



Richardson is named head coach

■ He'll be introduced at a Tuesday press conference, but there is no team yet.

BY LYNN JACOBSEN
World Sports Writer

A COACH AGAIN

Nolan Richardson: His contract is reportedly in the six-figure range with bonuses built in.

Nolan Richardson has been named head coach of a prospective WNBA team in Tulsa, as first reported on tulsaworld.com on Monday.

The former University of Tulsa and Arkansas men's basketball coach will be introduced at a Tuesday 5 p.m. press conference at the BOK Center. WNBA

WNBA in Tulsa

The group of investors hopes to have an announcement in the coming weeks on whether it has secured a franchise.

president Donna Orender is expected at the event.

David Box, one of the primary investors in the push to bring a franchise to Tulsa, had been in discussions with Richardson for the past few weeks. The two sides reportedly reached an agreement late last week.

Richardson guided TU to an NIT championship and three NCAA Tour-

namment appearances in the 1980s, then led Arkansas to an NCAA title in 1994.

This will be Richardson's first stint as coach of a women's team, although he has taught girls basketball camps.

Fans are invited to the Tuesday press conference for the chance to meet the 67-year-old Richardson.

This announcement does not mean that a franchise has been secured. Investors are continuing to work on securing corporate support. The group hopes to have an announcement on the franchise in the next few weeks.

SEE WNBA B6

WNBA:

Richardson would bring his defensive mindset to WNBA.

FROM B1

"I'm happy for Nolan. He's a really nice guy," said former WNBA player/coach Nancy Lieberman. "He has a lot of work ahead of him. I think it's going to be very important that he hire people on his staff that have knowledge of the league.

"There are a lot of people out there, like Bo Overton, who can help him understand who the players are in this league. I'm for anybody who can help make women's basketball better and stronger. But they also have to be receptive to learning. If you aren't open-minded to learning, then success won't be as easy as you think."

Richardson employed "40 minutes of hell" in tenacious defenses at both TU and Arkansas and has said he plans to bring the same style to Tulsa again.

"Only time will tell if he's successful," said Lieberman, a women's basketball analyst for ESPN, who resides in Dallas. "It's his style. He has to coach what he is comfortable with in the WNBA. I want him to be successful. I'm excited for a team to come to Tulsa."

Richardson's contract is reportedly in the six-figure range and somewhere in the neighborhood of \$250,000 with bonuses built in.

Lynn Jacobsen 581-8461
lynn.jacobsen@tulsaworld.com