

Texas player dies in crash

AUSTIN, Texas — Texas defensive end Cole Pittman was found dead Monday at the scene of a one-car accident.

State troopers discovered Pittman's pickup truck on the side of U.S. Route 79 nearly Easterly, about 100 miles northeast of Austin.

Pittman, a sophomore who had played in 23 games in his two seasons at Texas, was returning to school from his family's home in Shreveport, La.

Longhorns coach Mack Brown told the team Monday afternoon at a meeting that had been scheduled to prepare for spring practice. The workouts were supposed to begin Tuesday, but have been postponed. No new date has been given.

"This is the hardest thing I have faced in 29 years of coaching," Brown said. "We've lost a member of our family and it really hurts. Every member of our team is like a son and you can never prepare yourself for something like this. I don't even know how to begin."

The 6-foot-5, 265-pound Pittman played defensive tackle as a freshman, then moved to end this past season. He started the first three games in 2000. He had 30 tackles, two sacks, five tackles for loss, five quarterback pressures and caused one fumble in his career.

Pittman enrolled at Texas in the spring of 1999 after helping Evangel High win three consecutive Louisiana 1A state titles and to a state-record 45 straight wins. He

was a first-team all-state performer and was named second-team All-USA by USA Today.

"This is absolutely devastating news," men's athletic director DeLoss Dodds said. "Our entire athletics program is grieving this loss."

Before receiving the devastating news, Brown met with the media to discuss his plans for the spring and he immediately put to rest any speculation about his quarterback plans: Chris Simms is a firm No. 1 and Major Applewhite is the backup.

"They will be competing, but there's no question Chris is the starter," Brown said. "We don't feel the need to alternate guys like we did the first of last year."

The Associated Press

Duke's Mosch puts dagger in Tar Heels

DURHAM, N.C. — Duke's Sheana Mosch must love to play against North Carolina.

For the second time this season, the sophomore guard helped the fourth-ranked Blue Devils rally for a win against the Tar Heels, this time scoring eight consecutive points in a key stretch as Duke beat UNC 72-67 Monday night.

Mosch finished with 19 points. In the season's first meeting between the rivals, on Jan. 25, Mosch scored 13 of her 29 points in overtime as Duke beat the Tar Heels 92-85.

Mosch hit two three-pointers in Monday night's eight-point spurt that helped the Blue Devils rally in the second half and head to this weekend's Atlantic Coast Conference tournament on a winning note.

"It wasn't just me," Mosch said. "It's all 40 minutes that count, not just the last three shots."

Alana Beard added 15 points, Michele Matyasovsky had 13 and Georgia Schweitzer 12 for the Blue Devils.

North Carolina led 63-59 after two free throws by Candace Sutton with 2:54 to play. Mosch then hit two three-pointers 50 seconds apart. Her last basket, a runner with 35 seconds remaining, gave Duke the lead for good at 67-65.

"I was missing all game long. It was about time I hit something," Mosch said. "I just told myself that I really needed to step up and help more."

Mosch's 6-for-14 shooting wasn't bad for a Duke team that hit just 40.3 percent from the floor. The Tar Heels struggled as well, hitting just 38.8 percent.

"It was a battle," Duke's Gail Goestenors said. "I'm just proud of the way, when we got down at the end, we hung together and didn't panic."

Duke (23-3, 13-3 ACC) has won two straight since a 69-55 loss at North Carolina State. The Blue Devils head into this week's ACC tournament as the No. 1 seed for the third time in four years.

North Carolina (14-13, 7-9) lost its third straight despite double-doubles from rookie Sutton (19 points, 10 rebounds) and senior LaQuanda Barksdale (14 points, 15 rebounds).

Corretta Brown scored 18 points and Juana Brown 10 for the Tar Heels.

Duke made seven of its first eight shots to open the game, but missed 21 of its next 29 before halftime. The Blue Devils shot 40.3 percent, while the Tar Heels shot 38.8 percent.

North Carolina led 31-22 at the 7:33 mark in the first half before Beard keyed a 14-2 Duke spurt with consecutive steals and nine straight Duke points. The Blue Devils led 36-35 at halftime.

The Tar Heels made three of four three-point tries in the first 5 1/2 minutes of the second half to push ahead 45-39. North Carolina stayed in front until Matyasovsky hit consecutive jumpers that tied the game at 57.

After that, neither team led by more than four points until the final seconds.

"I thought we had Duke back on their heels for a while," North Carolina coach Sylvia Hatchell said. "But a couple of those threes were huge."

The Associated Press

FSU linebacker dies after workout

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Florida State linebacker Devaughn Darling collapsed and died Monday after an early-morning, offseason workout.

The 18-year-old linebacker from Houston was stricken shortly after 7 a.m. He had just finished intensive agility and conditioning drills with teammates, including his twin brother Devard, at the football complex.

The cause of death was not immediately determined. An autopsy, requested by school police, will be done Tuesday.

"This is standard procedure in a death of this nature," Lt. Jack Handley said of the autopsy request. "We're currently doing the death investigation."

Devard Darling, coach Bobby Bowden and other players and

coaches were at the hospital when the player was pronounced dead by an emergency room physician.

"Obviously it's a very emotional time for everyone associated with our program," athletic director David Hart said. "We're all in a state of shock."

Bowden was spending the rest of the day with the Darling family.

"Right now we're all pretty dazed," Bowden said. "I think all of our thoughts, prayers and wishes should be with his mom, his dad, his twin brother and all of the family members."

The school deployed about 10 counselors and team chaplain Clint Purvis to meet with teammates. Many were still sobbing several hours later as they talked in disbelief.

"Tragedies are never something you get through very easily," Hart said. "We will continue to focus on our players first and foremost."

The Garnet and Gold souvenir store near the campus already had changed its sign to read: "Devaughn Darling, We Miss You."

Florida State athletes receive a physical that includes an EKG when they report for football practice in the summer, spokesman Rob Wilson said.

Devaughn Darling, one of the youngest players on the team, started on special teams last season as a freshman. He was to begin spring practice next week as a starter at outside linebacker.

The Associated Press

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