makes it easier to relax and play ball. It is easier to play without the outside hassles. There has not been any belting the back stuff yet but it could start soon."

Hutchins' has a new teammate whose name could be familiar to fans of the Houston Astros, former University of Florida pitcher John Burke.

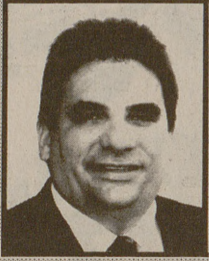
Burke, the Rockies' first pick in the amateur draft this past June, was the Astros' first pick in the draft last summer. But due to monetary differences, Burke returned to school for his senior year.

Hutchins said Burke did not have many favorable things to say about the Astros.

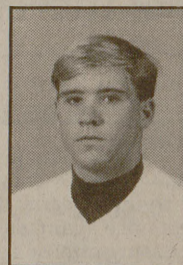
"He just started pitching for us due to a sore arm but yeah, he is constantly bad-mouthing the Astros," Hutchins said with a slight laugh. "He says they were cheap, but I don't know about that."

While Burke wonders about the Astros' supposed stinginess, Hutchins confessed there is only one thing on his mind.

"I want to be in the majors soon and I think I am on the right track here."



Barone



Hutchins

A&M, OU to start football series in '93

From Staff and Wire Reports

Texas A&M University will renew its football rivalry with the University of Oklahoma in 1993. The joint announcement was made last week by Texas A&M Athletic Director John David Crow and Oklahoma Athletic Director Donnie Duncan.

The two-game series will begin in Norman in 1993 and will move to College Station in 1994. Discussions are still ongoing regarding the dates. There has been some speculation that A&M would use Oklahoma to replace a non-conference game with the University of Southwestern Louisiana in mid-September. The Aggies had to remove one team to stay within the NCAA regulation 11-game season.

The Sooners hold a 7-5 advantage over A&M since the series began back in 1903 with Oklahoma winning 6-0. The schools met every year from 1944 through 1951 with the Aggies winning the last meeting, 14-7.

"This series is great for college football," Crow said. "These two schools have tradition-rich programs and the support of both schools will make for quite an exciting event."

"The University of Oklahoma and Texas A&M University are always among the nation's best," Duncan said. "This series offers college football fans in Norman, College Station and across the country the opportunity to see two of the best in action."

Richardson

Continued From Page 3

Richardson. In keeping with an honored Houston training camp tradition, he, along with the rest of the Oiler rookies, received a complementary haircut from the veter-

Swimmer overcomes dark past to capture Olympic gold medal

BARCELONA, Spain (AP) — Most official biographies of Olympic athletes begin by listing records and accomplishments. Nelson Diebel's bio begins by noting his car accidents and broken bones.

Not every competitive swimmer occasionally wears a tatty black leather jacket and cutoff black jeans as a warmup suit. Or celebrates his swimming victories by adding another earring in his ear and an Olympic tattoo on his hip.

Or cheerfully describes himself as "borderline suicidal."

So now meet Nelson Diebel, the first American to win a gold medal at the Barcelona Games.

The 22-year-old Diebel, described in some Olympic previews as "a former juvenile delinquent from Chicago" was a surprise winner in the 100-meter breaststroke Sunday, beating a strong field that included world record holder Norbert Rozsa.

Diebel, who was third at the 50-meter turn, stormed back to set an Olympic record of 1:01.50.

"It's a great rush to have done it and gotten the gold and everything," Diebel said, an American

flag bandanna covering his shaved head. "I wish I could do it all over again. It's like a drug, you know. It's the best high you could ever get."

Diebel knows of what he speaks. He talks openly of a drug and alcohol problem from age 12 to 16. The drug use was mostly confined to marijuana; "hard drugs scare me," he said.

The alcohol: "Anything, depending on the night."

Diebel credits his mother, Marge, a stockbroker, for forcing him off his personal highway to hell. She insisted he go to prep school to get him away from the bad crowd he was running with.

After he was kicked out of one school for fighting in his first semester, his mother tried to get him into the Peddie School in Princeton, N.J. When the school expressed doubts about his poor grades and bad attitude, Diebel claimed a non-existent prowess in the swimming pool.

It was that lie that saved him.

The swimming coach was Chris Martin, a big man with a forceful personality who reined in his new charge.

"He made me look at what I

was doing to myself and realize how foolish and what a waste it was," Diebel said.

Diebel has cleaned up his act, majoring in history at Princeton. Still, he has a manner that suggests something else. His record of car accidents and his kind of downtown strut suggest he might have shaved his head even if he never came near a pool.

Diebel, his friends and his family all say he's just an excitable boy. His mother has been quoted as saying he was born talking and hasn't stopped since.

"I'm very hyper," Diebel said, "especially during the taper, have too much energy. I have to control it."

The taper is the time swimmers refer to when they scale down their hours of daily practice to prepare for a meet. The lull can turn some into jittery wrecks, and Diebel says he is a prime example.

Six days after he lost in qualifying trials for the 1988 Olympics in Seoul, Diebel was working as a lifeguard at the Peddie pool. He climbed a railing and began crying.

"It's lots of fun. It's a rush," he said.

Affirmative. "I'll never adjust to it. I'll just have to wear a hat for the next month."

The next few weeks will present Richardson with a more serious test of his mettle. Houston will play the Dallas Cowboys in the American Bowl in Tokyo Aug. 2, then have four straight road exhibitions against Detroit, Dallas, New Orleans and the Los Angeles

Raiders. That lengthy pre-season schedule should give Richardson plenty of chances to show why he was the most-decorated member of last year's Southwest Conference champs.

"I'll just continue to work and try to take advantage of every opportunity," Richardson said. "There's a ladder you have to climb here."

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