

Sports

Decision about Drew won't be until season's end

Steve Rivera
Sports Editor

The future of Aggie head coach Weldon Drew will not be decided until the conclusion of the season, New Mexico State's Athletic Director says.

Drew's three-year contract expires April 30.

"I can't comment any more than that we're going to evaluate our basketball program and coach Drew at the end of the

season," Keith Coson said. "We think that is the decision that is best at this particular time."

Drew's job is in jeopardy because of the Aggies' poor performances the last two years. Last year, NMSU finished 13-15 in its first year in the Pacific Coast Athletic Association. This year the Aggies will again finish below .500. NMSU has not had back-to-back losing seasons since the 1964-66 seasons. NMSU current-

ly holds a 7-16 overall record with four games left.

Rumors in the city already have Drew looking for another job.

Only two years ago, Drew was named coach of the year in the Missouri Valley Conference. During the 1982-83 season, Drew guided the Aggies to an 18-11 record and a third-place finish in the MVC.

But since becoming a member of the talent-laden PCAA, Drew

and his players have had their difficulties. The Aggies finished 9-9 in the conference a year ago, finishing fifth in the 10-team conference. NMSU lost to Utah State in the first-round of the PCAA post-season tournament.

This year, the Aggies have struggled even to make the conference tournament. However, it's almost a sure bet that they will get into the tournament after last Saturday's victory over Pacific.

This year hasn't been the luckiest for Drew and the Aggies. Before the season started Drew was already without Wendell Wright, who was the team's leading scorer a year ago. Wright sat out the fall semester because of academic problems—his second in as many years. In January, Drew opted to redshirt Wright for the remainder of the season.

Compounded with Wright's problem, sophomore guard Stan Whisenant went down with an injury, William Love became an academic casualty and the junior guard quit the team.

If Drew is terminated after this season, the coach who inherits next year's Aggie squad could become an instant success. Only senior Andre Patterson will be leaving the team. Besides having only one departure next year, three capable redshirts are waiting in the wings.

The redshirts include Wright, 6-foot-10 Sly Kincheon, a transfer from the University of Mississippi and 6-10 Brian Soistman, a transfer from Wyoming. He will be eligible at second semester after enrolling at NMSU in January.

Drew frequently admits that next year the Aggies will be a contender in the PCAA.

Campus Sports Briefs

Wilburn chosen player of week

New Mexico State guard Gilbert Wilburn, who scored 49 points and grabbed 11 rebounds in the Aggies' last two games, has been selected as the Pacific Coast Athletic Association basketball player of the week, the PCAA announced Monday.

Wilburn, a 6-foot-4, 180-pound junior from Carson, Calif., scored 22 points in a 61-53 New Mexico State loss to Fresno State last Thursday night and 27 points in a 79-64 triumph over Pacific two nights later.

Wilburn is the top scorer in the PCAA, averaging 22.8 points per game.

Chiles defeat UTEP

New Mexico State scored on tries by Rick Zubiate, Bruce Hayes and Leon Redman to take a 12-0 victory over host University Texas-El Paso Saturday.

One Chile member said the team played sloppily in their win.

JC transfer may not play

One of New Mexico State's junior college football recruits may not be permitted to play next season if

he does not get his required number of credits, a school official reported Tuesday.

Six-foot-3, 210-pound inside linebacker Clay Orrison will have to go back to Los Angeles Valley College to get his Associate of Arts degree.

"That's the best thing for him," said Keith Colson, NMSU's athletic director.

Orrison, an honorable-mention All-American and player of the year in the Western States Conference in California, is about 12 hours shy of his degree.

It appears Orrison must get his degree because of his poor academic high school history. Orrison did not have a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.0 (out of a possible 4.0).

"He had good marks at the junior college," Colson said, "all he has to do is get his degree."

Colson said information on the JC transfers arrived Monday, but the problem didn't surface until he was going through the material.

"It's always a problem getting information from the junior colleges," Colson said.

Head coach Fred Zechman said he is not worried about Orrison's return to NMSU in the fall. "He will play," Zechman said.

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