

College sports affected

Pro sports put on hold

Staff & Wire

In light of the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington, the Texas A&M volleyball match against the Oklahoma Sooners in Norman, Okla., on Wednesday has been postponed along with all other matches involving two Big 12 conference teams, the conference announced Tuesday.

The A&M women's golf team was scheduled to leave Tuesday for the Dick McGuire Invitational in Albuquerque, N.M., however, the tournament has been pushed back to a two-day tournament on Friday and Saturday. The team will leave by bus for Albuquerque on Wednesday.

A&M football head coach R.C. Slocum also cancelled football practice Tuesday.

"I felt this was the appropriate course of action to take

regarding today's events," Slocum said.

In addition, all Tuesday and most Wednesday soccer and volleyball non-conference competitions at all Big 12 schools have been postponed.

Conference officials noted that every attempt will be made to reschedule the Wednesday league volleyball matches.

Big 12 Commissioner Kevin Weiberg has been in consultation with the athletic directors of the 12 members of the conference, as well as university officials about security concerns at upcoming Big 12 events and about possible transportation problems.

Thursday and Friday non-conference contests in all sports are pending and will be played at the discretion of Big 12 schools and non-league opponents.

Thursday's Texas Tech at Texas-El Paso football game has been postponed, and the sched-

ule for the other nine football games involving Big 12 teams is pending for Saturday.

"We are in the process of contacting the Big 12 board of directors, other conference commissioners, directors of athletics, the NCAA and other governing bodies about the status of competition and other practical travel and security issues," Weiberg said.

In addition, two Thursday night college football games were postponed, and suspension of this week's schedule of Division I games is being considered.

The Atlantic Coast Conference announced the postponement of all athletic events through Thursday, including Penn State at Virginia and Ohio at North Carolina State.

Earlier Tuesday, the commissioners from all the I-A conferences, including the ACC, Big East, Big Ten, Big 12, Pac-10 and Southeastern, discussed their options for staging this weekend's games in a conference call hours after the attacks.

"We're going to monitor and carefully evaluate everything, and definitely make a decision tomorrow (Wednesday) on our weekend football games," said Big East commissioner Mike Tranghese, speaking only for his own league's games.

He added, "The commissioners will be talking to their institutions on conference calls, and then we will talk again and make a collective decision."

Two other games are scheduled for Thursday night — Texas Tech at Texas-El Paso and Kentucky Wesleyan at Tennessee-Martin. Colorado State is at UNLV on Friday night.

In Division I, there are 116 games scheduled Thursday through Saturday, including

three major matchups in the state of Florida — No. 13 Washington at No. 1 Miami, No. 8 Tennessee at No. 2 Florida and No. 10 Georgia Tech at No. 6 Florida State.

The final decision on whether to play, though, could rest with the federal government, not the commissioners. The government most likely will determine if teams can travel by air and if it is safe for large crowds to gather at stadiums nationwide.

"It may be out of our hands," Tranghese said. "There are a lot of issues, emotional ones. Kids flying, playing in large venues with a lot of people and if the government says do something, we do it."

NCAA president Cedric Dempsey said the NCAA would cooperate with any executive orders issued by President Bush.

"The games themselves are insignificant in the face of what has happened today," Dempsey said. "Our focus is entirely on the safety of student-athletes, athletics personnel and fans. We urge schools to make sound decisions about proceeding with contests today and in the coming days."

Many schools canceled practice Tuesday, including UCLA, which is scheduled to play host to Arizona State in the Rose Bowl on Saturday.

"I met with the team and it was a very emotional meeting," said Bruins coach Bob Toledo. "The team was sensitive to the feelings of the people who have suffered a great loss."

"After listening to comments from several members of the team, I decided that regardless of whether or not we play the game Saturday, today should be a day for us to reflect on things other than football."

TEXAS A&M SPORTS POSTPONEMENTS

The Texas A&M volleyball team's match against the Oklahoma Sooners Wednesday will be rescheduled for a later date.

The Texas A&M women's golf team's tournament has been pushed back to a two-day tournament on Friday and Saturday. The team will leave by bus for the Dick McGuire Invitational in Albuquerque, N.M., Wednesday.

A&M football head coach R.C. Slocum canceled football practice Tuesday.

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