

# Coach apologizes for remark

By Chris Yeung  
Cavalier Daily (U. Virginia)

(U-WIRE) CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. — Virginia football coach Al Groh apologized Wednesday for making an inconsiderate remark toward Arabs during the weekly Atlantic Coast Conference football coaches teleconference earlier in the day.

"I am sorry if my remarks were insensitive," Groh said in a released statement. "Like many American citizens, my emotions are near the surface after last week's tragedy, especially since 70 people in the town I lived in for four years, some of whom I know, are missing."

In the teleconference, Groh was asked whether his team had any qualms about resuming air travel after four planes were hijacked on Sept. 11. He said that he believed that few of his players had reservations about flying, and those that did probably had the same worries before last week's tragedy.

"I'm not saying this to make light of it by any means, but I

don't plan on having any Arabs in the traveling party, so therefore I think probably that the threat of our being hijacked is fairly remote," Groh added during the teleconference.

In his released statement, Groh said, "I certainly did not mean to insinuate that millions of God-fearing people of Arabic descent are terrorists. I hope we can all focus on the significant issues of recovery and the future of our country. That is done through unity and not divisiveness. That, and coaching my team, will be my focus."

Virginia President John T. Casteen III said that he has accepted Groh's apology and hopes the university community will do the same.

"The remark appears to have been made in passing and probably not after much forethought in the course of questions about other matters — about football, travel plans, and the condition of the team and the program," Casteen said in a press release. "Although I know how hard it can be to for-

give even a passing remark that seems to place blame unfairly or to separate out one group of us as enemies of others, I ask that we do that. Categorical or ethnic hostility toward others is contrary to the university's core values just as it is to Coach Groh's. It is contrary also to President Bush's appeals during the last week for reason and mutual respect among us."

Ajay Nair, Assistant Dean of Students in charge of Asian students, said that he was not going to dwell on Groh's comment, especially since it has been retracted.

"I know the university community is very supportive of our Arab students, especially in the past week," Nair said.

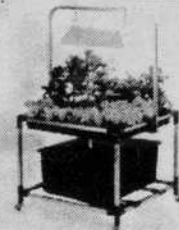
Virginia Director of Athletics Craig Littlepage said in a press release that the athletics department hoped that Groh's comments would not undo the groundswell of community spirit fostered after last week's terrorist attacks.

"The athletics department regrets any hurt the statement may have caused," Littlepage said.

## Associated Press Top 25

1. Miami (2-0)
2. Florida (2-0)
3. Oklahoma (3-0)
4. Nebraska (3-0)
5. Texas (2-0)
6. Florida State (2-0)
7. Oregon (2-0)
8. Tennessee (2-0)
9. Virginia Tech (2-0)
10. Georgia Tech (3-0)
11. Fresno State (3-0)
12. Kansas State (1-0)
13. Washington (1-0)
14. UCLA (2-0)
15. Louisiana State (2-0)
16. Northwestern (1-0)
17. Mississippi State (1-0)
18. South Carolina (2-0)
19. Clemson (2-0)
20. Michigan (1-1)
21. Ohio State (1-0)
22. Oregon State (1-1)
23. Notre Dame (0-1)
24. Brigham Young (3-0)
25. Louisville (3-0)

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**RECYCLE**

# UCLA boosts security for game vs. No. 21 Ohio St.

By Dave O'Neil  
The Lantern (Ohio State U.)

(U-WIRE) COLUMBUS, Ohio — Ball security would normally be the issue for a game matching two teams with 11 combined fumbles in three games. Not this Saturday.

In light of the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, game plans for Saturday's Ohio State/UCLA game are taking a backseat to security plans.

Still, UCLA coach Bob Toledo stressed at his weekly press conference Tuesday that his team would be able to maintain focus by game time Saturday.

"I think it will be kind of emotional, particularly early," Toledo said. "You take that field and someone sings the national anthem. It will be a touchy thing."

But he said once 12:30 p.m. rolls around, his team will be ready.

"I think football brings out aggressive people, and eventually when you kick it off, I think you will see some good football," he said.

At the crux of the Bruins' game plan will be senior running back DeShaun Foster. In two games this year, Foster has run for 289 yards on 52 carries and one touchdown. As a sophomore against the Buckeyes in 1999, Foster ran for 51 yards on 17 carries and had one touchdown.

The Buckeyes won that game 42-20. Toledo said revenge is not on the mind of the Bruins.

"We had 11 freshmen and sophomores that started in that game. This is a different football team," he said. "As far as motivation, I think Ohio State coming to the Rose Bowl is motivation enough."

He also had nothing but praise for the Buckeyes and their program.

"They are big, strong, tough, physical and athletic," Toledo said. "They are an outstanding football

team and they have a rich heritage as far as tradition is concerned."

For Saturday's game, UCLA selected senior fullback Matt Stanley as its captain. Stanley hails from Columbus and went to Bexley High School. In the 1999 Ohio State game, he caught a deflected pass and raced 67 yards for a touchdown. That touchdown is the lone score in Stanley's career.

UCLA is 2-0 and last played Sept. 8 at Kansas. After falling behind 3-0, the Bruins scored the next 27 points and rolled to a 41-17 victory.

On Sept. 1, the Bruins opened their season against Alabama. The Bruins fell behind early against the Tide, but stormed back for 20 unanswered points and then held off a late rally to prevail 20-17.

Sophomore flanker Tab Perry is the Bruins' leading receiver thus far this year. He has six catches for 162 yards, including the reception for the game-winning touchdown against Alabama.

Saturday's game is UCLA's home opener.

"It will definitely be another difficult test for our football team," Toledo said. "I think there will be a great crowd and there will be a national television audience. A lot of eyes will be on this game."

Even after all the game planning, Toledo admitted it is difficult but not impossible to concentrate on football.

"They (the players) will never forget what happened," he said. "Nobody will. But they do realize that if you are going to play, let's go play then. Otherwise, let's not play at all. You can't have any fear. You have to move on."

Against Big Ten teams Toledo is 1-4 in his six years at UCLA. UCLA last played a Big Ten team last December in the Sun Bowl. They lost to Wisconsin, 21-20.

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