

Sports

One more, Carmichael?

By Phyllis A. Fair
Sports Editor

The UNC-CH Athletic Director John Swofford announced this week that Carolina may play part or all of its 1985-86 basketball season in Carmichael Auditorium instead of the new Student Activities Center, now under construction on the Tar Heel campus.

The Student Activities Center, a \$33.8 million building financed by private donations, is scheduled to be ready for Carolina to open its season there against UCLA on November 24. In fact, the University's contract with Howard Construction Company called for the facility to be ready for occupancy this summer.

However, construction work is running behind schedule. Thus, contingency plans have been made to play in Carmichael if the new building is not ready.

"The firm of Hakan/Corley, coordinating architect for the Student Activities Center and in that position the University's agent through the building phase of the project, has informed the University the building may not be ready by November 24," said Swofford. "It is not impossible that the facility could be ready, but

it is unlikely." If the building is not available in November, Swofford said the Tar Heels would play UCLA in Carmichael, Carolina's homecourt since 1965. In 20 years at Carmichael, Coach Dean Smith's teams posted an amazing record of 164-20. However, the building seats only 10,000 and the tremendous demand for tickets led to the construction of the 21,426-seat SAC.

"If the Center is not ready for the first game, it would be our intention to move into it at whatever point in time it becomes acceptable during the course of the 1985-86 season," said Swofford.

"This is going to make ticket allocations a very difficult procedure which is why we're making our plans as far ahead of time as possible. We have to be prepared for three possibilities: playing the entire season in the SAC, playing the entire season in Carmichael or beginning the season in Carmichael, but moving to the SAC upon completion.

"We certainly hope the new building will be ready in November. It is going to be a quality facility and, we think, the best basketball arena in the country."

EMU coaches will be paid more for wins

Ypsilanti, MI (CPS)— Amid cheating scandals and accusations that college sports are too obsessed with winning, Eastern Michigan University has adopted a reform plan that pegs coaches salaries to their win-loss record.

The plan, announced last week, has aroused nationwide interest.

Like most colleges, EMU always paid coaches fixed salaries, regardless of how well their teams did.

Now EMU coaches will get more money if they win more games, increase game attendance, and improve their conference standings.

EMU officials say they are making sports more honest by treating sports issues "upfront."

Some critics worry that the school, which currently pays its coaches anywhere from \$14,000 to \$41,000 per year and recently was implicated in a questionable ticket-buying scheme to keep its place in the Mid-America Conference, is sowing the seeds for a more oppressive emphasis on winning.

"The plan has been under development for nearly two years, and arose from our concern that we lacked a way to reward our successful coaches, while at the same time avoid punishing coaches who had bad years," explains EMU spokesperson Kathy Tinney.

Coaches will be paid according to factors like "win-loss records, conference standing, progress athletes make toward degrees, adherence to NCAA and conference rules and regulations, adherence to budgets, game attendance figures, and fundraising goals," Tinney says.

But EMU's new system could give coaches one more reason to win at any cost, other experts suggest.

"There are pressures being brought to bare to avoid tying coaches salaries to win-loss records and to de-emphasize winning," notes David Berst with the NCAA's enforcement division.

EMU's plan "runs contrary to the trend we're beginning to see emerge from (college sports directors) to measure coaches performance in ways other than win-loss records, such as the number of athletes who actually finish their degrees."

But rather than encouraging cheating, EMU's Tinney contends the new system "merely acknowledges and deals up-front with the pressures and realities that all coaches face anyway."

"In addition," she says, "one of the main criteria the coaches must meet is that they must adhere to all conferences and NCAA rules, so no matter how successful they are it negates everything if they violate those regulations."

Indeed, "setting down your goals and objectives ahead of time takes the guesswork and pressure off the coaches," says Leslie Ann Williams, a management consultant with San Francisco-based Abney and Associates, which designs and administers employee incentive and salary programs.

Many of the nation's top businesses use similar "Management by Objective" — or MBO — salary programs, she says. "We even encourage families and social groups to use the same kinds of up-front, pre-set programs. It lets everybody know what is expected of them, and gives them a chance to ask for help beforehand rather than making excuses when it's too late."

"If (EMU's salary plan) works, that's great," says Tim Gleason, assistant director for the National Association of College Directors of Athletics. "But if they run into problems, then it may be a system that just won't work in college sports."

"To my knowledge this is something new, something the majority of the schools don't practice," he observes. "It'll be very interesting to see how it works and if other institutions follow suit."

Bloom County

