



BIG 12 CONFERENCE NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Big 12 Spring Meetings - First Day Recap - The Broadmoor, Colorado Springs, Colorado -

Points of Discussion

- Discussion of APR in football
- Five seasons of eligibility in football
- Football postgame security and game management
- Men's basketball scheduling (conference and non-conference)
- Men's basketball number of conference games (16 versus 18)
- The one-year rule for the eligibility of student-athletes for the NBA draft
- Format for the 2009 Phillips 66 Big 12 Women's Basketball Championship (Thursday-Sunday).
- Developing a leadership group to study continued advancements for Big 12 women's basketball.

Big 12 Commissioner Dan Beebe:

"We don't have some of the major issues we've had to deal with in the past such as television contracts, bowl negotiations and awarding championship sites. This allows us to spend more time on strategic items for the future including branding initiatives and the mediums in which we put our message."

"We will continue our emphasis on sportsmanship and good conduct. I feel good about the coaches in charge of our youngsters. We need to operate in an appropriate manner for higher education."

Texas Tech Men's Basketball Coach Pat Knight:

"We voted 12-0 against it (playing 18 conference games). It was unanimous that another two conference games would just cause us to beat each other up."

On Kansas' National Championship:

"It is huge. We were so happy. We called the meeting to order and immediately congratulated Coach Self. The same was done in our meeting with the Athletics Directors. We don't yet know the magnitude of how that is going to help us. It will create an even more favorable perception of the Big 12."

Oklahoma Women's Basketball Coach Sheri Coale:

"As a group our sentiment is that things are good in the Big 12. We feel we have built an elite league when you look at the total package of experience for the student-athlete, attendance, RPI and number of teams in the NCAA Tournament. Of course we always want to continue to do better. We are now trying to look around the corner and be a leader in the next phase of women's basketball. We want to be proactive rather than reactive and feel a leadership group could help us in these areas."

Texas Tech Football Coach Mike Leach:

"We would like to have five years of eligibility to help with graduation rates and legislative issues. I think there is quite a bit of support for it amongst our group. I think it would eliminate appeals and legislation while helping with graduation rates as most players take five years to graduate anyway. It would also help with the redshirt blues as it would be five years, no exception."

Note: Texas Tech serves as chair and spokesperson for the coaches' groups this season.

Notes of Interest

- Start times for the Phillips 66 Big 12 Men's Basketball Championship were announced. The championship game on Saturday will be played at 5 p.m. CT and be televised by ESPN. The Friday games will take place at approximately 6 and 8:20 p.m. CT, with start times the first two days the same as previous seasons.

- Big 12 -