

# New lawsuit questions NCAA's no-prayer rule

Under the rule, players cannot celebrate scores with religious acts.

LYNCHBURG, Va. (AP) — The Baptist college Jerry Falwell founded filed a lawsuit Thursday to prevent the NCAA from enforcing a rule prohibiting football players from kneeling in prayer to celebrate touchdowns.

Liberty University asked U.S. District Judge James Turk to block the NCAA from penalizing teams whose players pray on the field beginning with Saturday's games.

"This stadium is a public place. Why should you — the NCAA — tell me where I need to pray?" said Liberty coach Sam Rutigliano, a plaintiff in the lawsuit along with the university and four football players.

The NCAA this season will strictly enforce a 3-year-old rule that bans players from removing their helmets, taunting the crowd or opposing players, posing or dancing after touchdowns or big plays.

Liberty's lawsuit claims that banning players from kneeling

on the field is religious discrimination and violates the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

"The NCAA is overstepping its bounds. It's doing something that is not only unconstitutional, it's immoral, going against someone's religion," said Jarrod Everson, a Liberty freshman football player. He is not among the four plaintiffs.

Liberty athletic director Chuck Burch said the NCAA went too far in trying to eliminate un-sportsmanlike showboating. "It's hard for me to look at somebody kneeling in prayer as being offensive," he said.

The NCAA does not ban prayer outright. Players can kneel on the sidelines, but not on the playing field or the end zone. Team members also are allowed to pray together before or after the game. It also allows all the players of one team to kneel together briefly after a big play.

"The emphasis is on the team and the emphasis is on team celebration," said Grant Teaff, executive director of the American College Football Coaches and the former coach at Baptist-supported Baylor University.

# Maddux baffles Astros again

ATLANTA (AP) — Greg Maddux posted his 13th victory in his last 14 decisions and became the NL's top winner as the Atlanta Braves beat the Houston Astros 5-2 Thursday night.

Maddux (15-2) checked the Astros on six hits as he pitched his third straight complete game and his major league-leading ninth. Maddux, who had four strikeouts and one intentional walk, got 21 of the 27 outs on ground balls.

Chipper Jones homered and Dwight Smith delivered a sacrifice fly in support of Maddux, who has allowed three runs in his last 25 innings.

The Braves ended a three-game losing streak in beating Houston for the first time in six games in Atlanta Stadium. The Braves reduced their magic number for winning the NL East to 15.

Doug Drabek (7-8) carried a 2-1 lead into the seventh but Jones led off with his 19th homer of the season to tie the game.

Fred McGriff walked, David Justice singled, and Charlie O'Brien was hit with a pitch to load the bases with one out. Dave Veres relieved Drabek and gave up Smith's sacrifice fly to center which then scored McGriff.

# No. 2 Nebraska routs OSU, 64-21

Lawrence Phillips gains 153 yards and scores three touchdowns.

STILLWATER, Okla. (AP) — No. 2 Nebraska opened defense of its national championship with a dominating performance Thursday night, getting three first-half touchdowns from Lawrence Phillips in a 64-21 victory over Oklahoma State.

Phillips, cleared Tuesday by the NCAA to play, had 125 yards at halftime and finished with 153 on 12 carries as the Cornhuskers rolled up 671 yards and beat Oklahoma State for the

22nd straight time. They have not lost to the Cowboys since 1961, the only break a tie in 1973.

Tommy Frazier added two touchdown passes and scored once on the ground. The Cornhuskers, 13-0 last year, won their 26th straight regular-season game — the longest streak in the country — and 18th in a row in Big Eight play.

First-year coach Bob Simmons saw his Cowboys, 3-7-1 in 1994, get mauled from the outset and lose their 19th straight conference game. Oklahoma State had 1 yard of offense in the first quarter, and five times during the game had possessions

## Nance

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rently the second longest home streak in Southwest Conference history.

Ken Hatfield, current Rice and former Arkansas head coach once commented, "Texas A&M is the toughest place I have had to coach... the fans are loyal, they don't leave or sit down when their team gets behind. Their band seems to be huge and has a lot of brass. They get everyone in there the night before the game for a midnight pep rally (Yell Practice) and it carries over to the next day."

Ironically enough, the last time the Aggies were outscored

on Kyle Field, it was by Hatfield's Arkansas Razorbacks in a game that decided the SWC championship. The Aggies have won every home game since then, with the exception of a 20-20 tie against Baylor in October of 1990.

The Aggies enter the 1995 season with an 18-game SWC winning streak at Kyle Field. After this season, they will extend the streak to 24 games to lay the SWC to rest in the history books. his season will allow the Big Eight schools to see what they have to look forward to playing in a conference with A&M next season.

With that said, tomorrow afternoon when the Aggies take the field, show LSU and their fans what makes the Aggie Spirit so different from other schools.

### Southwest Conference Football FLASHBACK

# 1917

**Conference Champion:** Texas A&M 2-0 SWC, 8-0 overall

**Player of the Year:** Warren "Rip Collins", running back, Texas A&M

**Stat of the Year:** The Aggie defense, perhaps the original "Wrecking Crew", did not give up a single point during the year as A&M outscored opponents 270-0.

**Game of the Year:** Texas A&M 7, Texas 0

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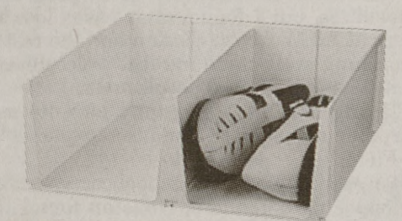
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