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South Florida pursuing Holtz

South Florida has become the latest Big East school to make a run at ECU football coach Skip Holtz.

According to The Orlando (Fla.) Sentinel, Holtz said Tuesday that he has interest in the job from which Jim Leavitt was recently fired.

"I have gotten a call to find out if I had interest in talking to them. And obviously, there's interest from the standpoint of the league that they play in ... the Big East, my parents live here in Orlando, my wife is from Port Charlotte," Holtz was quoted by the newspaper as saying. "... There's a lot of positives to it. I think it's definitely an up-and-coming program. Yeah, there'd be interest, but I don't know what's going to happen with it at this point."

Efforts to reach Holtz at the football coaches convention in Orlando and Pirates athletic director Terry Holland in Greenville were not immediately successful.

Holtz was scheduled to meet with South Florida athletic director AD Doug Woolard Tuesday evening. Holtz does not have an agent and has declined offers from Syracuse and Cincinnati of the Big East in the past.

Holtz, 45, has led the Pirates to two straight Conference USA championships. In five years at ECU, his teams have gone 38-27. At Connecticut from 1994 through '98, his teams went 38-23.

Holtz told the Sentinel that reports he had already accepted the job conditionally were off base.

"The rumors, at this point, are not true," he said. "I have not taken the job."

Under Leavitt, the Bulls went 8-5 with a bowl win over Northern Illinois in the 2009 season.

In addition to Holtz, former Texas Tech coach Mike Leach reportedly has been contacted by USF. The school, located in Tampa, has an undergraduate enrollment of approximately 35,000 and began Big East competition in 2005 after two reasons in C-USA.
Pirates' Holtz expresses interest in USF job

By Nathan Summers
The Daily Reflector

Tuesday, January 12, 2010

Despite expressing interest in the University of South Florida's head football coaching job on Tuesday, East Carolina's Skip Holtz still was with the Pirates by night's end, and Holtz would not confirm whether a deal was being finalized for him to take over the Bulls.

In text messages Monday and Tuesday, Holtz did not confirm or deny that he was in line to become the replacement for fired USF coach Jim Leavitt, only agreeing that he would speak if there was a change in his status as ECU's head coach.

Holtz is in Florida attending the American Football Coaches Association conference, and told reporters from Tampa and St. Petersburg the USF job was an attractive one. Holtz's wife, Jennifer, is from Port Charlotte, Fla., and the two met while she was working at Florida State. Both she and Holtz have family in Florida.

The fifth-year ECU coach — who has guided the Pirates to four consecutive winning seasons and two straight Conference USA championships — has previously been connected with coaching vacancies at Syracuse, Kansas and Cincinnati.

Despite reiterating the notion that he does not have an agent and is not trying to leave ECU, Holtz admitted the USF job was appealing for numerous reasons.

"There are a lot of positives to it. I think it's definitely an up-and-coming program, so yeah, there would be interest," Holtz told the Tampa Tribune at the AFCA conference Tuesday morning.

Holtz confirmed USF contacted him last Sunday to gauge his interest in the position.

No other candidates have been confirmed to be in contact with the Bulls, who will have to act quickly in their hiring with national signing day looming in February. Should Holtz take the job, the Pirates would be in the same boat in terms of signing new players.

Under normal circumstances, the principle recruiting period begins in December, when coaches are free to make visits to players' homes and schools host extensive weekend visits for players. By mid January, available scholarships are largely spoken for at most schools as a majority of recruits have given verbal commitments to their schools of choice.

When Holtz came to ECU in December 2004, he began a frantic recruiting spree that was largely successful, but the coach has said it took his staff more than a year to establish what he considered a normal recruiting schedule.

Holtz's contract runs through 2013, and the coach is in line to make $655,000 this year, with considerably more available in incentives. The contract has a buyout clause of $100,000.
USF athletic director Doug Woolard, like ECU athletic director Terry Holland, is not planning to comment on the matter until a coach is hired by the Bulls.

Leavitt was fired Friday after 13 seasons when the school determined he had assaulted a player in the team locker room during halftime of a game against Louisville in November.

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Pirate fan encourages player support

Tuesday, January 12, 2010

I have followed the ECU football teams for many years and gone to several bowl games. We have had many exciting games, some we won and others we lost. I feel our current student athletes were winners and I appreciate the manner in which they represented ECU and the city of Greenville.

As a fan, I obviously wanted to see a victory, especially for the team. I have supported teams in the past even when we had poor years. I am not down on the team at all and want to thank all of the players for attending ECU and projecting an excellent image for our university. I wish all of the best for our graduating seniors.

I encourage everyone to support our team as everyone on the team also wanted a victory for the fans. It is not just about winning or losing a game, but looking forward to continued success. ECU will welcome future players who want to get a great education and play ECU football. Thanks to the entire team and coaching staff. We had a great year and a terrific fan base. Go Pirates!

BILL ERVIN
Greenville

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Expert: Sun, ocean can fill U.S. energy needs

By Josh Humphries
The Daily Reflector

Monday, January 11, 2010

A mixture of solar and oceanic energy is the key to the future for America’s energy needs, said Stanley Riggs, a geology professor at East Carolina University.

Riggs spoke to the Cypress Group, Sierra Club North Carolina Chapter, at the Unitarian-Universalist Church on Monday about ways to develop alternatives to burning fossil fuels for the majority of the country’s energy.

“We have got to get out of this foreign oil dependency and we have got to get out of these wars — they are crazy,” Riggs said.

“And we can do it.”

Riggs showed how a combination of wind, solar and oceanic energy can be harvested off the coast of North Carolina.

“I think it can replace all of our petroleum needs,” he said.

Riggs is part of a state team that is placing three wind turbines off the coast to test the results for future use. Riggs said that rocks installed around the base of the turbines to keep them stable will even increase the fish populations in the area.

“It has become clear to me that North Carolina could be the first in the nation to have a significant number of windmills off its coast,” Riggs said.

But the windmills also can be used to hold solar panels that would collect energy from the sun, underwater turbines that collect energy from ocean currents and a new technology called ocean thermal energy conversion (OTEC) that uses the temperature difference between deep and shallow waters to run a heat engine.

Riggs said the coast of North Carolina has a perfect combination of cold and warm water to power the OTEC technology.

Riggs said the country has to find alternatives to petroleum. In 1967, the amount of petroleum produced in the United States was exceeded by the amount of petroleum used in the country, he said. Since then the gap has only widened, increasing the country’s dependence on foreign oil and contributing to severe economic fluctuations, Riggs said.

Fossil fuels make up about 85 percent of the United States’ energy use, but they will not be around forever, he said. In about 100 years the world has consumed 75 percent of the known fossil fuels that took 400 million years to make.

“In any given hour more energy from the sun reaches the earth than is used by the whole human population in any given year,” Riggs said.

The future for energy will rely on the sun and may include solar panels attached to satellites that circle the earth, he said.

“Everything we are doing now is on a small scale,” Riggs said.

“We have to learn how to beef up the scale because the technology is here.”

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University of Virginia picks its first female president

By Daniel de Vise
Washington Post Staff Writer
Tuesday, January 12, 2010; B01

Leaders of the University of Virginia on Monday elected Teresa A. Sullivan, provost at the University of Michigan, to succeed John T. Casteen III as president of Virginia's higher education flagship.

Sullivan, 60, starts work Aug. 1 in a post regarded as one of the most visible in public higher education. She will receive an annual compensation package of $680,000 and will be the first female president of U-Va., the school founded in 1825 as an "academical village" by Thomas Jefferson.

Like many in the top echelons of academe, Sullivan is regarded as both a scholar and an accomplished administrator. She has served as provost and executive vice president for academic affairs at Michigan, one of the nation's most prestigious public universities, since 2006.

She spent the previous 27 years at the University of Texas, including four years as chief academic officer for the Texas system's nine campuses. She has also written or co-written six books and more than 80 scholarly articles and chapters as a sociologist.

"She's done it all, all the things you need to do to prepare to take on this kind of leadership responsibility," said Molly Broad, president of the American Council on Education and former president of the University of North Carolina.

In introductory remarks Monday afternoon, Sullivan said of U-Va.: "I can't imagine a better environment for a student, a scholar or an administrative leader. I look forward to being part of it. Let's work hard."

She also acknowledged the long shadow of the man she would replace.

Casteen, 66, has led U-Va. for 20 years, a lengthy tenure for any college president, and has overseen its evolution into a public university supported largely with private funds. Casteen kept the 21,000-student university near the top of collegiate rankings during a two-decade span when state support has dwindled from 26 percent of the university's budget to 7 percent.

In the 2010 U.S. News rankings of national universities, U-Va. ranks 24th overall, alongside UCLA; the two are tied for second among public institutions, behind the University of California at Berkeley.

U-Va. completed a $1.43 billion fundraising campaign under Casteen in 2001, the second-largest sum ever collected by a state university at the time. He departs in the midst of a $3 billion campaign, the
largest ever among public schools at the time the effort was launched in 2004.

"He will be a hard act to follow," Sullivan said.

U-Va.'s Board of Visitors elected Sullivan as its eighth president in a unanimous vote just after 2:30 p.m. Monday. John O. Wynne, the university rector, said the panel was "confident that in Terry we have found a worthy successor" to Casteen.

The search committee weighed more than 150 nominees, said Ann Hamric, head of the faculty senate, who was on the panel. Sullivan was a clear standout, she said.

"She is an accomplished academic who does groundbreaking work in labor force demographics and continues to publish and teach, even in the face of these enormous administrative responsibilities," she said.

Mary Sue Coleman, president of the University of Michigan, said she felt "fortunate that we had Terry for four years."

Sullivan grew up in Little Rock, which was segregated at the time. She attended Michigan State University and completed a doctorate in sociology at the University of Chicago. She joined the University of Texas as an instructor and worked her way up the ranks.

Her husband, Douglas Laycock, a Michigan law professor, will move to Virginia's law school.

Addressing the U-Va. community Monday, Sullivan said: "I bring you my dedication, extensive experience and, above all, my passion for the tasks ahead of us."

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