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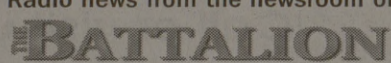
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Former Rocket Murphy under investigation

HOUSTON (AP) — Time sheets submitted by city youth athletic director Calvin Murphy, the long-time Houston Rocket and Hall of Famer, are being investigated by the city to ensure he worked all the hours he claimed.

The city's chief administrative officer, Al Haines, said the time sheets were forwarded to the inspector general's office within the police department two weeks ago.

Haines said questions regarding Murphy's time sheets were raised internally. Parks and Recreation Department spokesperson Susan Christian said the investigation was touched off by an open records request for the time sheets filed by KTRK-TV.

"We felt it important enough to bring in the inspector's general's office," Christian said. She added that Murphy has declined all interviews regarding the allegations.

Murphy has been athletic director for youth sports since July 1996. He is paid \$32.06 an hour for a 30-hour work week by All Temps Personal Service Inc., a firm contracted by the city for temporary employees.

Rockets spokesperson Angela Blakeney said Murphy has a contract with the team to perform TV color commentary and make public appearances.

Murphy first angered some at City Hall two years ago when he sought \$600,000 in public money to buy uniforms and musical instruments for the Houston Marching Thunder, a citywide youth drill team and marching band. Murphy twirls a baton for the group.

City Councilman Ray Driscoll opposed which was supported by Bob Lanier. Lanier's 7 tie when the city approved for band equipment.

Murphy, a second pick from Niagara for the Rockets from 1977, holds the NBA record for free-throw shooting in a season.

His number was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1993.

AGGIE SPORTS BRIEF

from staff and wire reports

Golf places fifth at Big 12 tourney

The No. 33-ranked Texas A&M Men's Golf Team finished fifth after firing a final round 302 at the Big 12 Championships at the Prairie Dunes Country Club (par 70, 6,593 yards) in Hutchinson, Kan.

No. 7 Oklahoma State (312-295-291=898) captured the team title by seven strokes after trailing No. 49 Texas by a stroke entering Tuesday's final round.

The Longhorns finished at 307-299-299=905, while Colorado (317-307-294=918) and No. 26 Oklahoma (311-311-297=919) also finished ahead of A&M.

A&M edged No. 35 Kansas (313-313-307=933) to finish in the top five.

Oklahoma's Hunter Haas (72-75-71=218) edged Texas' Brad Elder (73-74-72=219) by one stroke to capture the individual title.

A&M sophomore Lee Reed (78-81-74=231) finished as the top Aggie.

Junior Ryan Palmer (74-81-77=232) finished in a tie for 19th.

Junior Ty Cox (79-78-76=233, T-22nd), senior Miguel del Angel (78-81-76=235, T-27th) and freshman Ryan Tull (80-81-76=237, T-34th) round out the A&M scoring.

"I am proud of the way we bounced back after such a disappointing second round," A&M Coach Bob Ellis said.

Spurs look to advance past Phoenix

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — The Phoenix Suns went into their playoff series with San Antonio known as the team with the better outside shooting game.

The Spurs have damaged that reputation and could ruin the Suns' hopes of advancing in the playoffs with a win Wednesday.

"Thank goodness we don't have to answer today, 'Is this a must-win?' We've pretty much answered that," Suns coach Danny Ainge said Tuesday, displaying only a slight smile.

If the Suns win Game 4, the best-of-5 series returns to Phoenix for a decisive fifth game on Sunday. The Spurs took a 2-1 series lead Monday with a 100-88 victory in the Alamodome.

Tim Duncan, named NBA Rookie of the Year earlier in the day, led the Spurs with 22 points and 14 re-

bounds. David Robinson added 17 points and four blocks.

Then there was the rest of the Spurs team, all of whom scored in double figures.

The Spurs opted to start 6-foot-4 shooting guard Vinny Del Negro instead of 7-foot-10 power forward Antonio Jackson, who normally starts at guard.

Del Negro and Jackson scored 18 points each. Jackson sunk four of five 3-point attempts. Robinson had 10 points.

"We got some great play from Jaren, Vinny," Duncan said. "They were knocking down shots from the outside. (Jackson) played a great game."

Jackson, playing on his eighth NBA team in a year career, surprised his opponents.

"They made big shots at the end. Jackson had big time — someone I really wouldn't expect as ... he did," said Phoenix forward Antonio Anderson who led the Suns with 26 points and 17 rebounds.



Duncan

Grant Hill approves Gentry as Piston's coach

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. (AP) — With the backing of stars Grant Hill and Joe Dumars, Alvin Gentry was made the permanent coach of the Detroit Pistons on Tuesday.

Gentry was the interim coach the last three months after the Feb. 2 dismissal of Doug Collins.

Detroit missed the playoffs, finishing 16-21 under Gentry and 37-45 overall. But his players and management liked the way he handled the team.

"I think it's an incredible honor for me," Gentry said. "After what happened last year and the close losses we had down the stretch, I think not only am I ready, I think the players are ready to come back and to show all the close games that we lost we'll have an opportunity to win those things."

The Pistons were expected to offer Gentry at least \$1 million a season for two years with an option for a third, *The Detroit News* and the

Detroit Free Press reported Tuesday.

The hiring came after Gentry met Monday with team owner Bill Davidson and vice president of basketball operations Rick Sund.

Sund said Gentry had a stronger hold on the job than the interim title implied.

"I told him you're either good enough to be the coach, or you're not. ... If you're not, we're going to go in another direction," Sund said.

Dumars, who already announced he will retire after next season, said Gentry's personality meshes with the team.

"Guys respond to him," he said. "Guys play hard for him."

Gentry said he was grateful for the support of Hill and Dumars.

"Obviously, with Grant Hill supporting me, you feel good about it regardless of the outcome," he said. "Obviously, I think it helped my cause tremendously."

Gentry, 43, said knowing he has

some job security worth

way he coaches.

"My personality's not going to change. My philosophy's not going to change," he said.

The Pistons played under Gentry. Eight of his losses were two points or less and had overtime.

Three years ago, Gentry finished the season as Miami coach after the Heat fired Kenny Atkinson. He guided the Heat to a record over the final 36 games of the 1994-95 season, but offered the permanent job to Gentry.

"This is a very, very important job. There's so many people who spend an eternity in basketball. Never have an opportunity like this," Gentry said.

"For me to be an NBA coach is a lifetime goal for me."

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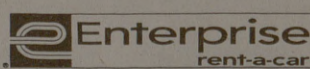
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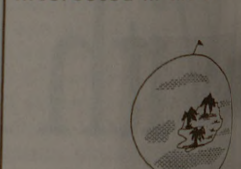
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