DeVoe in Line for UCLA Job?

From Staff Dispatches

Don DeVoe, who in his first season at the University of Wyoming guided the Cowboys to a 17-10 overall record and 8-6 in the Western Athletic Conference, has been listed as a candidate for the vacant head coaching job at UCLA.

DeVoe's name was mentioned in an Associated Press story concerning possible candidates for the Bruin post, left open a month ago when Gene Bartow resigned to become head coach and athletic director at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

In a telephone interview Wednesday, DeVoe said, "I can't really say anything at this point because I don't know the situation at UCLA or what's happening down there."

Eyes are also fastened on Gary Cunningham, executive director of the UCLA alumni association and a former aide to the legendary John Wooden.

According to The AP, Cunningham has expressed much interest in the job and is favored by many of the alumni. Although he lacks major college head coaching experience, Cunningham comes highly recommended by Wooden himself.

Wyoming Sports Information Director Bill Young said that DeVoe had been on vacation over the July 4 weekend.

"I'll be honest with you, this is the first I've heard about it," said DeVoe. "I saw the release about (Denny) Crum turning down the job and the reasons why Crum stayed in Louisville. I think he has some very valid reasons.

"They've got a great program there and Denny's done a darn fine job."

DeVoe believes that whoever the new UCLA coach may be, he'll suffer the same pressures that Bartow faced when he took over for the Wizard of Westwood.

"I know that it is a very, very difficult job," commented DeVoe. "And there are many different factors to consider when taking it."

There has been no comment from UCLA Athletic Director J.D. Morgan except to say that school officials will take their time finding a new man.

"He said all along there's no hurry," said a UCLA athletic department spokesman. "There's no deadline."

So in the wake of Crum's announcement Tuesday in Louisville, the search continues and although DeVoe, who's lifetime record is 105-55 at Wyoming and Virginia Tech, is among the possible candidates, nothing is certain.

"This (Wyoming) is an ideal position for me," claimed DeVoe. "I came when the program was rock bottom and..."