Fisher's pals find loyalty hard to place

By Skip Myslenski Chicago Tribune

SEATTLE—Steve Fisher's success as Michigan's interim coach made things a bit sticky for a few of his old friends on Saturday.

Consider, for example, the plight of Rich Central coach Ron Brauer. He and Fisher became friends when the latter was at Rich East, and he always pulls for the Wolverines. Always, that is, except when Michigan plays Illinois, which features Rich Central grad Kendall Gill.

Then there's Jim "Doc" Collie, who coached Fisher at Illinois State. Collie lives in Carbondale, which is Illini land, and always roots for them. Always, that is, except on Saturday, when he was pulling for one of his old boys.

Finally, there's poor Army coach Les Wothke. Fisher was his assistant when Wothke was head coach at both Rich East and Western Michigan, and they have been friends for two decades. But

NCAA notebook

Wothke was also once Lou Henson's assistant at Illinois, and that left him torn. Said Wothke before Saturday's Illinois-Michigan showdown: "I'll be thrilled for somebody, sad for somebody

Here's what Michigan football coach and Athletic Director Bo Schembechler says about Wolverine guard Rumeal Robinson: "He could be an All-America defensive back. That's why he's always in foul trouble. He's a football player trying to make it in basketball."

And here's what Indiana coach Bob Knight says about Schembechler's pep talks to the Wolverine basketball team: "When you're dealing with Bo, you're not dealing with Captain Go Easy on People. I'm sure Bo has conveyed a different approach to their players than they've ever heard before."

And here's what former Indiana guard Quinn Buckner says about the close relationship of Schembechler and Knight: "When I told Coach Knight that Michigan was one of the other schools I was considering, he talked so highly of Bo, he almost convinced me to go there."

The rumor mill has Duke assistant Bob Bender, a Bloomington native, ticketed to Illinois State as Jim Donewald's successor. . . . When Seton Hall coach P.J. Carlesimo was at Wagner and Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski was at Army, the pair struck up a friendship. "What drew us together," Carlesimo explains, "was the fact we were the only two people in the metropolitan [New York] area who could spell and pronounce each other's names."

The Blue Devils practiced for their semifinal with Seton Hall at Mercer Island High School, the alma mater of their guard Quin Snyder.

TACOMA, Wash.—And now,

Fierce rivals any time they meet,

the two Southeastern Conference

teams play for the NCAA

women's championship Sunday.

They split two games this year,

one in the regular season, the

other in the final of the SEC tour-

eight years of the NCAA tourney

that teams from the same confer-

While the rival players and

ence have met in the title game.

This will be the first time in the



Tribune photos by Charles Cherney

Seton Hall's Daryll Walker (left), Ramon Ramos and Andrew Gaze celebrate the 9578 victory that left Duke's Quin Snyder, Danny Ferry and Robert Brickey in gloom.



"He wanted to show us his locker and prom picture," Krzyzewski said. ... The night Bill Frieder walked out on Michigan, a number of

Seton Hall prepared for its Final Four ap-Carlesimo put in an appearance on Roy Fires-

On their way back after the taping, Vaccaro offered to take Carlesimo to the best Italian deli in Santa Monica, but he declined. "We don't have Arby's back East. We have to go to an Arby's," said Carlesimo.

That led to some sight, that white limo in the drive-through lane at Arby's.

After their victory in the West Regional, Carlesimo told his players they could pick the city they would practice in as long as it was in the same time zone as Seattle. Pirate guard Gerald Greene, who's from Inglewood, Calif., controlled that vote and got the team to Santa Monica. But later Carlesimo admitted, "Some of our players didn't know Hawaii was in a different time zone.

ND's Rice takes issue with Prop. 48 policy

Tony Rice is an argument that Proposition 48 works. He hopes Notre Dame will notice what he has been able to accomplish in the classroom.

With all the talk about Proposition 48 this year, it's ironic that the Irish should win a national title with Rice at quarterback. If he had tried to enroll a year later at Notre Dame, the university wouldn't have taken him.

In 1986, Rice was a member of the first and last class in which Notre Dame took Proposition 48 students. He fell 10 points below the minimum entrance-exam requirement to be eligible for his freshman year. Consequently, he had to sit out the season. He wasn't even allowed to practice.

"It was the best and worst thing for me," Rice said. "It was tough not being able to play. I couldn't even bear going to practices. I felt like I was living in another world. But at the same time, I was able to get a foot down on my classes. It helped."

It has been a struggle, Rice says, but he's surviving academically at Notre Dame. He says he's on course to get his degree in psychology next spring.

"It's not easy. I'm still fighting," Rice said. "A lot of people said wouldn't make it through. But I have one more year left to get my degree. I've got one requirement left in my major."

Because he has been able to succeed academically, Rice would like to see others in his position get an opportunity at Notre Dame. With its rigid academic standards, the university has stopped accepting Proposition 48 students.

Rice thinks that's wrong.

"I was one of the first ones [Prop 48 students], and I was one of the last ones," Rice said. "Notre Dame gave me a chance to get a degree. I don't think it's right that they aren't giving other students the chance. You get a stamp: Prop 48. Don't be so quick to put those students down. Give them a chance."

Speaking of academics, one of the biggest losers in the trial of agents Norby Walters and Lloyd Bloom has been the University of Iowa. The Hawkeyes have taken a massive beating after testimony revealed that football players Ronnie Harmon and Devon Mitchell took such courses as billiards, bowling and the study of football to remain eligible.

Associate Athletic Director Fred Mims, who testified in the trial, thinks the rap is unfair. It should

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be noted that Iowa's Chuck Hartlieb was named an Academic All-America at quarterback. Mims also said that 18 senior football players are on line to graduate at the end of the

"We have a good program here," Mims said. "In the circle of intercollegiate athletics, we have a good reputation. You're subject to attack as a major college institution. You don't like it, but you deal with it. We'll survive."

As for Harmon and Mitchell, Mims maintains they would have graduated if they had stayed through a fifth year. Left unsaid, though, is that they would have had to take a heavy class load in their majors in the final 11/2 years to qualify for a

As for that "D" Harmon received in a watercolors course, Mims said: "They tried to give the impression that it's a fluff course. It is not. People should call the art department and ask if it's a remedial course."

Bad news, Notre Dame. Just because Jimmy Johnson has left Miami doesn't mean there's going to be a change of style within the Hurricane ranks.

In his first meeting with the team, new coach Dennis Erickson assured his team that its not-so-sportsmanlike tactics won't be lost in the tran-

"He said straight out that he's going to let us play like we always play," said wide receiver Randal Hill. "I think this season will be even more fun than last year. We're going to go out and take care of business the Miami way-continue to blow people out."

The countdown continues. Only 236 days left until the Notre Dame-Miami rematch Nov. 25.

There should be quite a quarterback battle at Michigan this spring. Both Michael Taylor and Demetrius Brown return, and both want the starting job.

After a poor showing in 1987, Brown lost his job to Taylor last year. Taylor did a good job running the offense until he broke his collarbone in the Minnesota game. Then Brown took over and led the Wolverines to victories over Illinois, Ohio State and Southern Cal in the

"Both of these kids have the right to be considered because both had good years last year," said coach Bo Schembechler. "That's an awful nice problem to have."

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Esports



Wolverines received calls from reporters claiming they were with Sport, Sports Illustrated or the New York Times. But it turns out each of those calls came from one person, and he was not a reporter at all. It was Michigan forward/center Loy Vaught.

pearance in Santa Monica, Calif. While there tone's "SportsLook." The show provided him with a 60-foot, white stretch limo to make the trip, which he took with Nike rep Sonny Vac-

Tennessee, Auburn in rematch for women's title Maryland on Friday night.

Auburn, 32-1 and rated No. 2, is in the title game for the second year in a row. The Lady Tigers lost to Louisiana Tech 56-54 in last year's final, but beat the No. 3 Lady Techsters 76-71 Friday.

Said Tennessee star Bridgette Tennessee beat Auburn 66-51 in the SEC tourney March 6, ending the Lady Tigers' 28-game winning Tennessee, 34-2 and ranked No. streak and knocking them out of 1, is appearing in its fourth the No. 1 ranking. Auburn won straight Final Four and seeking its the regular-season game 67-59. second title in three years. The

Auburn was the aggressor in the first game, but Tennessee's defense dominated the rematch, limiting

Auburn to 29.6 percent shooting. "They totally disrupted what we wanted to do," Ciampi said.

The key for both is inside play. Tennessee has Gordon, a 6-foot senior who helped the U.S. team win the gold medal at the Seoul Olympics, and 6-4 Sheila Frost, who scored 25 points in the semifinal victory over Maryland.

Auburn's top scorer is 6-3 Vicki Orr with a 15.9 average. Sometimes 6-6 Linda Godby relieves Orr, who has tendonitis in both knees and must rest frequently. Other times, they're in together.

Wilkins: Georgia coach knew that agent loaned me money

NCAA final, Ch. 2, 3

coaches Pat Summitt of Tennessee

and Joe Ciampi of Auburn know

each other and get along, there is

Gordon: "When we go on the

Lady Volunteers, who beat Louisi-

ana Tech in the 1987 final, ad-

vanced 77-65 over fifth-ranked

no pretense of friendship now.

floor, it will be for blood."

From Chicago Tribune wires

From Chicago Tribune wires

nament.

Tennessee-Auburn III.

Atlanta Hawks forward Dominique Wilkins has acknowledged that he received thousands of dollars in loans from an agent while he was playing basketball at Georgia, and he said coach Hugh Durham knew of some of the dealings, according to a story in the Atlanta Journal and the Atlanta Constitution.

The story was based on information from a 1985 deposition in a court case involving Wilkins' finances. Wilkens was said to have acknowledged that he and his mother received nearly \$30,000 in loans from sports agent Jack Manton.

The newspaper quoted Wilkins as testifying: "There was another thing that I had signed in college that would have made me ineligible, but it was like a secret thing between me, Manton and coach Hugh Durham." The newspaper said the testimony was unclear as to whether the "thing" Wilkins signed was an agent's contract or a promissory

Shawn Heaphy scored twice in the first

period and then again in the second peri-

od to cap a five-goal uprising as Michigan

State beat Maine 7-4 Saturday in St. Paul

to become the final team to win the con-

solation game of the NCAA Division I

The NCAA has decided not to hold a

Michigan State (37-9-1) finished third for

the second time. The Spartans also won

the consolation game in 1967. The tri-

umph gave Spartans coach Ron Mason a

victory over his future son-in-law, Shawn

scheduled to marry Tracey Mason Aug.

From Chicago Tribune wires

hockey tournament.

Maine finished 31-14.

third-place game.

Notebook

note with Manton.

Durham denies any knowledge of the arrangements. Georgia Athletic Director Vince Dooley said Durham has assured him that he knew nothing about the payments.

Wilkins declined to elaborate on his testimony. "I can't go back on spilled milk," he said. "I don't really want to get into that kind of stuff. It happened." Wilkins said he accepted the money from Manton "I guess because I was helping my, mother during that time."

A restructuring of the Southeastern Conference could mean the breakup of the Southwest Conference by 1992, according to a story in the Ft. Worth Star Telegram.

A source close to the SWC said he has been told by a league insider that it is a "done deal" that Texas, Texas A&M and Arkansas will join an expanded, realigned Southeast-

ern Conference in time for the 1992 football season.

Under the new format, the source said, the SEC would expand and absorb the three SWC schools as well as South Carolina, Florida State and Miami (Fla.).

Iowa State basketball player Sam Mack, 18, and football player Levin White, 21, remained in stable condition in an Ames, Ia., hospital after a holdup at a fast-food restaurant in which they were shot and charged with armed robbery.

Minnesota basketball coach Clem Haskins has informed Washington that he isn't interested in interviewing for the Huskies' job. . . . Louisiana Tech coach Bobby Joe Eagles has been chosen to succeed Sonny Smith at Auburn, according to the Birmingham News. The job had an 87-40 record in four years at Tech. ... Florida State coach Pat Kennedy said he hasn't decided whether to accept the Tennessee

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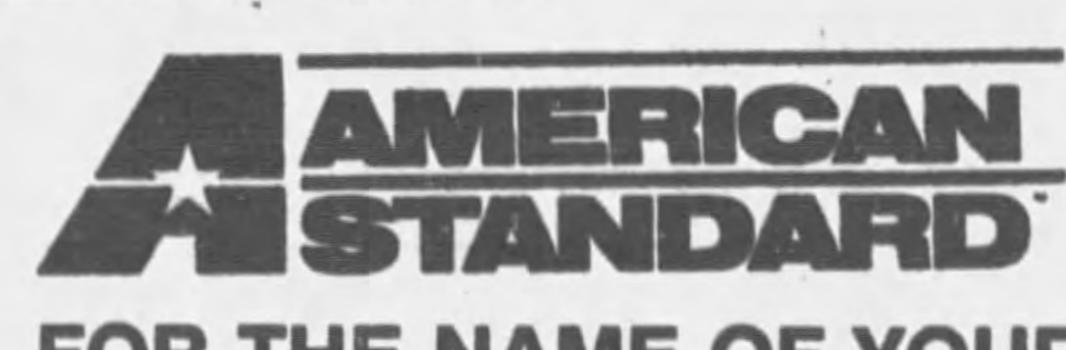
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Swimming and diving Stanford freshman Jeff Rouse won the 200-yard backstroke as Olympic silver medalist David Berkoff of Harvard ended his career by placing second in the men's NCAA championships in Indianapolis.

Texas, helped by Shaun Jordan's victory in the 100 freestyle, a first in the 4x100_keestyle relay and a second by de-

fending champion Kirk Stackle in the 200 breaststroke, won the team title for the finished with 475 points. Stanford was second at 396. Michigan was third at 315.

Eddie Reese of Texas was selected swimming coach of the year. Hobie Billingsley, who is retiring after 31 years at Indiana, tied Cincinnati's Charlie Kasuto for diving coach of the year honors.

Southern Cal's David Wharton, who swept the two medley events earlier in the meet, received the swimmer of the year award for the second consecutive year. Walsh. Walsh, a former MSU assistant, is

Indiana diver Mark Lenzi, who won the 1 meter and finished second at 3 meters. withdrew after injuring a wrist on his third dive off the 10-meter platform in the prelims. Lenzi attempted one more dive before withdrawing.

Notes

Columbia's Jon Normile won the epee title at the men's NCAA championships in Evanston. Normile beat Wayne State's Claus Dieter-Block 10-8 in a fence-off to win the title for the second consecutive year. Columbia won the team title with 88 points. Penn State had 85.