

# Baylor scandal forces Bliss family to move to Colorado

The scandal that claimed Dave Bliss' job at Baylor has not claimed his family

By Mike Jones  
Knight Ridder Newspapers (KRT)

LAKEWOOD, Colo. — Dave Bliss sat about 25 rows up the collapsible bleachers, the kind typical at countless high school gyms across the country.

He wore a red sweater over an open-collar shirt, khaki pants and loafers. It wasn't the same coat or tie that he always wore while pacing or crouching courtside during his coaching days at Oklahoma, SMU, New Mexico and Baylor. He looked almost out of place without a squeeze bottle of water in one hand.

Bliss was engaged in conversation with a much younger man, probably in his late 20s and wearing a sports coat and tie. Maybe a young teacher or a coach. Though Bliss still bears the same good looks, the almost unwrinkled face and shock of blond hair that earned him the nickname of the Dick Clark of the college basketball coaching profession, he no longer had that once-familiar look as though he had a story he was dying to tell the first person who approached.

Two area teams played below on the home court of Green Mountain High School, where Bliss' son, Jeff, starts on the basketball team. Jeff's team would play in the second semifinal game of a tournament at

the relatively small suburban school known more for its academics than its athletic teams' success.

Bliss politely declined a formal interview, for which he had once left the door open, even though the ground rules specified no material concerning his time at Baylor.

"I don't know that I'll ever talk about what's happened," he said. "I just don't see that it would serve any purpose."

No offense, he said, adding that he doesn't blame the media for any of the disturbing revelations that led to the end of a previously well-regarded career of 28 years as a head coach.

But during a 30-minute conversation, he spent much of his time talking about his 17-year-old son. If there is any blessing to the scandal that has made him all but an outcast to many of his peers and to some who formerly called him friend, Bliss said he believes it is the time he now has for Jeff.

It is time that, because of the demands of his profession and his competitive nature, he was unable to spend with his other children — son Robert, 24, and daughter Berkeley, 22 — during their high school years.

"He's making straight A's here," Bliss said of Jeff, with a sense of pride. "But he'd be making straight A's wherever he was going to school."

He dismissed the suggestion that the move to the Denver area —

where the family of his wife, Claudia, lives — enabled Jeff to be happier than he would be dealing with talk about his father around Waco, home of Baylor University.

"He's a kid," Bliss said, alluding to the youthful ability to sometimes shrug a shoulder at events that affect adults. "We had to give Waco some room."

When the family left Waco and moved to Colorado six months ago, Bliss offered his services as a volunteer assistant to the Green Mountain basketball coach, who is a friend. He had to give that up after a short while because of media attention and protests from parents of students attending the school. The same thing happened when Bliss volunteered at a youth facility in Waco.

Bliss remains unwanted in his profession after the revelation that he attempted a scheme to portray slain Baylor player Patrick Dennehy as a drug dealer to cover Bliss' own NCAA rules violations, which included paying tuition for players who weren't on scholarship.

Bliss and athletic director Tom Stanton resigned Aug. 8 after Baylor investigators uncovered major rules violations in the men's basketball program. The school also placed its men's basketball program on at least two years' probation.

Staff writers Jeff Wilson and Jeff Caplan contributed to this report.  
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# Stagnant offense dooms Wolfpack against Blue Devils

J.J. Redick led Duke, which improved to 13-1 with its third ACC win of the season

By Ken Tysiac  
Knight Ridder Newspapers (KRT)

DURHAM, N.C. — Julius Hodge lost control of his emotions at the start and his shoe midway through the first half against a dominating Duke defense Thursday night.

N.C. State put the ball in Hodge's hands in the hopes that the ACC scoring leader could penetrate into the heart of the second-ranked Blue Devils' defense as a point guard.

But after keeping the score tied early, Hodge and the Wolfpack wilted under Duke's defensive pressure in a 76-57 loss at Cameron Indoor Stadium.

The Blue Devils held N.C. State to 1-for-10 shooting from three-point range and forced 10 turnovers in the first half as Duke led 41-25 at half-time. Duke made five of its eight three-point attempts in the first half and opened the second with consecutive threes to stretch its lead to 22 points.

J.J. Redick led all scorers with 20 for Duke. Hodge, who was averaging 18.9 points, was held to seven, his lowest total in 50 games dating to his freshman season.

Mike Krzyzewski won his 300th

game in Cameron, where he is 300-46. The Blue Devils have won 35 in a row, including nine straight against N.C. State. Duke is 21-2 in its past 23 games against the Wolfpack (9-3, 2-1 ACC).

Duke (13-1, 3-0) has won 10 straight overall and sits alone atop the ACC standings heading into a home game Saturday against Wake Forest (11-1, 2-0).

Hodge got carried away 52 seconds in the game, when he dunked off an inbound pass from Engin Atsur to tie the score at 2-2. Hodge slapped the backboard with both hands, drawing an immediate technical foul.

Redick made the two technical free throws and center Shelden Williams scored for Duke as it took a quick 6-2 lead. Hodge brought the Wolfpack back, penetrating into the lane against point guard Chris Duhon to set up Ilian Evtimov for a three-pointer, and a score on the block.

Evtimov's basket in the lane tied the score at 11-11 with 16 minutes, 54 seconds left in the first half before Duke turned up the heat on defense. Over the next 11 minutes, the Blue Devils held N.C. State to 2-for-12 shooting with seven turnovers.

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## TENNIS

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against them."

The Huskies, along with Stanford, are aware of the potential Oregon possesses and commend the job Schyllander has done with the program. Cardinal head coach Lele Forood said the Ducks continue to get stronger and are especially deep this season with their talented freshmen.

However, Oregon would like to avoid any significant injuries this year, which have plagued them in the past. The concern right now is getting Panoval's finger and senior Davina Mendiburu's knee back to full strength for the

dual matches coming up.

### Men visit Corvallis

The men will begin their new season traveling north for the Corvallis John and Phi's Tournament before dual matches later this month.

The Ducks will try to regain their focus after the layoff that saw many stay in Eugene to play in local tournaments.

"One thing (the players) miss is getting matches," Oregon head coach Chris Russell said. "We're looking forward to getting these guys rolling and getting a little finely tuned."

Alex Tam is a freelance reporter for the Emerald.

## LOSS

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players for the ball.

"We're asking Jill to provide more energy and intensity," Washington head coach June Daugherty said. "The crowd gets excited and her teammates get excited when she gets up and works as hard as she does. Obviously the best way for her to bring more energy is to get up and get rebounds which she is doing well."

Oregon once again struggled offensively, scoring less than 60 points for the seventh straight game. The Ducks shot 31 percent from the floor, including 14 percent from three-point range.

They have shot below 40 percent in eight of the last 11 contests.

While Oregon was struggling offensively, Washington was setting the nets on fire. The Huskies shot 48 percent, connected on 11 three-pointers and had five players in double figures.

Freshman forward Breanne Watson led the way for Washington with 22 points on 9 of 12 shooting. The performance came after the Huskies had been criticized for relying too much on their seniors for scoring. Watson also connected on three of four three-pointers.

"I was just running the floor and getting the open lanes," Watson said. "My teammates were hitting me and I converted all my layups. I've been kind

of tentative on the perimeter this season because I don't feel it's my place to score. When I'm open I'll take the shot and when I was on the baseline the hoop looked like the ocean."

Mendiola scored 19 points and grabbed 10 rebounds, while senior Andrea Lalum added 17 points and six rebounds. Senior guard Gioconda Mendiola finished with 11 points, while freshman guard Cheri Craddock added 10.

Brandi Davis led Oregon with 13 points, while Andrea Bills added 12 points and nine rebounds. Bills has tied or led the team in rebounding in 11 consecutive games.

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