

Head of the Class

Jennifer Bohac teaches students about getting on with life after being a college athlete



PHOTO BY MIKE FUENTES

By ROBERT HOLLIER
Staff Writer

"Why should I worry about planning a career for my future? I'm looking at millions of dollars when I sign a professional contract. I don't need to practice interviewing or prepare a resume."

This is the attitude of many of the top college prospects in the country as the seasons end and draft day approaches.

However, for many of the Texas A&M athletes, reality does not set in until it is too late. That is where Jennifer Bohac, Class of '87, comes in with her Career Awareness (CAEN 102) course to

prepare them for life after the final buzzer sounds.

Her job is to alter their egos and their misconceptions about their futures that does not include six- and seven-figure salaries.

"They (athletes) have it in the back of their minds about a career or a 9-to-5 job, but it usually never becomes an issue for them until sometimes it's too late to do anything about it," Bohac said. "I expose them to a lot of different areas in different career fields. Most of my student-athletes don't realize the other skills they've developed off the playing field."

"In my course, I try to convince them to

think of a 'Plan B' just in case they don't sign for millions."

She shows them that with their futures always in question as to where and what they might be doing, it is always a good idea to prepare a resume, look at taking summer jobs or internships in their major and learn how to interview with prospective employers in the real world.

While CAEN 102 is open to all students, Bohac came up with an idea to set aside a special section of the course geared specifically toward helping A&M student-athletes.

"I created the program in 1994," she said. "I've been dealing with athletes for a long time as an academic adviser to A&M athletes. This program was a challenge for me because it was something new and different."

"Working with athletes is the same as any other field or student group. You have your super students who work hard and plan ahead, and you have the students who generally don't care and want things handed to them. It's the same as with the athletes."

Before taking her class, many athletes are unprepared for second and third options, because they assume big contracts

and endorsements are in their futures.

As a result, many of them are not ready to go on job interviews or do not have a complete resume prepared if they are not drafted. However, having taken the class, they go into the world with a better and clearer understanding of the working world and what it takes to be successful.

"I make them see and understand how important a degree can be because it's a competitive world out there."

— Jennifer Bohac
Asst. Director of Athletic Services

"I try to make them see all the possibilities, and I try to make them become more responsible," Bohac said. "I make them see and understand how important a degree can be because it's a competitive world out there."

"So many of them are convinced that just because they played sports, they are guaranteed a job. I help them see past this attitude with research planning, mock interviews with local community

leaders and help them prepare. I think they leave more prepared to have a better idea about what's there for them."

While this course is a relatively new concept, it has drawn a great deal of attention from the players and coaches in two sections last summer. Bohac reported that 90 percent of her students were athletes. She brought in former athletes to speak to the class and discuss their "Plan B's."

"We talk about everything from career goals to personality adjustments and proper etiquette at formal dinners. I have to tell most of them to ask for seconds when dining with clients and that's usually the hard thing for them."

When former A&M fullback Steve Smith participated in a mock interview he asked for a second serving and an on-course meal. Bohac informed him that he had committed a serious dining etiquette and suggested he was still hungry afterwards, he had to go get a cheeseburger from McGee's. Smith earned a Super Bowl ring as a member of the World-Champion Broncos in 1998.

With all the positive results the program appears to produce, Bohac she believes it would not be a bad idea to make the class a requirement for students, not just the athletes.

"All of the coaches have put a tremendous amount of emphasis on this program," she said. "Actually, all of the coaches require their players to take it."

"In fact, I would like for this to be a requirement for all students."

Mavericks seek impact player in draft; San Antonio looks for outside shooter

HOUSTON (AP)—Of Texas' three NBA teams, only the Dallas Mavericks are in position to get an impact player in Wednesday's annual draft.

Because of their 20-62 record last season, the Mavericks have the sixth pick overall, and general manager Don Nelson said at least two great players should be available at that spot.

Nelson said the club can't go wrong with two players likely to still be available from his wish list: North Carolina junior forward Vince Carter, St. Louis freshman guard Larry Hughes, Kansas senior forward Raef LaFrentz and North Carolina junior forward Antawn Jamison.

For the San Antonio Spurs, this year's draft is a completely different scenario from a year ago, when they had the No. 1 pick overall.

With great fanfare, they took 7-foot Tim Duncan of Wake Forest, who was such a powerful force his rookie season that the Spurs finished 56-26; only five teams will draft behind San Antonio in the first round. Scouting director R.C. Buford said the Spurs hope to find a perimeter shooter with promise.

Having a first-round pick at all is a luxury for the Houston Rockets. Before last year, the last time Houston had a first-round pick was 1993, because of trades. This year, the Rockets have not only their own pick, but two from the Toronto Raptors as well.

However, all three are in the middle of the first round. Carroll Dawson, the Rockets' vice player of basketball, says the club is leaning toward adding youth to the roster rather than trading up for an impact player.

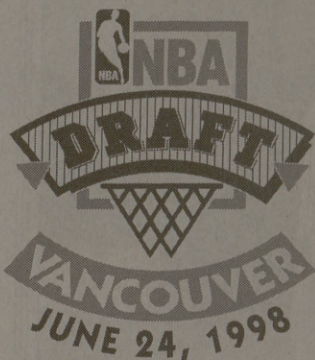
"To some extent, the younger you are, the less you get hurt and you can bounce back quicker," Dawson said. The Rockets stumbled to a .500 record last season because of recurring injuries to Hakeem Olajuwon and Charles Barkley.

North Carolina teammates Jamison and Carter both decided to

skip their senior seasons to go into the draft early.

Jamison last season joined Michael Jordan as the only Tar Heel to be named by The Associated Press as the college basketball player of the year. At 6-9, Jamison is undersized for a power forward, but has the makings of a dominant NBA player, Nelson said.

The 6-6 Carter has an inconsistent jump shot but probably is "the best athlete in the draft," Nelson said.



A first-team All-America pick at Kansas, the 6-11 LaFrentz "played against the best competition in the country for four straight years," Nelson said. "He has size and experience and maturity, and he's ready to play in the NBA."

Hughes, a 6-5 guard, finished second among the nation's freshmen in scoring last season with 22.4 points and 10.5 rebounds per game. He set conference and school records with 670 points and 69 steals.

The Mavericks also have the first pick of the second round.

That's "the best pick in the draft" because second-round picks don't get the high-dollar, three-year guaranteed contracts that go to first-rounders.

"It's a very popular pick. Everybody in the league has called me about it, so we'll see what we do with it," Nelson said. A trade of the two other Dallas picks — the 35th

and 53rd overall — also are possible.

"Our roster is basically full," Nelson said. "We only have room for one guy."

The Rockets are down to two superstars, following the retirement of Clyde Drexler. Trading Kevin Willis to the Raptors for two first-round picks and forward Roy Rogers gave the Rockets more room under the salary cap, and they expect to have \$7 million to \$10 million to spend on free agents.

The Rockets have the 14th, 16th and 18th selections in the first round unless they trade up.

"We are not set to go in just one direction," Dawson said. "We can use our picks and try to move up, or we can use our picks. Right now, we feel very comfortable keeping our draft picks. That's why we've looked at so many players."

Last year, the Rockets worked out 10 to 12 players before the draft; this year, they worked out 28 players.

Among them was 6-10 Rashard Lewis of Alief Elsik — one of four high school players who made themselves available for the NBA draft.

"We watched him play all year. He's a player that really knows how to play. This kid passes when he should and shoots when he should. He understands the game and has NBA 3-point range," Dawson said.

The Spurs say they have little idea who'll be available when they pick, but they invited several players in for a workout — including Cory Carr of Texas Tech, Corey Benjamin of Oregon State, Bryce Drew of Valparaiso, Toby Bailey of UCLA and Ricky Davis of Iowa.

Historically, a player drafted at the 24th position isn't someone who has an immediate impact on the team. They normally have to have some time to develop," Buford said.

But there are exceptions. The Rockets got Sam Cassell at that spot in 1993, and Golden State got Latrell Sprewell there in 1992.

Astros pound Minnesota

HOUSTON (AP)—Shane Reynolds' best pitch of the day was to manager Larry Dierker.

Reynolds convinced Dierker he had recovered enough from a stomach ache to pitch and then threw seven shutout innings and Jeff Bagwell had three RBI as the Houston Astros beat the Minnesota Twins 9-0 Tuesday.

"I told him (Dierker) if I could give us two, four five innings, that those were innings the bullpen wouldn't have to pitch," Reynolds said. "Finally, somewhere between 11:30 and 11:45 (game time was 12:35 p.m.) they decided to give it a try."

Reynolds suffered an attack of gastroenteritis, an inflamed stomach condition on Sunday night, and was originally scratched from the starting lineup. He spent several hours in a hospital getting IV treatments and came to the Astrodome on Tuesday determined to take his turn in the rotation.

"He came in and said 'I can pitch,' and I told him to go in the back and do some workouts to see if he'd get dizzy," Dierker said. "The trainer said he didn't think Shane could make himself sicker by pitching and the more he pitched the less the bullpen had to."

Reynolds (8-5) retired 10 of the first 11 batters he faced and allowed only one baserunner past first base — Marty Cordova's fourth inning double. C.J. Nitkowski, who was expected to start in Reynolds' place, pitched the final two innings of the five-hitter.



BIGGIO

"The last few times out I've tried to overdo it today maybe it was good to be tired," Reynolds said. "I lost about 10 pounds and I was tired but I just try to throw strikes."

The Astros gave Reynolds plenty of offense. Biggio and Carl Everett had three hits and two runs each and Bagwell drove in three runs on a double single in Houston's 13-hit attack.

Bob Tewksbury (4-9) did not last long against the Astros who took a 5-0 lead after two innings highlighted by Bagwell's two-run double first and his RBI single in the second.

Tewksbury pitched 12-3 innings and allowed four hits and five runs and reliever Dan Seaman pitched four hits and four runs in 2 1-3 innings.

"They put away all the scalpels in the training room so I can't cut my wrists," Tewksbury said. "I had to get on the team plane and try again next time." Everett doubled home a run in the first and Spier had an RBI single in the second. Biggio and scored in each of the first two innings.

"I think it was more that Tewksbury was tired and we were a little on," Everett said. "We just played aggressive. That's the kind of team we are."

Biggio hit a two-run double in the third and the Astros made it 9-0 in the fourth on Everett's and a double play groundout by Tony Eusebio.

Tewksbury got off to a bad start against the Astros. "When was the last time Tewksbury threw 2-2 in the first inning?" Twins manager Tom Kelly said. "I can't remember seeing that. That just wasn't him. We were out of it in the first inning. They whipped it that way. This was just one of those days."

Norway upsets Brazil for second-round World Cup

Norway 2, Brazil 1

PARIS (AP)—At Marseille, Brazil went ahead on a header by Bebeto and seemed in control. But Flo went to Norway with a remarkable individual effort in the 83rd minute, taking a long pass, tapping it to the middle of the penalty area and beat goalkeeper Taffarel from 12 yards.

Italy 2, Austria 1

Italy's deep strike force was apparent against Austria, which had three goals in the tournament, all in second-half injury time.

Christian Vieri got his fourth to tie for the overall goal-scoring lead on a nice setup by Alessandro del Piero. Roberto Biggio was fed by Filippo In-



zaghi for his goal; both of them came on as substitutes up front.

Chile 1, Cameroon 1

It was party time in Santiago after Chile moved ahead for the first time

since it was host of the World Cup in 1962. It withstood a furious half challenge by Cameroon, but had only nine players when the game ended after two equalizers.

When they were down to 10, the Cameroonians tied it. And appeared to go ahead on Franco Bilyick's shot. But Bilyick's goal was disallowed when Hungarian referee Vagner said Patrick Mboma's replays showed no clear foul.

Morocco 3, Scotland 0

Salaheddine Bassir and Hadda punished the sleeping defense with strikes in the 27th, 47th minutes and Bassir added goal five minutes from the end.

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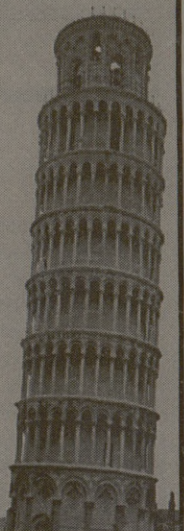
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