

# NCAA upholds Boeheim ban

THE SPORTS XCHANGE

Syracuse coach Jim Boeheim will begin serving a nine-game suspension immediately after the NCAA ended a review lasting nearly eight months and upheld the punishment with modifications on Thursday.

Boeheim can return in January for the Atlantic Coast Conference game against North Carolina. He will miss Syracuse games at Georgetown, vs. Colgate, at St. John's, vs. Cornell, vs. Montana State, vs. Texas Southern, at Pitt, at Miami and vs. Clemson.

Rather than being suspended for nine ACC games as the NCAA had originally ruled, Boeheim begins the suspension Thursday and will be absent from three conference games.

The NCAA took away 12 scholarships and vacated wins for infractions in the school's athletic programs in addition to the suspension.

The infractions include "academic misconduct," repeated drug violations and boosters doling out cash to Syracuse players and staff members.

Boeheim, the head coach since 1976, was to be suspended for the team's first nine ACC games and the school loses three scholarships per year through 2018-19 as punishment for infractions that occurred with the men's basketball program over the past 10 years.

The university's penalties also included a five-year probation and for the school to vacate all wins in which ineligible men's basketball students played during the 2004-07 and 2010-12 seasons, and in which ineligible football students played in the 2004, 2005 and 2006 seasons.

## Miami-bound Richt won't coach Georgia in bowl

With Mark Richt set to be introduced Friday as Miami's new coach, Georgia will go forward without him in its bowl game.

The school announced Thursday that assistant head coach Bryan McClendon



Syracuse University men's basketball coach Jim Boeheim (left), pictured during a March game, will begin serving a nine-game suspension immediately. The NCAA found infractions at Syracuse including academic misconduct, drug violations and improper benefits from boosters.

don will be in charge of the team through the bowl. The 31-year-old McClendon is also the wide receivers coach.

The original plan after Richt was ousted at Georgia earlier this week was for him to remain as Bulldogs coach through the bowl game, but plans changed once he agreed to take the Miami job. He spoke with the Bulldogs on Thursday to inform them of the decision.

The school said offensive coordinator Brian Schottenheimer, defensive coordinator Jeremy Pruitt and other staff members will retain their roles through the bowl. Georgia athletic director Greg McGarity believes having McClendon take over as interim head coach will cause the least disruption to the team.

Richt posted a 145-51 record and won two Southeastern Conference championships in 15 years at Georgia. The Bulldogs are 9-3 this year.

Miami has scheduled a

news conference at 10 a.m. Friday to introduce its new head coach. Richt is a former Hurricanes backup quarterback who reached agreement to return to his alma mater, according to multiple reports.

## Texas appoints Perrin as AD

Texas interim athletic director Mike Perrin was made the permanent AD on Thursday by university president Greg Fenves.

Fenves announced that he was extending Perrin's contract through the 2017-2018 academic year. Perrin had served as interim athletic director since September after the school parted ways with former AD Steve Patterson, who was on the job for less than two years.

The 68-year-old Perrin is an attorney and former Longhorns linebacker and defensive end who was initially hired on a one-year contract worth approximately \$700,000. Fenves did not indicate in a staff email whether or not Perrin

received a salary increase.

In Perrin's first three months on the job, he facilitated a new 15-year, \$250 million apparel and licensing contract with Nike and announced that football ticket prices would hold steady for the next two years. He also remains a supporter of football coach Charlie Strong despite the Longhorns' 10-14 record in two seasons going into Saturday's in-state matchup with No. 12 Baylor.

"Since Mike became interim AD, he has proven to be a resourceful and valuable asset to the athletics department, improving relationships with our fans and alumni," Fenves wrote in his email. "His experiences as a student-athlete and a successful lawyer and businessman have given him unique insight that complements his strong leadership. I am confident that Mike will continue bringing positive change and pride to our Men's Athletics Department."

# Giants making pitch for Greinke

THE SPORTS XCHANGE

Zack Greinke has never lost a game in San Francisco, and the Giants are hoping for similar results in their pursuit of the free agent right-hander.

## MAJOR LEAGUES

Greinke is the best pitcher on the market after David Price agreed to a seven-year, \$217 million deal with the Boston Red Sox. There are those who regard the veteran ace as the prime player on the market after his 19-3 season with the Dodgers in 2014.

Greinke, 32, opted out of a contract that would have paid him \$71 million over the next three seasons. The expectation around the league is he will meet or exceed Price's payday. His deal will pay him an average of \$31 million per season with the Red Sox.

Owner Magic Johnson said Greinke was the top priority for the Dodgers this offseason. At what price remains to be seen. They already have one \$200 million arm in the rotation in Clayton Kershaw.

The Giants envision teaming Greinke with left-hander Madison Bumgarner, a doubly whammy for the Dodgers, but it's unclear what their maximum bid might be after falling short last season in a bid for free agent lefty Jon Lester.

Greinke is 7-0 with a 2.19 ERA in 10 career starts in San Francisco.

## Lee plans to make comeback

Former Cy Young Award winner Cliff Lee has received clearance to pitch and hopes to return in 2016 after missing all of last season due to an elbow injury.

Lee, 37, hasn't pitched in a major-league game since July 2014. He is currently a free agent after the Philadelphia Phillies declined their \$27.5 million option for 2016 and paid him a \$12.5 million buyout.

The four-time All-Star won the American League Cy Young Award in 2008 with the Cleveland Indians when he

went a career-best 22-3.

Lee is 143-91 with a 3.52 ERA over 13 major-league seasons.

## White Sox sign Navarro

Veteran switch-hitting catcher Dioner Navarro and the Chicago White Sox agreed to a one-year deal on Thursday.

Chicago signed former Tigers catcher Alex Avila in November and non-tendered Tyler Flowers this week, making their 2015 starter a free agent.

Navarro, 31, spent the past two seasons with the Toronto Blue Jays.

He batted .246 with five homers in 54 games as the primary backup to Russell Martin.

## Mariners sign OF Aoki

The Seattle Mariners announced the signing Thursday of free agent outfielder Norichika Aoki to a one-year contract with a mutual option for 2017.

The 33-year-old Aoki has spent the past four seasons in the major leagues after coming over from Japan.

In 2015 with the San Francisco Giants, Aoki batted .287 with five home runs, 26 RBIs and 14 stolen bases in 93 games. He was on the disabled list twice with a broken leg from June 24 to July 27 and a concussion from Aug. 13 to Aug. 20.

Aoki previously played for the Milwaukee Brewers and Kansas City Royals after eight seasons with the Tokyo Yakult Swallows. In four major league seasons, he has batted .287 with 24 homers, 156 RBIs and 81 stolen bases in 531 games.

"Adding Nori addresses our desire to be more athletic in the outfield, as well as more contact oriented in the batter's box," Mariners general manager Jerry Dipoto said. "His consistency, versatility and energetic style of play will fit us very well."

While playing in Japan, Aoki hit .329 with 84 home runs, 385 RBIs and 164 stolen bases. He won the Central League's batting championship three times.

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