

Thursday • December 4, 1997

Texas to name UNC's Brown as new coach

Committee believes North Carolina coach will be a good fit for program

AUSTIN (AP) — North Carolina's Clark Brown will be named as the head coach at the University of Texas, a source told The Associated Press Wednesday night.

Brown, whose Tar Heels are ranked seventh and are a candidate for an Alliance Bowl berth, was interviewed by Texas officials on Wednesday and was offered the job on Thursday, the source said.

"Mack Brown has committed to me to Texas. Everyone's ecstatic," the source said, adding that a news conference with the announcement was expected to be called in Austin by Saturday.

Brown didn't immediately return a message left at his home by the AP, but he is expected to attend the Tar Heels' practice on Wednesday.

North Carolina Athletic Direc-

tor Dick Baddour said Wednesday night, "I'm not going to comment on our coaches being contacted by other schools. It's a confidential personnel matter."

Brown would become Texas' 28th coach, replacing John Mackovic, who was fired and reassigned Saturday after finishing his sixth season at 4-7.

The source said Brown was sought for the Texas job because he has proven he can win at a school with strong academics, is an offensive coach who has also fielded strong defenses and is a good fit in Texas because of his folksy charm.

"He's a great fit for Texas. He'll be well received by followers of the school," the source said.

Brown would also receive a considerable pay raise. The Texas job

pays roughly \$625,000 per year. Brown's base salary at North Carolina was about \$170,000, not including TV, radio and shoe deals.

The Tar Heels went 1-10 in Brown's first two seasons (1988-89). But UNC has averaged nine victories over the last six years, including three 10-win seasons.

They went 10-2 last year and made it to the Gator Bowl. They are 10-1 this season.

Carolina's 45 wins over the past five years are second-best in the Atlantic Coast Conference to Florida State. The Tar Heels have made five consecutive bowl appearances, winning three. They lost to Texas 35-31 in the 1994 Sun Bowl.

Early focus in the Texas search

had been on Northwestern's Gary Barnett. But the source said, "The search committee didn't interview Barnett after talking to Brown."

One of the knocks on both Mackovic and Barnett was that they were too aloof for down-home Texas faithful.

Barnett issued a statement through Northwestern late Wednesday saying he had "taken my name out of consideration."

"I will not comment further on this subject, and I would appreciate it if the media and others would respect my privacy in this matter," Barnett said.

Speculation had also focused on

Miami's Butch Davis, but he too withdrew from consideration on Wednesday.

"I have not been contacted, nor do I anticipate being contacted by any school in reference to a coaching vacancy," Davis said. "I am fully committed to being at the University of Miami."

An offensive coach for most of his career, Brown's defenses at North Carolina have gained national recognition.

The Tar Heels are second to top-ranked Michigan in total defense, giving up 209.3 yards per game.

Prior to coaching at North Carolina, Brown, who lettered at Florida State as a running back in 1971 and 1972, was at Tulane, where he had records of 1-10 (1985), 4-7 (1986) and 6-6 (1987).

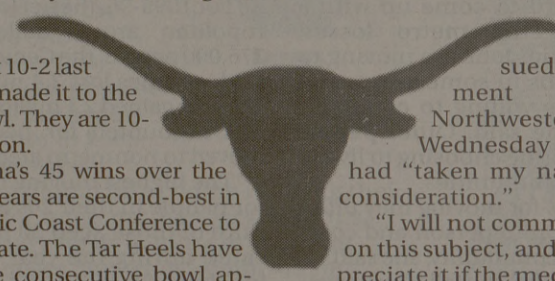
He coached Appalachian State for one season (1983), finishing 6-5, before becoming offensive coordinator under Barry Switzer at Oklahoma in 1984.

The Sooners went 9-2-1 that season and made it to the Orange Bowl.

"You could tell early on that he (Brown) had the complete package and that he was going to be a very successful head coach," Switzer said. "What he has accomplished at North Carolina has come as no surprise to me."

Brown was offensive coordinator at LSU in 1982, a year in which the Tigers went 8-2-1 and played in the Orange Bowl.

He also served as offensive coordinator at Iowa State and as receivers coach at Southern Mississippi and at Memphis State.



Aggies take first loss against Bama

The Texas A&M Men's Basketball team dropped its first game of the season 81-64 to the University of Alabama Wednesday night.

Junior Calvin Davis led the way for Aggies with 15 points and 12 rebounds. Sophomore Steve Houston also scored 15 points to go along with his five assists.

The Aggies go to 4-1 on the season.

A&M picks up big victory over SHSU

The Texas A&M Women's Basketball team defeated Sam Houston State 80-61 Wednesday in Huntsville.

Sophomore Amy Yates scored 26 points for A&M to help the Aggies improve to 3-2 on the season.

Sophomores Prissy Sharpe and Kera Alexander each had double-doubles.

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All-Conference Aggies

A&M placed three players on the All-Big 12 first team and four more on the second team.

■ **First team**
Steve McKinney — The senior offensive guard from Houston has been the leader on a very talented offensive line all season. He has been an instrumental part of an offense which has averaged 37 points per game and racked up 4,270 yards of total offense. The Aggies are rushing for 222.9 yards per game.

Dat Nguyen — The junior line-backer from Rockport is A&M's leading tackler for the third consecutive season with 114. He is the poster boy of the Wrecking Crew with a relentless drive on the field. Earlier in the season he returned an interception for a touchdown against Iowa State.

Shane Lechler — The sophomore from East Bernard may be the best punter in the nation. He is on pace to shatter the A&M single season punting average by almost four yards, averaging 46.9 yards per punt. He bailed the Aggies out with big punts against Colorado in A&M's win over the Buffaloes.

■ **Second Team**
Kyle Bryant — Bryant, a senior from College Station, owns the A&M kicking record book. Earlier in the season he became the school's all-time leading scorer. He has connected on all 48 of his extra point attempts this season and has hit on 17 of 21 field goals.

Warrick Holdman — The junior outside linebacker from Houston is the latest in a long line of big-play outside linebackers for the Aggies. He ranks third on the team in tackles with 77. Holdman has been a solid contributor to the Wrecking Crew since his freshman year.

Derrick Spiller — Spiller, a junior tight end from LaMarque, leads the Aggies in receiving yards (347) and is tied for the team lead with 21 catches. Spiller is a unique athlete the size to block (6-foot-4, 240 pounds) and the speed (4.46 in 40-yard dash) to get down field as a receiver.

Dante Hall — Hall, a sophomore running back from Houston, has been the spark plug for one of the top rushing offenses in the nation. He leads the team in rushing with 88 yards and nine touchdowns despite missing almost all of the Texas State and Texas Tech games (both A&M losses). Hall is also a dangerous punt returner who took a punt back for a touchdown earlier in the season.

Chris Ferrell is a sophomore journalism major

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