

No bitter feud between Switzer, Ryan

Controversy part of Arizona coach's style

IRVING, Texas (AP) — Barry Ryan likes Buddy. And Buddy respects Barry. So much for a blood feud by the head coaches going into Sunday's game between the Arizona Cardinals and the Dallas Cowboys.

When he was at Philadelphia, Buddy Ryan had a running exchange of verbal needles with Jimmy Johnson which heated up the series between the Eagles and the Cowboys.

Rookie coach Barry Switzer drew praise from Arizona coach Ryan on Wednesday in a telephone exchange with area media, saying "Barry paid his dues. He also was the most successful college coach. Every time I saw him play he won. His players always respected him."

Ryan said Switzer called him during the summer "to apologize for something he had been quoted as saying in a magazine. I wasn't sure what it was all about but we had a good conversation. He's a highly successful coach."

Switzer said he's not going to get into any exchanges with Ryan although the Cowboys

have been promised "an old-fashioned woodshed situation."

"It serves no purpose and has no effect on the players," Switzer said. "I've never gotten into anything like that. I like Buddy."

Switzer did have his moments at Oklahoma when he got into some word fights with then-Texas coach Darrell Royal that made the annual meeting between the Sooners and Longhorns even more bitter.

Ryan brings his Cardinals to Texas Stadium on Sunday after his first victory in Phoenix.

Ryan expects his usual warm greeting from the Dallas fans.

"One year they threw pork chops and another time it was water balloons," Ryan said.

It beat what happened to Johnson in Philadelphia.

He was peppered once by snowballs, including one that had a battery inside.

Switzer said controversy is Ryan's lifeblood.

"It's his style, it's his life, and his personality," Switzer said. "It's kind of the way he's always done things."



AP photo
Coach Barry Switzer and the Cowboys play Arizona Sunday

Board of Governors approves new rules

Changes for NBA include shorter 3-point line, no hand-checking

NEW YORK (AP) — Look for more outside shooting, less obstruction in the backcourt and milder trash-talking in the NBA this season.

After last year's fight-marred, low-scoring playoffs, the league's Board of Governors on Wednesday approved several rule changes addressing concerns that the game was being dominated by defense and overly physical play.

"There's been a slight change in the game over the years, and the competition committee felt strongly it was time to open up the game a little bit," NBA commissioner David Stern said.

The most notable change adopted Wednesday is moving the 3-point line to a uniform 22 feet. Currently the arc is 22 feet in the corners, but extends to 23 feet, 9 inches beyond the top of the key.

In addition to boosting offense, the league also hopes the adjustment will require teams to defend the perimeter more and unclog the lane.

Under another rule change, a player fouled while taking a 3-point shot will get three free throws.

The league also prohibited hand-checking from the end line in the backcourt to the opposite foul line.

"By enforcing the hand-checking, that will clear up a part of the game that had gotten out of hand," said Rod Thorn, the NBA's vice president of operations.

In response to a spate of fights during last year's playoffs, including a brawl between the Knicks and the Bulls that broke out right in front of Stern, the league also stiffened penalties for players who leave the bench during an altercation.

Players who do so will receive

an automatic suspension of at least one game and fined a maximum of \$20,000.

Other rule changes adopted:

— When a player has a clear path to the basket, a two-shot foul will be called if a defender grabs him in the backcourt.

— Players who commit two flagrant fouls in a game will be ejected.

— Officials will more strictly enforce rules against trash-talking and taunting, calling a technical when a player says something that could escalate into a fight.

— Fines for technical fouls will increase to \$500, up from \$100 for the first one and \$150 for the second.

— The second or more of back-to-back timeouts when the ball is not inbound can be no longer than 45 seconds.

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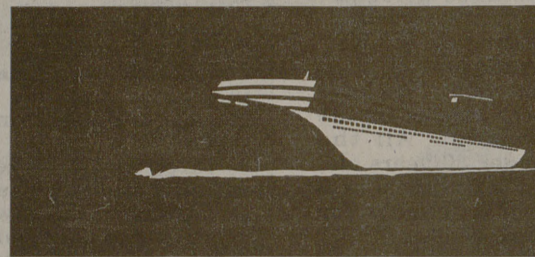
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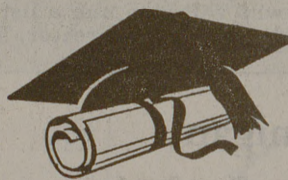
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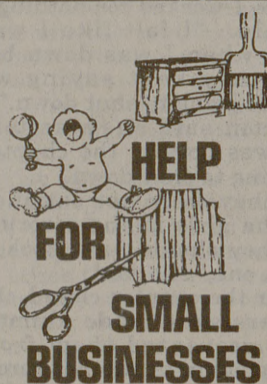
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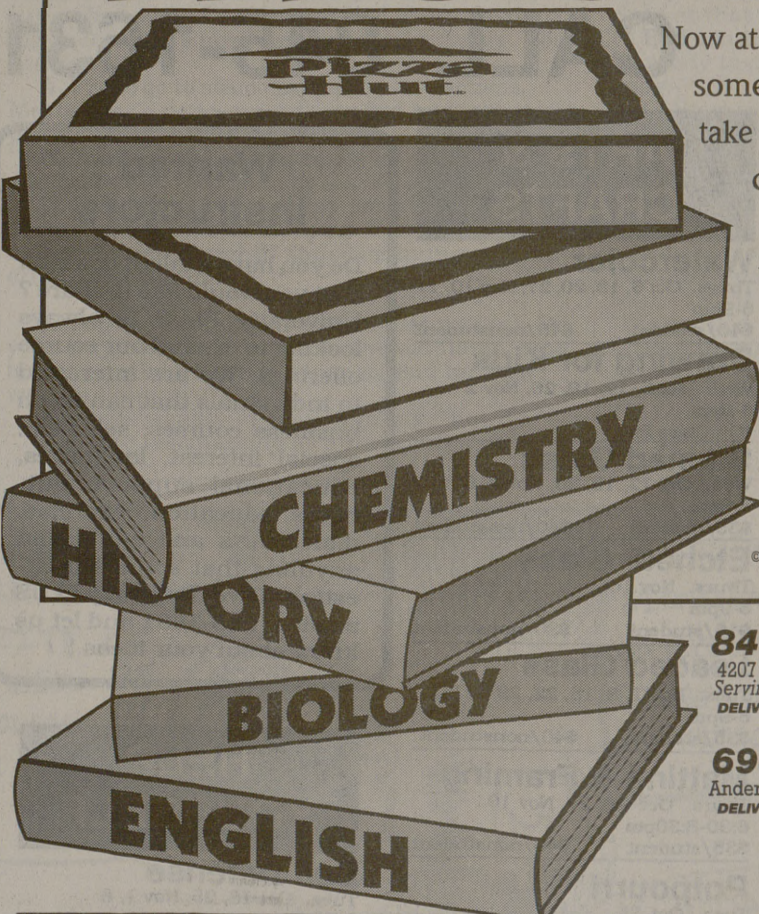
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