

# Lady Ags

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The Aggies, ranked 8th in the South Region poll, will go into tonight's game without Guerrieri, who received a red card in the game versus Maryland. Sophomore forward Tina Robinson, who scored Sunday's lone goal against the Terrapins, leads the offense that also depends on the play of their midfielders, the team's leading scorers, freshman Sonia Ibanez and sophomore Corie Hammers.

"Now we're focusing on each game," Robinson said. "This means playing at our level and not slowing down to (our opponent's) style of play."

Mercer, 0-2-1, is coming off a 1-0 loss to Centenary on Monday. The Lady Bears, who return 14 letterwinners and eight starters, are led by their talented midfielder Nancy Fallin (6 goals/7 assists).

Texas A&M's home debut will take place at the new Aggie Soccer Complex, which is located behind the softball field by the Penberthy intramural fields.

# NBA fails to beat opt-out clauses

## Judge validates contracts, players escape salary cap

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) — A federal judge Monday upheld the contracts of NBA players A.C. Green, Chris Dudley and Toni Kukoc, rebuffing the league's claim that the deals circumvented the salary cap.

The decision by U.S. District Judge Dickinson Debevoise left free agent Horace Grant in limbo less than four weeks before training camp. He wants his \$22 million contract with Orlando upheld.

The judge said he was unable to determine whether that deal was intended to get around the cap. Grant's attorneys said they will seek a hearing as soon as possible.

Green of the Phoenix Suns, Kukoc of the Chicago Bulls and Dudley of the Portland Trail Blazers recently signed new deals, using contract clauses that allowed them to become free agents after one year. Because they re-signed with their old teams, the new contracts weren't subject to salary cap limitations.

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Debevoise decided the players' deals were valid based on his ruling last year when Dudley signed a seven-year, \$10.5 million deal. The league challenged that contract and lost.

Green and the Suns filed suit last month after the NBA voided the 6-9 forward's five-year, \$26 million deal signed on July 26. Green, who signed a five-year, \$15 million contract with Phoenix before the 1993-94 season, used an opt-out clause that made him a free agent after the end of last season.

Dudley, whose new deal pays him \$24 million over six years, and the Chicago Bulls, who signed Kukoc for an average of \$4.1 million over six years, filed similar complaints against the league.

The NBA considered the judge's latest ruling an impediment to new contracts containing opt-out clauses. Grant's deal with the Orlando Magic would allow him to become a free agent after earning just \$2.1 million this season.

"We just have to show in each case the contract is a circumvention of the cap," said Jeffrey Mishkin, the league's senior vice president for legal and business affairs. "All new contracts can now be challenged. We think this is a very important victory for the NBA."

Bruce Meyer, who represents Green, Grant and Dudley, said he will show the Grant contract represents the former Chicago Bull's market val-

# NFL to pay record salary settlement from 1987 strike

WASHINGTON (AP) — The National Labor Relations Board said today it is awarding NFL players a record \$30 million in back pay arising from the 24-day strike in 1987.

"The \$30 million constitutes the largest back pay award in the history of the agency," the NLRB said in announcing plans for a news conference Tuesday to detail the settlement with NFL owners.

The award is the result of charges brought against club owners by the National Football League Players Association.

The association had sought restoration of wages and bonus incentives lost when the NFL Management Council that year refused to allow players to play in games on the weekend of Oct. 18-19 — after they had unconditionally ended the walkout.

NLRB general counsel Fred Feinstein said in a statement Monday that 1,300 players will share in the award that includes backpay, bonuses and interest.

The litigation arose in 1987, based upon charges filed with the agency by the players association.

The central charge alleged that the Management Council and the teams had "unlawfully refused to allow returning striking players to participate in the games immediately following the end of the strike," Feinstein said.

The owners had adopted a rule about two weeks into the strike that required that any player wanting to return and play in a Sunday or Monday game immediately following a settlement or end of strike had to report back to work by 1 p.m. on the previous Wednesday.

Replacement players could be signed to play in Sunday games as late as 4 p.m. on the Saturday before the games and in Monday night games as late as 4 p.m. on the same day.

The complaint noted that the players had unconditionally ended the strike on Oct. 15.

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