

Doherty out at UNC, Howland in at UCLA

Andrew Bagnato
Chicago Tribune (KRT)

CHICAGO — Kansas fans cheered reports Tuesday that Ben Howland has accepted the UCLA men's basketball coaching job, meaning Jayhawks coach Roy Williams won't be leaving for Westwood. But then Matt Doherty resigned at North Carolina and the Williams watch kicked into overdrive in Lawrence, Kan., and Chapel Hill, N.C.

On an eventful day in major-college basketball, Howland reportedly decided to leave Pittsburgh to take over at UCLA, which fired Steve Lavin last month. The Los Angeles Times reported the university would introduce Howland, a Southern California native, as early as Wednesday.

A few hours later Doherty abruptly resigned, stirring speculation

Williams might be prepared to answer his alma mater's call this time after spurning it three years ago.

For now, Williams wants to keep his mind on Saturday's national semifinal showdown against Marquette in New Orleans. Speaking at a Lawrence news conference Tuesday afternoon, Williams told reporters he had only heard the same rumors they had: that Doherty was out.

"That's all I know," Williams said. "There is one other thing I know: This is a very satisfying and exciting time for me and our players and Kansas basketball."

"I'm going to enjoy this week and I'm not going to allow anybody to bother me with any junk about anything," he said. "That's the extent of my conversation about any other job, whether it's North Carolina or anybody."

But Williams can expect to face far greater scrutiny when the Jayhawks arrive in New Orleans. Questions keep coming up because Williams is a self-described "North Carolina guy" who rarely passes a microphone without uttering a compliment to the university or his mentor, former coach Dean Smith.

Three summers ago, when Bill Guthridge announced his resignation, Williams spent a week deciding whether to take the job. He didn't, and North Carolina immediately lured Doherty away from Notre Dame, where he had spent one year.

Doherty, another Smith disciple and former Williams assistant, went 26-7 his first year at North Carolina. But the Tar Heels slipped to 8-20 last year, the worst record in the storied program's history.

This year, despite inexperience and a season-ending injury to forward Sean May, the Tar Heels finished 19-16 but missed out on the NCAA tourney.

As the Tar Heels struggled, players and parents raised questions about Doherty's intense style. Players voiced those concerns in meetings last week with Baddour, who invited dean of students Melissa Exum to attend. Baddour met for several hours Monday night with Doherty.

Baddour said in a statement that Doherty's resignation "is a not a result of the number of wins and losses we achieved this year or in the past three years. (The Tar Heels) accomplished a great deal for which we are very proud and thankful."

"The resignation is also not just a result of the meetings we had with current players," Baddour

said. "It would be extremely unfair to those players and it would be an unqualified mistake to say the resignation was a result of only their concerns and questions. It is undeniable there has been some turmoil regarding the status of players in the program for some time. Coach Doherty worked hard to get beyond that turmoil and at times was successful."

Doherty had three years remaining on a contract paying \$850,000 per year.

Baddour said a search for an "outstanding coach" would begin immediately. Many coaches with North Carolina ties fit that description. But the leading candidate is taking his team to New Orleans on Thursday

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Senior Becky Holliday anchors a strong vault squad that includes Niki McEwen, whose best is two inches below Holliday's.

Women's

continued from page 11

10 feet shy of her career bests.

Sauvage will lead Oregon in the hammer, as she just broke the school record at the Stanford Invitational with a mark of 188-3. She also will back Etter in the discus with a season best of 147-3.

Oregon's pole vaulting trio of red-shirt seniors Becky Holliday and Niki McEwen and junior Kirsten Riley will also be on hand in Texas.

Holliday won the vault last year in Texas while receiving an NCAA automatic bid at 13-7 1/4. In her 2003 campaign, Holliday has vaulted 14-3 1/4 indoors, while continuing her assault on the record books.

McEwen trails Holliday by just two inches in her personal best above 14 feet. McEwen is a three-time All-American, yet she no-heighted in last week's Stanford competition.

Riley has a personal best of 13-5 1/2 indoors this season with an outdoor best of 12-11 3/4. The Eugene native set her outdoor mark at Stanford, upping her personal best by almost two inches.

Oregon's depth in the javelin holds true to tradition and the javelin throwers should host a class of national talent and rankings all season long. All-American Sarah Malone may redshirt the season, although she is as yet undecided and will not compete in Texas.

Seniors Jenny Brogdon and Amanda Brown will also lead Oregon in the high jump and triple jump, respectively. Brogdon, the three-time Pac-10 qualifier has jumped 5-7 in 2003, with an all-time best of 5-9 1/4.

Brown is expected to lead the squad in horizontal jumps in her final season with a personal best of 40-8 3/4. Sophomore Clarice Hayward-Lee will also give depth, as she has leaped 39-2 1/2.

As for the track side, sprints look to be anchored by senior Janette Davis, who missed last year's NCAA provisional mark in the 400 by less than one second.

In distances, senior Eri Macdonald will lead the way in the 800 after missing last year's NCAA invite by .03 seconds. Senior Carrie Zografos holds the school record in the steeple chase after finishing cross country as an All-American.

Oregon finished the outdoor season last year in 27th, the best placing since 1995. The Pacific-10 Conference is as heated as ever as UCLA and USC finished in the top three at last year's NCAA Championships.

With a talented and deep squad, and a coach who knows the ropes better than any, Oregon women's track hopes to do big things in 2003.

Contact the sports reporter at jessethomas@dailyemerald.com.

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Horoscope by Linda C. Black

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (April 2). You're a strong leader and can develop excellent managerial skills. Practice on an older person who seems to be blocking your progress this year. This is a test.
To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.
ARIES (March 21-April 19) _ Today is a 10 _ It's hard to be humble when you're so fabulous, but that would make you even more irresistible. You're in the groove. Enjoy the applause.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20) _ Today is a 5 _ Don't wait any longer to get your message across. It'll go through more quickly and forcefully now than it will later.
GEMINI (May 21-June 21) _ Today is an 8 _ Your job as a messenger has never been more important. Make sure everyone understands what's expected of them. Hold them accountable for their actions.
CANCER (June 22-July 22) _ Today is a 5 _ A distant friend understands the hassle you're going through. Seek compassion, but not on company time.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) _ Today is a 10 _ A person far away can provide the information you've been seeking. Holler if you need anything.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) _ Today is a 5 _ People who like to push the limits like to have you around. You keep them out of trouble. That's your assignment again.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) _ Today is an 8 _ You may be attracted to a military type, and with good reason. Although you're more of a pacifist, it's nice to know somebody who'll defend you.
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) _ Today is a 6 _ You don't like to be the first one charging over the hill. Let somebody else do that. Hang back and watch so that you'll know which way to go next.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) _ Today is a 10 _ You've undergone some profound transformations over the past few years, and you're not done yet. You're at a very attractive point in your development. Relax and enjoy it.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) _ Today is a 5 _ If you can manage to listen to a person with whom you disagree, you'll learn a lot. Most important, you'll discover his or her vulnerabilities.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) _ Today is an 8 _ In an argument, you'll undoubtedly get the best of everybody. You have the facts at your fingertips, the right words on the tip of your tongue.
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) _ Today is a 5 _ An unexpected turn of events could bring an amazing windfall. Your generosity over the years is coming back to you.

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