

Scandal-ridden Baylor names McCaw new AD

By Lisa Falkenberg
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WACO — Ian McCaw was named athletic director at Baylor on Monday and immediately envisioned a new identity for a school that's been rocked by a sad, scandal-filled summer.

McCaw, who is leaving the same job at Massachusetts, believes Baylor can go beyond its Texas Baptist roots and become a destination for Protestants and other Christians nationwide who are capable of excelling in athletics and academics.

He said Baylor's financial support and reputation should rival that of Notre Dame among Catholics and Brigham Young among Mormons.

"We want young men and women to grow up dreaming of coming to Baylor University and competing for Baylor University," McCaw said.

McCaw's immediate goal will be bringing peace and stability to a program still trying to recover from the death of basketball player Patrick Dennehy, the resignations of basketball coach Dave Bliss and AD Tom Stanton and the discovery of serious rules violations.

The football program is in bad shape, too, and critics have said Baylor should bow out of the Big 12 Conference. It is the league's only private school.

"I'm going to be focused on moving us forward," McCaw said. "I'm not going to spend a lot of time worrying about the history and worrying about the past. I'm going to worry about

advancing this athletic program as quickly as we possibly can."

McCaw was hired tactfully one month after Stanton and Bliss resigned. Scott Drew already has been hired from Valparaiso to replace Bliss, but several of the team's top players have been transferred.

Violations ranging from scholarship payments to poorly handled drug tests already have been revealed in Bliss' program. An internal investigative committee has yet to file a full report, then the NCAA will weigh in, possibly with heavy sanctions.

"Baylor represents a pinnacle, personal and professional position for me."

— Ian McCaw
new Baylor AD

Former Baylor player Carlton Dotson has been indicted on a murder charge in Dennehy's death.

While McCaw said he doesn't plan to be part of the investigations into past problems he will work to avoid future ones by implementing a strong NCAA compliance program with checks and balances.

Baylor president Robert ban said McCaw is a "proven leader" and was the only candidate offered the job after a national search that included 60 names. McCaw is known for working

at a "ferocious pace," and is often called "the brightest guy in college athletic administration," said David Brooks, who had been acting AD and will now return to his job as vice president for finance and administration.

A private school, Baylor does not release contract details. Brooks, however, said McCaw signed to stay at Baylor for the "long haul," not just to pick up the pieces from the previous regime.

McCaw, who starts in about two weeks, said Baylor's tarnished reputation had no effect on his decision.

He's been eyeing the school for a while because it fit his dream-job profile: a faith-based school with strong academics that was a member of a powerful Division I-A conference.

"Baylor represents a pinnacle, personal and professional position," said McCaw, who took over UMass in July 2002 after five years as AD at Northeastern. He's also been interim AD at Tulane after starting in college administration at Maine.

"I enjoy challenge," he said. In fulfilling his vision to raise Baylor's profile to the likes of Notre Dame and BYU, McCaw said he'll rely on his strong marketing background to create a new athletic identity for Baylor. Aiming for students across the nation and internationally would be a change, too.

"I just don't think we've really focused on it as much and I think now we've got the level of coaches and the level of athletic director that really view the national role for Baylor," Brooks said.

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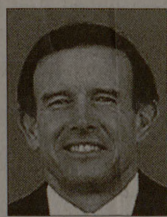
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Texans still basking in win Team now looks for first-ever win streak

By Mark Babineck
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HOUSTON — Starting the season with a spectacular upset victory is getting old-hat for the second-year Texans. Instead, they're focused on actually winning two games in a row for the first time.

"The challenge will be to see how much we've matured as a football team," coach Dom Capers said Monday as the Texans basked in their 21-20 shocker at heavily favored Miami. "There were phases of our football team that played extremely well after a win last year, but we didn't play well and put it all together as a team."



CAPERS

The Texans, the only expansion team to start the season 1-0 in its first two seasons, had four chances to build a winning streak last year. They lost each time, by a combined score of 99-35.

Houston gets its fifth chance to string together two victories when they make the short trip east to New Orleans on Sunday. There the Saints will seek their first victory after a 27-10 loss at Seattle.

Capers' task will be to get his Texans, still not used to success, prepared to finally have a winning encore.

"It's hard for me to believe that we were ever an overconfident football team last year," Capers said. "We just weren't consistent enough. One of our points of emphasis coming into this season was we wanted to be a smarter, more physical, more consistent football team. I think we made some strides (Sunday) in those areas."

Though no one's quite ready to predict the Texans will play a home game Feb. 1 when the

Super Bowcomes to Houston, there were several signals there vastly improved from 2002.

—David Carr didn't get sacked — and hardly was even bothered — after setting an NFL record by going own 76 times last season and facing 2002 sacking Jason Taylor. Quick drops, coupled with an offensive line retooled with three new starters, did the trick.

—Houston managed not to fumble or throw an interception, a feat the Texans did not accomplish during a game last season.

—The Texans maintained their steady defense from last year, when they ranked 16th in the NFL. Virtually the same starting cast returned from 2002, though there's not much depth behind them so players like cornerbacks Marcus Coleman and Aaron Glenn need to stay healthy.

—Offensive coordinator Chris Palmer balanced his attack with 34 rushes and 32 passes for a team-record 393 yards. New running back Stacey Mick gained 89 tough yards despite an average of 3.3 per carry, opening up passing lanes.

—With a little protection, a real-live running game and a new weapon in No. 3 overall draft choice Andre Johnson, Carr got to show why he was the top pick in 2002 by going 17-of-31 for 26 yards and a touchdown.

"All we heard was how Jason Taylor was going to abuse us. They were going to get all those sacks," Carr said. "The guys up front took that as a challenge and stepped up in a big way."

Now the challenge will be to prevent what happened after last year's season-opening 19-10 upset of the Cowboys, which was a five-game losing streak.

If you look at the work ethic and caliber of play that we have, then you should know that anything is possible with us," defensive tackle Set Payne said.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Big Tua equals big FO ratings

NEW YORK (AP) — Bill Parcells' debut as coach of the Dallas Cowboys earned Fox its highest overnight NFL rating ever, while CBS' opening-day ratings were up 14 percent.

Atlanta's 2-13 win over the Cowboy, the 4 p.m. EDT game on Fox, drew a 15.2 rating with a 30 share, the network's highest pro football rating ever and the highest overnight rating for any Fox show this summer.

The previous NFL high on Fox was on the opening weekend last year, when a 4 p.m. game featuring the St. Louis Rams at Denver drew a 15.1 and a 30 share.

The rating is the percentage of all homes with TVs, whether or not they are in use. The share is the percentage of homes with sets in use.

Overnight ratings measure the 55 largest TV markets in the United States, covering nearly 70 percent of the country.

Each overnight rating point represents about 735,000 TV homes.

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