

Akers finds new home at Purdue

By STEVE HERMAN
AP Sports Writer

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. — Former Texas football coach Fred Akers, hired at Purdue yesterday, said he expected to assemble a staff within a week and immediately begin recruiting "the very best athletes possible."

Akers was hired five weeks after Leon Burnett resigned under pressure amid the Boilermakers' worst record in 41 years.

"I've known Leon for some time, and he did discuss some of the strengths and weaknesses," Akers said at an afternoon news conference at Mackey Arena. "We're always looking for skilled people, but until we can get a staff settled, I'm not going to say this is our No. 1, No. 2, No. 3 priority."

Akers said he might bring some of his former staff from Texas.

He said he met with a group of about 25 Purdue players before taking the job and that he would meet again with the players to "assure them they're going to have a staff ready to roll up its sleeves and work with them."

"I want them to know we are in the process of assembling what I

hope will be a great staff," Akers said.

Akers described himself as "demanding, committed, a great competitor... yet fair. I want players who play the way I want coaches around me that way. I want everyone to know what to expect."

He called the Purdue coaching job "a great challenge. I felt I'd like to take it and meet it if we can. You always have something to prove. The day you don't feel that, you'd better get out of coaching."

Akers, 48, signed a five-year contract with a starting base salary of \$100,000, about \$10,000 more than Burnett received.

Akers, who was fired two weeks ago after the Longhorns finished 5-6, their worst mark in 30 years, said the past season "was not one of my favorites. That's only the second time I've been involved in a losing season. But that's history. That's a chapter in my life I'm willing to close."

He is the 31st head coach at Purdue.

"I'm not here to examine what they did in the past," Akers said. "It makes all the difference what we do from this day forward."

Burnett compiled a 21-34-1 record in five years.

The Boilermakers, hurt by injuries and inexperience all season, were 2-8 when Burnett announced his resignation a week before the final game against Indiana. Purdue won that game, but the 3-8 finish matched Burnett's first season as the worst since the Boilermakers went 1-8 in 1942.

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— Fred Akers, Purdue head football coach

Purdue had only one winning season under Burnett — 1984 — when the Boilermakers were 7-5 with a

Krivak to replace Ross at Maryland

COLLEGE PARK, Md. (AP) — Joe Krivak, an assistant coach at the University of Maryland, was named yesterday to head the university's football program.



Joe Krivak

Krivak's strengths are his ties to Maryland, where he has been an assistant coach in charge of quarterbacks and receivers since 1982. He also was an assistant under Jerry Claiborne from 1974 to 1976, and was a candidate for the head coaching job five years ago when the university hired Bobby Ross.

He was the choice of the assistant coaches and the players. Krivak, a 1957 graduate of Syracuse, also was an assistant coach at Navy for five years, and was mentioned as a candidate for that head coaching job, since the firing of Gary Tranquill after Saturday's loss to Army.

During Krivak's two coaching stints at Maryland, the Terrapins have 67-26-2.

Ross quit after a 5-5-1 season, citing unmet promises from the university administration concerning renovations to Byrd Stadium and other facilities.

Krivak was one of eight candidates for the position, including Washington State coach Jim Walden, former Cleveland Browns head coach Sam

Rutigliano, Mack Brown of Tulane, Bill DeLoay of Virginia Tech, Seattle Seahawks assistant Ralph Hawkins, Phil Albert of Towson State and Jack Bicknell of Boston College. Bicknell took himself out of the running last week. Brown withdrew Tuesday night, according to Tulane officials. A three-man search committee, headed by acting athletic director Charles Sturtz, finished interviewing candidates on Tuesday.

Schmidt's plans don't worry Felske

By ALAN ROBINSON
AP Sports Writer

HOLLYWOOD, Fla. — Philadelphia Manager John Felske said yesterday he isn't upset that three-time Most Valuable Player Mike Schmidt, who plans to retire after one more season, wants to manage the Phillies someday.

"If he's not going to play any more than he did last season, he might be better off playing every day in triple-A," Felske said. "But the trouble is, the days that Mike Schmidt doesn't play, you like to have Rick in there. It can be difficult at times for a player like Rick Schu."

"Right now I'm the manager. If I'm not the manager next year, well, I can't control that," he said. Felske then stopped, paused, and said, smiling, "He also said he'd like to be the general manager."

Schmidt, the 1988 National League Most Valuable Player, says he plans to play only one more season. But Felske isn't convinced that Schmidt, 37, will retire if he has another outstanding season.

Schmidt hit .290 with 37 home runs and 119 RBI in 1986 as the Phillies finished second in the NL East.

"I don't know if Mike Schmidt is going to retire or not. Maybe if Mike would play well, maybe he will want to play longer," Felske said. "When I'm making out my lineup, if he can play and wants to play, he'll play."

Schmidt's performance has left little playing time for infielder Rick Schu, considered one of the Phillies' best prospects. Schu hit .274 with eight homers

and 25 RBI last season but managed only 208 at-bats in 92 games.

Felske said Schu, 24, is in the unfortunate position of being good enough to play in the major leagues but not good enough to force Schmidt to the bench.

"If he's not going to play any more than he did last season, he might be better off playing every day in triple-A," Felske said. "But the trouble is, the days that Mike Schmidt doesn't play, you like to have Rick in there. It can be difficult at times for a player like Rick Schu."

Felske said he was frustrated about the Phillies' failure to complete any trades.

"We came here with a few ideas in mind," Felske said. "We're still talking with a few teams but nothing is happening."

"A lot of teams just don't know what they're going to do until they find out what is going to happen with their free agents. That makes it tough to make a move. How can Montreal make a trade until they know whether they're going to lose two players?"

"There's no reason for them to make a move until they know what these players (Tim Lincecum and Andre Dawson) are going to do. Yeah, we're frustrated, but every other team is in the same situation."

Felske said several teams have expressed an interest in outfielder Glenn Wilson, who hit .271 with 15 home runs and 84 RBI in 1986 after driving in 102 runs in 1985. Schu hit .274 with eight homers

him, but it would have to be a powerful trade for us to consider trading him," Felske said.

Felske also said he hopes second baseman Juan Samuel enjoys an injury-free 1987 "because he was as good as anybody around" until hurting his leg last season.

"Who hustles as much as he does

in the National League? No one," Felske said. "He had pretty impressive numbers (286, 16 homers, 78 RBI) for a guy who missed a month of the season. He's aggressive and he's going to have 100 strikeouts a year if he plays to the year 2050, but he's also going to put numbers on the board."

Giles doubles his interest in Phillies

HOLLYWOOD, Fla. (AP) — Club president Bill Giles says he has gambled his financial life by roughly doubling his interest in the Philadelphia Phillies following the \$2.1 million purchase of Taft Broadcasting Co.'s share by Giles and three of his limited partners.

The National League club and Giles announced the transaction Monday.

Giles, the team's general partner, now has a share of 19.5 percent. The exact percentage of the club owned by the other three partners was not revealed, but they too roughly doubled their shares.

Giles purchased the Taft share along with J.D.B. Associates, Tri-Play Associates and Fitz Eugene Dixon Jr.

Taft, a publicly held corporation based in Cincinnati, had 47,294 shares, largest of the six original partners who purchased the Phil-

lies from the Carpenter family in 1981 for \$30 million.

"I feel very good about it," Giles said. "I personally have a greater percentage. And what is gratifying is that confidence my partners have in the way we're running the team and in the direction of major-league baseball."

"There is the possibility that perhaps we couldn't run the club, or a catastrophe like a long strike. But if everything goes the way it has for the last five years, I feel it will be a great investment."

J.D.B. is a partnership of John Drew and Claire S. Betz. Tri-Play is a partnership of three brothers, Alexander, J. Mahlon Jr. and William C. Buck. Dixon is chairman of the board of Widener University.

A fifth partner, Mrs. Rochelle Levy, will remain as a limited partner but was not part of the Taft share.

Riley has little trouble keeping Lakers afloat

By BILL BARNARD
AP Basketball Writer

Pat Riley's biggest worry isn't Akem Olatunji and Ralph Sampson. Or Larry Bird and Kevin McHale. Or whether his trousers are wrinkled.

Pat Riley's biggest worry, he says, is keeping the Los Angeles Lakers from losing the joy of winning.

"I have no problems with egos," Riley said. "Everybody assumes that I do, but my main problem coaching the Lakers is keeping these guys away from the burden of having to win every time."

"The public, the media, fans and even management have such unrealistic expectations about winning that I have to deal with the possibility that the players will get no joy out of the season."

"No one can win all the time. When you're not only expected to win, but to win and look great, you're put in a position where you can never be satisfied. I tell the team that it's OK to lose 25 games — that should be our goal. I'll say, 'I will allow you to lose 25 times.' That means we win 5 and could have the best record in the league. If we're crushed every time we lose, we'll never feel any joy when we win."

The thrashing that Olatunji, Sampson and the Houston Rockets handed the Lakers in the playoffs last season — keeping them out of the NBA finals for only the second time this decade — bothers Riley, but not enough to make him change the team's emphasis away from quickness and speed.

"I can't worry so much about what other teams have that it affects our philosophy about playing the game," Riley said. "The only teams with legitimate, productive Twin Towers front lines that can hurt us are the Rockets and the Celtics."

Through a trade, the Lakers would like to add size and muscle without sacrificing speed and guile. But until a change is made, they will continue to run the opposition into submission, as they did in 15 of their first 18 games this season.

With Magic Johnson orchestrating the fast break and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar hitting sky hooks when the running game was throttled, the Lakers were the highest-scoring team in the NBA last season. They are again this year.

That nearly unbeatable formula for success earned Riley 300 victories in 14 seasons and a place in the NBA Hall of Fame. He is the highest-scoring coach in NBA history, but probably nothing in the history of the game.

Riley may be doomed to being called "the greatest" because he has always had great players — Abdul-Jabbar, Johnson and James Worthy, among others. The Lakers have won four Pacific Division titles in Riley's five years as coach and won NBA championships in 1982 and 1985.

Stylish and well-dressed, Riley is a clotheshorse who favors French cuffs and wears his hair slicked back like actor Robert De Niro. He's also handsome, and jokes about having had four face lifts since he started coaching.

But Riley says the only image he cares about is being a professional coach.

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