

SPORTSLOOK

College Athletics

■ **DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)** — The Black Coaches Association said it has given up on working with the NCAA and will turn to outside groups for help in attacking what it considers to be inequities in college athletics.

The association, upset that NCAA delegates recently approved tougher eligibility standards for incoming athletes, said it had no other recourse but to seek help from other groups. The BCA opposes using standardized entrance examinations as part of those standards, contending they are culturally biased.

■ **Miami Athletics Director Paul Dee** is looking beyond the obvious front-runners in his search for a new football coach.

On Monday, Dee interviewed Youngstown State coach Jim Tressel, who led the Penguins to their third NCAA Division I-AA title in four years last season.

Tressel, 42, is the second coach Dee is known to have interviewed after Dennis Erickson left last week to coach the NFL's Seattle Seahawks.

Colorado State's Sonny Lubick remained a somewhat frustrated front-runner for the job, while Wisconsin's Barry Alvarez turned down a chance to interview.

"He told them he wasn't interested," said Pat Richter, Wisconsin athletics director said Monday. "From a college perspective, this is as good a job as there is."

South Carolina's Brad Scott, another coach who caught the Hurricanes' attention, earlier said he wasn't interested in the vacancy.

Mike McGee, South Carolina's athletics director, said he was contacted by a Miami official on Monday seeking permission to talk with Scott about the Hurricanes' coaching vacancy. The call came from Miami's Senior Associate Athletics Director Larry Wahl.

"I just said the coach was not interested, and that basically was it," McGee said.

Scott said he was concerned the publicity would hurt his ability to recruit for the Gamecocks.

Lubick, a former Miami defen-

sive coordinator, met Sunday with Dee in Chicago. Lubick last week publicly pushed for a quick decision, and he's still anxious to resolve the matter.

"We talked at length about the direction they would like the program to go, and if I felt comfortable taking that direction," Lubick said, adding he wasn't offered the job.

"He loves Fort Collins, and he's concerned about the time frame," said his wife, Carol. "He has a big recruiting week next weekend and had one this weekend."

"He has a good job here, and there are a lot of things about Miami, too. ... He's going to do some soul searching."

Dee also called Duke officials Monday to seek permission to interview Blue Devils coach Fred Goldsmith.

Former Hurricanes assistants Gary Stevens and Butch Davis also continue to surface as possible candidates. Stevens is the offense coach for the Miami Dolphins, and Davis is the defensive coordinator for the Dallas Cowboys.

■ **Blake Williamson**, South Carolina's backup quarterback the past two seasons, has told coach Brad Scott he will not return for his final year of eligibility.

School spokesman Kerry Tharp confirmed Tuesday that Williamson chose not to return. Williamson played in seven games this year, completing 11 of 27 passes for 126 yards, one TD and three interceptions.

Williamson got married earlier this month and is scheduled to graduate in May. Scott said Williamson decided to concentrate on academics and possibly attending graduate school.

"Certainly, he'll be a guy that'll be missed in our program and was one of the special young men for our program," Scott said.

If Williamson had returned, he likely would have battled redshirt freshman Anthony Wright for the backup role behind Steve Taneyhill.

"I've never been on a team where I had a second-team quarterback that prepared as hard and was always ready, if called upon down the stretch, like he was," Scott said.

Hockey's restart means time for celebration, questions

NIGEL RAVENHILL Staff Writer

What a relief! In what was proving to be an even more painful experience than awaiting USC's first ever bowl victory, life without hockey was sheer misery. Millions of supporters who follow the fortunes of their chosen heroes with the zeal of rabid dogs were forced to cast their gazes past their beer mugs to televised scenes of beach volleyball and jet ski racing.

With the passage of the late summer sunshine and the approach of fall and winter, my thoughts pass to the "Boys of Winter" who do battle in frozen arenas. How will the Maple Leafs do this season? Will Gretzky mark 100 points for the millionth season, and will someone please punch the crap out of Mark Messier? But National Hockey League Commissioner Gary Bettman, who only recently rode into town from the NBA where he served a long apprenticeship under salary cap honcho David Stern, brought similar visions of greed to the hockey owners. In the ensuing battle of avarice, the owners pitted themselves against the players. The immediate result was a halt to millions of friendly debates, stadium hot dog sales and the baptismal rites of passage for young fans as they attend their first games.

To what good was all of this? I am certainly no pro-union supporter but hockey owners seem to suffer from the same selective responsibility lapse as baseball owners. They fall over themselves signing marquee players, untested junior draftees and pretty much anybody with a silver tongued agent and cry later when they realize errors of their

fiscal ways. This flight of reason is ruining the sport because the resources simply don't exist.

Hockey is unique in that small cities in both Canada and the United States can field championship teams, and the NHL has historically been the poor cousin of the four major professional sports in North America. It is only very recently in the past five years that salaries (and to a lesser extent revenues) have sharply increased to approach the absurdly high levels of other sports. The players are only too happy to sign huge contracts and collect their monthly checks, and who can blame them. The "man in the street" questions of "do you think professional athletes are paid too much?" are moot point at best. Of course they are, but the players are paid the going rate of their vocation just like the best welders or doctors.

In professional sports, owners exercise a strange level, monopolistic control over the markets, an anti-trust heaven that Congress strangely ignores. While they may have little control over revenues, they can budget to the exact penny like any other company their expenses. This serves as one of the more amusing ironies of sports and labor strife.

Picture this: The auto industry decides next spring that wage agreements with their employees, a.k.a. the UAW, have been too generous and as such they plan to lock out the workers to extract concessions including an industry-wide cap on how much players can make, where they live and who they can work for. Essentially that is what contemporary pro sports and hockey have, only

followed by their bigger cousins by trying to close the barn gate after the horse called "Sane Fiscal Planning for the Future" has bolted and run away to the distant hills where it lives. Instead of strategy for tomorrow, they have lost their sanity today and want the players to give back what they have only been too happy to accept.

Hockey has always been the poor cousin for many reasons. The main reason is the average American television viewer, who regularly watches Troy Aikman and Roger Clemens, wouldn't know a slapshot if it reached out from the TV set and smashed his beer. And no matter how much the networks hype the Olympics every four years, a groundswell of interest in the game will never last in mainstream America. It will flicker every time ABC plays the last seconds of the great aberration of 1980, the gold medal victory over the Russians, but the game just doesn't have the deep cultural roots like Harry Caray at Wrigley Field. As Stuart Smalley would say, "that's OK."

But Gary Bettman, conniving weasel that he is, has convinced the owners they are in the big leagues with Jerry Jones and the DeBartolos. As long as they rejoice in these deluded visions of grandeur, they will continue to run amuck. The bottom line is that without the broadcasting crutch of a few billion dollars, hockey will never be able to compete with baseball, basketball or football.

Who is at fault, the owners or the players? In short who really cares? The owners think they are business-ubermensch and willingly pay players their ridiculous demands. Agents are only too

happy to push the envelope as far as they can. And why not? It doesn't hurt to ask for the moon and celebrate righteously when some idiot who happens to run a sports franchise more haphazardly than a 6-year-old would run her first lemonade stand agrees.

If I was a player, I'd do likewise and ask for the whole, gooey enchilada. It will sure help with the kid's college expenses. The owners have acted like those parents who leave their kids at home and then when they return home, wonder incredulously at the mess. A little more sanity five years ago when the salary explosion began would have avoided the pain of the last three months.

But all of these questions don't lessen the pain. We had to do without the game for 103 days and, if you include the time from the Ranger's Stanley Cup victory, that was almost eight months with no hockey and almost no reason to drink beer. Think of it. It's like eight months without sex, an enforced and very inopportune celibacy that is neither welcome nor of any residual value.

With the promise of a reduced schedule of 48 games, the depths of winter will not be as harsh as the past months. There will once again be a reason to stay at home on Saturday nights and cradle a beer in front of the TV. Hockey is back in town and may the greedy players and owners be banished to a frozen wasteland without skates and pucks for the rest in their next lives. Long live the greatest game on earth and take Gary Bettman back to the NBA if their warranty is still valid.

USC FOOTBALL AWARD WINNERS	
The following award winners were honored Saturday night at the football team banquet:	
Captains: Brandon Bennett, RB; Toby Cates, WR; Tony Watkins, SS	
Academics: (Fr.) Henry Taylor, DL; (Soph.) Reed Morton, PK; (Jr.) Elliot Smith, OL; (Sr.) Boomer Foster, TE	
Ed Guerard Academic Award: Reed Morton, PK	
Scout Team MVP: (Offense) Ryan Koop, LB; (Defense) Jimarcus Blandon, RB	
Scott Sinclair Newcomer: (Offense) Paul Beckwith, OL; (Defense) Ben Washington, FS	
Most Improved Player: (Offense) Stanley Pritchett, FB; (Defense) Ronnie Smith, LB	
Special Teams MVP: (Offense) Reed Morton, PK; (Defense) Lee Wiggins, DB	
George Terry Leadership: (Offense) Vincent Dinkins, OL; (Defense) Chris Rumph, DE	
Most Outstanding Back: (Offense) Brandon Bennett, RB; (Defense) Tony Watkins, SS	
Most Outstanding Wide Receiver: Toby Cates	
Most Outstanding Offensive Lineman: James Dexter	
Most Outstanding Inside Linebacker: Ronnie Smith	
Most Outstanding Defensive Lineman: David Turnipseed	
Steve Wadiak MVP: (Offense) Steve Taneyhill, QB; (Defense) Stacy Evans, DE	

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