Report Says UCLA To Name Cunningham

From AP Dispatches

WASHINGTON — Gary Cunningham, president of the UCLA alumni association, will get the job as head coach of the Bruins' basketball team according to Washington radio station WTOP said Thursday.

The announcement is to be made next week, the station said, citing a "source close to the UCLA situation."

University of Wyoming Coach Don DeVoe, who turned the Cowboy basketball program around last season after leaving Virginia Tech, has been interviewed for the vacant coaching job also, according to a Wyoming official.

Wednesday, DeVoe denied knowing anything about a report mentioning his name as a possible replacement for Gene Bartow, who left UCLA to become head basketball coach and athletic director at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. He was unavailable for comment Thursday.

Cunningham and DeVoe have been the two men most prominently named as candidates for the position.

Cunningham was the pick of John Wooden to succeed him when he retired, the station said, but declined the offer then because of personal reasons and because he was just starting his job with the alumni association. Cunningham served as an assistant under Wooden and Bartow, who resigned recently after two seasons at UCLA to join the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

Wyoming Athletic Director George McCarty said UCLA officials had notified him first that they intended to contact DeVoe, 34, about the coaching position.

McCarty said DeVoe went to Los Angeles last weekend to talk with UCLA officials about the job. He said he didn't know what the outcome of the interview was.

DeVoe was unavailable for comment Thursday.

"Naturally, I would be disappointed if Coach DeVoe chose to leave the University of Wyoming, as I think he is one of the finest young coaches in the business," McCarty said. "I'm optimistic that the interview was an interview and that the young man will stay with us."

DeVoe came to Wyoming last year from Virginia Tech, shored up the Cowboys' floundering basketball program and guided Wyoming to a 17-10 record and a third-place tie in the Western Athletic Conference. The year before DeVoe came to Wyoming, the Cowboys had posted a 10-17 season mark.