

DuBose to resign 'Bama position after 2000 season ends

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. (AP) — Alabama football coach Mike DuBose will resign at the end of the season, ending a turbulent and disappointing four-year run. Athletic director Mal Moore announced the resignation Wednesday. "We both agreed that new leadership is needed to move the program forward," Moore said.

Moore said DuBose would be paid his salary and benefits through January 2002 and there would be "no lump sum payment." DuBose, 47, a former Alabama player and longtime assistant coach, is under contract through Jan. 31, 2004. His total annual compensation is \$525,000. Moore said a search would be undertaken for an experienced head coach to replace Du-

Bose, who had never been a college head coach when he took control of one of the country's most prominent football programs. The athletic director said he would pick a successor without a search committee. He declined to identify any possible successors but said "you always have coaches in mind in these situations." He said he hopes the announcement will

have a positive impact and the team wins the remainder of its games. DuBose, who worked out final details of the resignation with Moore at mid-day, met with the team Wednesday afternoon prior to the announcement. He did not attend the news conference, but issued a statement saying he had been fortunate to be part of the Alabama tradition for

much of three decades. He thanked players, assistant coaches, fans and alumni for support and commitment. "Most importantly, I thank God for all the opportunities he give me each and every day," DuBose said. Moore said that as the season went along it appeared "we were starting a slide or downward spiral" that DuBose could not stop.

Ex-Eagle to return to Philly as rival

IRVING (AP) — The last time Randall Cunningham played at Veterans Stadium, he received a standing ovation. Really. Philadelphia fans were not always so kind to Cunningham during his 11 seasons with the Eagles, but their fond farewell is what he remembers as he prepares to return Sunday for the first time since 1995. "I'm kind of enthusiastic about it," Cunningham said Wednesday. "I've spent most of my life as an adult there, and I've got a lot of great memories. "I'd like to be cheered, but if I'm not, I'm not going to be upset about it. There's not a lot of guys on the Philadelphia Eagles that I played with, which is going to make it a lot different for me."

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— Randall Cunningham
Cowboys quarterback

The biggest difference is that Cunningham will be playing for the Dallas Cowboys, which automatically makes him the enemy. Remember, the last time Dallas played at the Vet, Philly fans cheered what ended up being a career-ending injury to Michael Irvin. Cunningham delicately described those fans as having "just a lot of enthusiasm." Cunningham could feel that enthusiasm targeted against him from the start. On Wednesday, he took a step closer to being the starting quarterback as continued back pain kept Troy Aikman out of practice. Cunningham, who took the majority of snaps, will get at least half Thursday, even if Aikman returns. "Troy is a tough guy, so don't count him out," said coach Dave Campo. "I feel he's capable of going out Friday and taking care of business Sunday." Cunningham played against the Eagles for the first time in the opener after Aikman suffered a concussion. He started the next two games, went 1-1, then returned to the bench until playing three quarters in a 23-17 overtime loss to Jacksonville on Sunday. Dallas fans already have gone hot-and-cold with him. They wanted him to keep starting when Aikman was ready to play again, then started longing for Aikman when Cunningham committed two turnovers in the second quarter Sunday. Cunningham arrived in Philadelphia in 1985 as a second-round pick. With a strong arm and fast feet, he became a fan favorite, but he also frustrated fans and coaches with his willingness to run and many of his passing decisions. Things were great from 1988-'90 when the Eagles made the playoffs and Cunningham made the Pro Bowl each season. In '91, he blew out his left knee in the opener and was done for the year. He returned in '92 and again led Philadelphia to the playoffs, only to have another injury cut short his '93 season. The one-time love affair between him and the city never recovered. "For nine years, everything was really very, very good," Cunningham said. "My last two years got a little tougher. Whenever you're somewhere eight, nine, 10 years, you get kind of old there. People get used to your face, what you've got to say, and a change of pace is sometimes good."



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