

SPORTS

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Green stars for Spartans in their overtime victory

COLLEGE BASKETBALL, 2B

Wallace won't be returning

Rasheed Wallace's comeback ended as quickly as it began.

"There has been no discussion" about bringing Wallace back, Celtics coach Doc Rivers told Comcast Sports New England about the former Piston.



Wallace

The rumor originally surfaced from Stephen A. Smith, who reported it on Dan Patrick's radio show.

NASCAR drivers must pick circuit in 2011

NASCAR's competition applications for 2011 require drivers to select which series they will race for a championship in this season.

The declaration will prevent Sprint Cup drivers from racing for titles in both the Sprint Cup and Nationwide Series.

The change will likely only affect Brad Keselowski (Rochester Hills) and Carl Edwards, the only two drivers who had planned to run the full schedule in both series.



Matt York/Associated Press

Jim Mackay, wearing a yellow vest, caddies for a photographer Monday.

Mickelson's caddie helps photographer

Jim "Bones" Mackay

is best known to sports fans as the caddie who has been at Phil Mickelson's side as he won four majors and became one of the biggest names in golf.

Mackay served as a caddie at an entirely different sporting event Monday night — the BCS championship between Auburn and Oregon.

Mackay worked the sidelines as an assistant to Sports Illustrated photographer Robert Beck, lugging the lensman's equipment around the sidelines during No. 1 Auburn's 22-19 victory.

The pair struck up a relationship over the years as the golf photographer captured Mickelson's memorable moments.

Contact us

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U-M HIRES HOKE

Michigan's Man

Players applaud hiring of Hoke

Ann Arbor

They stopped short of doing the Hokey Pokey inside Schembechler Hall when they heard the news.

But, well, the players were excited. Relieved, too. And maybe even a bit startled when Michigan athletic director Dave Brandon stepped into the room and made the announcement.

"We didn't know what to expect," junior tight end Kevin Koger said. "We thought it was going to be a meeting about classes and the

weight room. And then Mr. Brandon came in and dropped the news on us."

The news, of course, was that he'd hired Brady Hoke as the team's new head football coach. And if it came as a surprise Tuesday, it also came as welcome news to a team that has endured more than its share of what former coach Rich Rodriguez often referred to as "drama" near the end of his three-year tenure.

A week ago, having just fired Rodriguez and his staff, Brandon promised the players they'd be the first to know when he'd found their new coach.

And in the end, after his "national" search-and-rescue operation for the U-M football program began to look more like a recovery effort to many outsiders, the boss was true to his word.

And once they'd heard it, the reaction inside Schembechler Hall, where it really counts, sure sounded different than the one outside.

"Everybody started smiling," Koger said. "We didn't know what to do. But somebody started the slow clap and we all just followed in."

And then... "Everybody got up, round of applause," said Jibreel Black, a freshman defensive end.

"Big cheer. We've been waiting for a new coach, and we've finally got one. We've got our leader back."

Say what you want about the "process," or even the end result. Brandon is taking all sorts of flak from fans who were

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John T. Greilick/The Detroit News

Lloyd Carr, left, and Brady Hoke knew each other on the same staff and, in this 2006 Michigan-Ball State game, as rivals.

AD Brandon: 'Hoke's reputation permeates Michigan football'

BY ANGELIQUE S. CHENGELIS
The Detroit News

For Michigan athletic coach Dave Brandon, finding someone who understands the uniqueness that is Michigan football was absolutely the focal point of his search for a new coach.

Brandon believes he found his man in Brady Hoke, a former Michigan defensive assistant coach who has been a head coach the last eight years at Ball State and most recently, San Diego State.

Hoke, 52, was named the 19th coach in Michigan's 131-year history on Tuesday. He succeeds Rich Rodriguez, fired last week following three seasons and a 15-22 record, and will be officially introduced at a news conference today.

"This is what he's worked his entire career to be able to do," Brandon told The News on Tuesday. "He is determined to be successful here. I've always believed you never underestimate the power of someone who has something to prove."

Brandon set out after firing Rodriguez

last Wednesday, conducting a national search to find Michigan's next coach. Brandon said he was thorough but would not reveal the number of coaches he interviewed and declined to be specific about any other candidates.

"It was very fatiguing," Brandon said of the search process. "I wanted to get to a lot of people, and I wanted to get busy meeting face-to-face, and when it was not face-to-face it was over the phone. I wanted to go out there and really test the market and understand the people out there, how they thought and how they matched."

"I feel very good about this. I talked to and met with coaches from several different conferences, who represented several different styles of play, and had different personalities. It helps when you put them up to compare, and see who is the best fit. I am confident I made the right choice."

Brandon said he had several coaches

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Brandon

2011 U-M schedule

Sept. 3	Western Michigan
Sept. 10	Notre Dame
Sept. 17	Eastern Michigan
Sept. 24	San Diego State
Oct. 1	Minnesota
Oct. 8	at Northwestern
Oct. 15	at Michigan State
Oct. 29	Purdue (HC)
Nov. 5	at Iowa
Nov. 12	at Illinois
Nov. 19	Nebraska
Nov. 26	Ohio State

The immediate futures of Denard Robinson and Brady Hoke are inextricably linked.



John T. Greilick/The Detroit News

Five things Brady Hoke must accomplish

1. Secure the return of QB Denard Robinson, who wanted Rich Rodriguez to be retained.
2. Salvage U-M's 2011 recruiting class. National Signing Day is Feb. 2.
3. Shore up Michigan's defense. The Wolverines ranked 110th in total defense in 2010, giving up 450.77 yards per game.
4. Mend fences with former players who have not supported the football program.
5. Win over fans who are skeptical of Hoke's credentials.

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