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Marc HANSEN

Shenanigans at Texas Tech

h, the suspense, the mystery, the drama. The big question at the Alamo Bowl (apart from who'd win, Iowa or Texas Tech) was star running back Byron Hanspard.

What would he do? Would he leave Texas Tech early to pursue a career in the NFL? Or would he come back for his senior season, make a run at the Heisman Trophy and get his degree?

Nobody was saying. Nobody seemed to know for sure, even Hanspard and his coach, Spike Dykes.

Dykes said he'd love to have his 2,000-yard rusher back. What coach wouldn't? In the end, though, you have to do what's best for you and your family.

After weighing his options, consulting his loved ones and praying for guidance, Hanspard would make up his mind.

Most people figured he'd go pro. Once a young man of modest means

It was the Food Lion case all over again, without the rotten beef.

runs for 2,000 yards in his third year of competition, what else does he have to learn on a college football field? What else does he have to prove?

College can be the experience of a lifetime. And a college education is a wonderful thing. But who knows when a knee is going to collapse under some salivating linebacker.

A potential first-round draft pick like Hanspard goes for the money. Now. He can always come back for his degree, if he really cares about that sort of thing.

So the morning after the Hawkeyes stuffed the Red Raiders, Hanspard sat down in front of the lights, cameras and microphones and told the world he was leaving Lubbock.

What he didn't say was that he had little choice. Basically, he'd stopped attending class during the season and had received a 0.00 grade-point average for the fall semester.

While that's a perfect earned-run average, Hanspard isn't trying out for the Yankees' bullpen. His shoulder pads had a better chance of being eligible next fall.

Hanspard knew the score. Dykes, a man of wit and intelligence, must have known, too. If he didn't, call the front desk and schedule a wake-up call.

So the charade was on, until a few days ago when someone at the school leaked the information to the Houston Chronicle.

When the story broke, it was the Food Lion case all over again, without the rotten beef. The bad guy, as usual, was the anonymous tattle-tale who

exposed the school. I say the school, because Hanspard wasn't the one exposed. He stopped attending class. So what? College kids flame out all the time for any number of reasons.

He did make a farce of the Doak Walker Award, which goes to the junior or senior running back "who combines outstanding achievement on the field, in the classroom and in the community."

It was the school, however, that kept sending Hanspard onto the field. Not that he wasn't eligible to play. Technically, he was still enrolled in the required 12 hours of class work.

But ethically, it's questionable. Only students are supposed to play intercollegiate sports (that's why they call them student-athletes), and Hanspard had stopped being a student.

Embarrassed by the disclosure, administrators lashed out at the messenger. Same as administrators at New Mexico. Same as administrators at Massachusetts. Same as administrators at Iowa during the Norby Walters trial. Same as administrators at lots of

schools. The vice-chancellor and legal counsel called it "disgusting."

Not the way Hanspard was allowed to keep playing, but the way an anonymous university source defied privacy laws and told the truth.

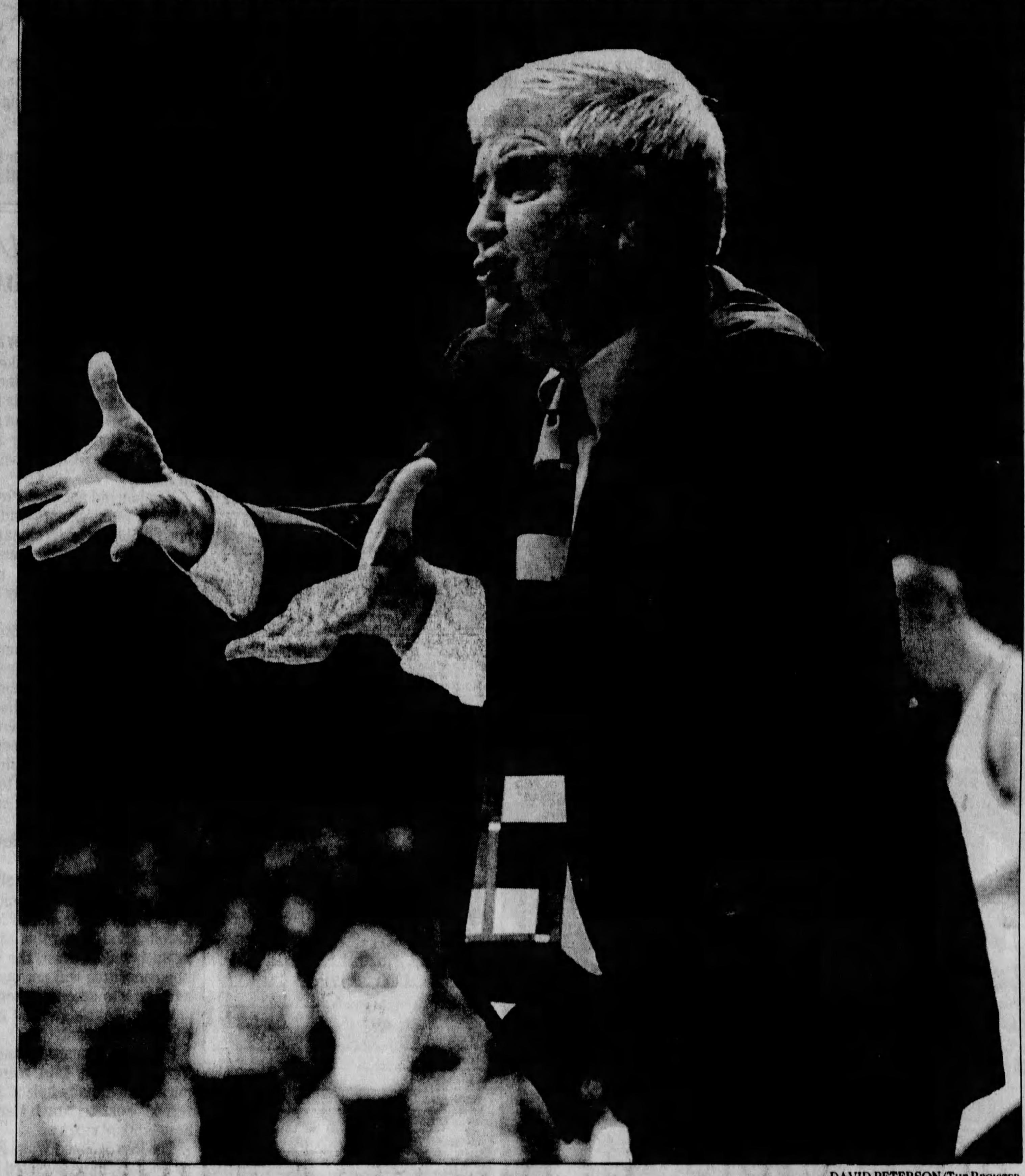
"The important thing is most of the student-athletes do pretty well," said another Texas Tech official, "and don't get much credit."

That's important, but so is this. What some schools say they do isn't always what they end up doing when

nobody's watching. If somebody tells you such-and-such bastion of academic integrity would never, ever engage in such shenanigans, smile politely, ask for proof, then check your wallet.

"I just try to do a good job. I love the people at Iowa."

- Tom Davis, Iowa basketball coach



DAVID PETERSON/THE REGISTER

lowa basketball coach Tom Davis is three victories from posting the 500th of his career. "I just wanted to do a good job," he said.

Davis' magic number

Iowa coach approaches 500th victory

By RON MALY

REGISTER STAFF WRITER

Iowa City, Ia. - Tom Davis said he's never been much for the numbers game.

Coaching numbers, that is. "I was trained as a teacher." Davis said. "I enjoy teaching young people."

The teacher has come a long

way.

The man who is in his 11th season as Iowa's basketball coach needs to win three more games to reach a milestone. He'll have 500 victories.

The next opportunity to get

closer to that figure comes today. Davis' Hawkeyes play 18thranked Michigan at 6:35 p.m. in

Carver-Hawkeye Arena. Davis takes a 26-year career record of 497-267 into the key Big Ten Conference game. At

Iowa, he's 223-117. He's Iowa's winningest coach, and he ranks 16th in all-time Big Ten victories with 102. He's 15th in career victories among active NCAA Division I coaches, and he ranks 42nd among Division coaches in all-time victories.

"When I got into coaching, I didn't look at it in terms of how many games I was going to win,"

Davis said. "I just wanted to do a good job."

Iowa is Davis' fourth stop as a collegiate coach. It all began with a 21-6 record at Lafayette College in the 1971-72 season. He was 116-44 in six seasons at Lafayette, 100-47 in five seasons at Boston College, and 58-59 in four seasons at Stanford.

"In each program, there are certain things that are significant," he said. "For instance, we went to the National Invitation Tournament in my first season at Lafayette, and we beat Virginia in the first round."

There have been a number of noteworthy games at Iowa. One was at Michigan State on Jan. 28, 1993, nine days after the death of Hawkeyes forward Chris

Street in a traffic accident. The Hawkeyes won, 96-90, in

overtime. "I don't have a lot of recollection, other than the raw emotion, of that game," Davis said. "We all were in such an emotional

state." Three days later, Iowa beat Michigan, 88-80, and went on to

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RUMORS 'A JOKE'

New track toreplace AKsarben a bad bet

By DAN JOHNSON

REGISTER STAFF WRITER

Horse racing interests counting on a western lowa track to replace AKsarben in Omaha should find another tip to bet on, said the chairwoman of the lowa Racing and Gaming Commission.

Rita Sealock of Council Bluffs said she's been asked repeatedly about the prospects in recent weeks, but called such talk "a joke."

"I wouldn't think that has any credence," Sealock said. "On a scale of one to 10, I would think it would be a zero."

However, she did acknowledge she's been getting calls about the subject for a month.

"The people I heard from were horse people," Sealock said. "They said they heard it was absolutely going to happen, it was a done

With AKsarben scheduled to be razed this spring, Nebraska racing interests are scrambling to fill the

Nebraska horse interests would like to build a bare-bones fiveeighths of a mile oval in Omaha to have two days of racing a year so the state's four other tracks can continue simulcasting into Omaha once AKsarben is razed.

Other talk has a track in western Iowa, presumably so it could offer slot betting — and with Harveys Casino Resorts being the builder. Harveys has a riverboat casino. It also has large tracts of land, but not for building a track, said Bonnie Picker, the casino's spokesperson.

"Absolutely not," she said. Sealock agreed.

"That's ridiculous," Sealock said. "There was a rumor they were going to build a bowling alley, then a rumor that they were going to build a sports complex for the Omaha Lancers (of the United States Hockey League).

"And then there's this horse track thing, which is just a joke. I don't know who started that. Harveys is as deep into construction and into projects here as they want to be. They want to work down the debt. They're still spending millions of dollars on completing their original project."

Even if a firm wanted to build a track-casino, there would be two huge obstacles.

 Only pari-mutuel groups that were licensed prior to Jan. 1, 1994, can operate slot machines at tracks. That eliminates riverboat operators such as Harveys.

 Any proposal would have to be approved by the Racing and Gaming Commission.

Council Bluffs already has two riverboats and a dog track with slot machines. Many believe the market is saturated. "According to the studies we've

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GAINES ALLEGES HE WAS USED, ABUSED

Former lineman sues Texas Tech

Lubbock, Texas (AP) — Texas Tech coaches used defensive lineman Stephen Gaines for his playing ability, then discarded him once he lost his senior season to academic ineligibility, the player contends in a federal lawsuit.

Gaines, who played for the Red Raiders in the 1990 through 1993 seasons, sued the school, two coaches and a former counselor Tuesday on numerous counts, including racketeering, fraud, forg-

ery and negligence. The lawsuit did not detail specific damages, but they are believed to be in excess of \$1.25 million.

"Stephen clearly had no clear understanding what it is to make a commitment when everything in his whole life was promised by (Coach) Spike Dykes and promised by these recruiters," attorney Christopher Kalis said Wednesday.

The NCAA has been investigating the men's basketball and football programs for nearly a year.

Gaines played five games as a freshman, then was sidelined by academic woes. The lawsuit alleges coaches circumvented NCAA rules while getting him reinstated.

The accusations are: School officials gave Gaines money while he attended Navarro College in Corsicana, Texas.

 Ronn Reeger, a school counselor, set Gaines up with a semester's schedule of four physical education classes taught by a "friendly" professor. Gaines got B's, even though he said he attended five times and took no tests.

 Assistant coach Rhudy Maskew enrolled Gaines in a correspondence course at Southeastern College of the Assemblies of God in Lakeland, Fla., by forging Gaines' signature. Reeger and Maskew then provided answers to tests.

• Gaines said he tore ligaments in a knee while enrolled at South Plains College in Levelland, Texas. The lawsuit contends trainers misdiagnosed the injury as a sprain.

Last week, members of Texas Tech's Faculty Senate discussed alleged attendance problems by football players. The Houston Chronicle then reported Sunday that unidentified sources close to star tailback Byron Hanspard said he and others scored a 0.00 gradepoint average last semester.

MORNING REPORT

UNI signs recruit — Walter Randall, a 210-pound running back from Euclid, Ohio, has signed a national letter of intent to play football this fall at Northern Iowa.

Randall's team won the Ohio state football championship last season. He was an all-district, all region and all-county player at Benedictine High School in Cleveland, Ohio.

USTA honors Ashe - The United States Tennis Association on Wednesday named the new stadium at the National Tennis Center for the late Arthur Ashe.

"As we looked at the decision in more depth, we felt unanimously that this was the right decision," USTA president Harry Marmion said.

Ashe, who died in 1993 after contracting AIDS through a blood transfusion, captured the 1968 U.S. Open, the Australian Open in 1970 and Wimbledon in

Boxers to repay money -USA Boxing, which runs amateur boxing, agreed Wednesday to repay \$1.3 million in misused Olympic grants.

WHITE SOX PLAYER ISSUES STATEMENT

Belle: 'I have never bet on baseball'

Sarasota, Fla. (AP) — Albert Belle didn't talk much Wednesday after reporting to the Chicago White Sox's

training camp. He did, however, issue a written statement saying he didn't gamble on major-league baseball games.

"I want to make one thing clear: I have Belle never bet on Last word baseball,"

Belle's statement said, adding that these will be his last comments on the subject.

"I was never asked during the deposition if I bet on baseball,' Belle said. "Each year, majorleague baseball officials speak to all of the major-league teams and emphasize that betting on baseball is forbidden by major-league baseball's rules. I have always faithfully adhered to those rules."

Belle, who had spent his career with Cleveland before signing with Chicago during the off-season.

chatted amiably with reporters about golf and shook hands by his locker. He promised to answer baseball-related questions today.

Belle, baseball's highest-paid player after agreeing to a \$55 million, five-year deal, said during a deposition that he lost as much as \$40,000 gambling on sports other than baseball.

Acting commissioner Bud Selig is awaiting a report from Kevin Hallinan, the sport's head of security.

Gambling on baseball is against major-league rules, punishable by a one-year suspension. A player who bets on games involving his own team is subject to a lifetime ban.

Belle has been suspended five times in six years for various outbursts, including charging the mound, throwing a ball at a fan and berating a reporter.

"I believe Albert Belle to be a good man," White Sox Manager Terry Bevington said. "I don't listen to what other people say."

Belle's former Indians teammate Tony Pena, also in the White Sox camp, said Belle is misunderstood.

"He's smart," Pena said. "People think he's stupid, but he's not."