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## NCAA on men's track: Cheating went on for seven years

### Cheating, payment to student-athletes reason for sanctions

BY RYAN THOMAS  
Staff Reporter

Records set by the men's track and field team will be removed from the record books because of violations committed between 1997 and 2004, the NCAA announced Thursday.

Sixteen of 22 student-athletes involved in the violations finished in the Top 10 in 43 events at the the NCAA Division I indoor and outdoor track championships, according to a NCAA release.

The NCAA D-I Committee on Infractions also placed the TCU athletics program on probation for two years.

"We accept the committee's findings and sanctions," athletics director Danny Morrison

said in a TCU press release. "Now that the NCAA investigation is complete, we can close the chapter on this unfortunate incident in our track and field program and focus on moving forward under the leadership of new head coach, Darryl Anderson."

The Flyin' Frogs will be banned from competing in the postseason as a team during the 2005-2006 and 2006-2007 seasons, although

the individual athletes can compete as individuals, according to the NCAA. The university also placed its own sanctions: It reduced the men's track scholarships to 10 full scholarships for the next two years, lessened the number of recruiting trips by men's track and field coaches and reduced the number of visits by prospective male track athletes, according to the press release.

Former head track and field coach Monte Stratton was fired in September 2004 for allegations of violating NCAA rules. Assistant coach Brad Bowman subsequently resigned.

The NCAA said the violations were committed between 1997 and last year.

Former athletics director Eric Hyman, now the athletics director at the University of South Carolina, could not be reached for comment.

The violations cited by the NCAA include a former assistant coach taking a final exam and writing a paper for an athlete in 1997, and other assistant coaches either writing or editing admission essays for recruits between 1999-2004.

The NCAA said that from 2000-2004, the coaching staff made several \$100 monthly payments to foreign athletes more on NCAA, page 2

## RITA



Emily Goodson / Photo Editor

Gary Jacoby, of Fort Worth, fills his car up with gas at the Sam's Club gas station Thursday evening as the line of cars stretches behind him. The wait to reach the gas pumps was 20 to 30 minutes.

## Caravans of cars stream inland

### Texans head north to flee hurricane

By MIKE GRACZYK  
Associated Press

HOUSTON — Hurricane Rita closed in on the Texas Gulf Coast and the heart of the U.S. oil-refining industry with howling 145 mph winds Thursday, but a sharper-than-expected turn to the right set it on a course that could spare Houston and nearby Galveston a direct hit.

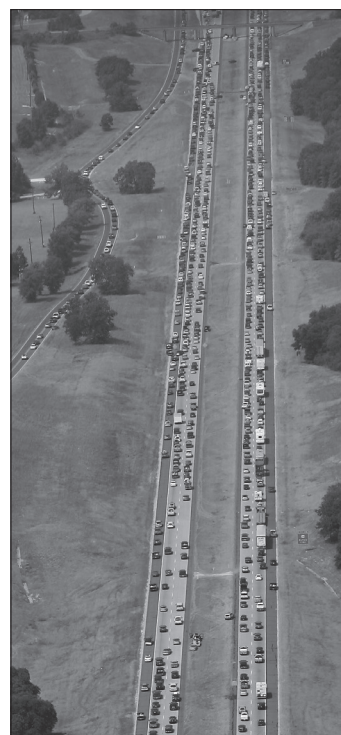
The storm's march toward land sent hundreds of thousands of people fleeing the nation's fourth-largest city in a frustratingly slow, bumper-to-bumper exodus.

"This is the worst planning I've ever seen," said Judie Anderson, who covered just 45 miles in 12 hours after setting out from her home in the Houston suburb of LaPorte. "They say we've learned a lot from Hurricane Katrina. Well, you couldn't prove it by me."

In all, nearly 2 million people along the Texas and Louisiana coasts were urged to get out of the way of Rita, a 400-mile-wide storm that weakened Thursday from a top-of-the-scale Category 5 hurricane to a Category 4 as it swirled across the Gulf of Mexico.

The storm's course change could send it away from Houston and Galveston and instead draw the hurricane toward Port Arthur, Texas, or Lake Charles, La., at least 60 miles up the coast, by late Friday or early Saturday.

But it was still an extremely dangerous storm — and one aimed at a section of coastline with the nation's biggest concentration of oil refineries. Environmentalists warned of the possibility



Ralph Lauer / Associated Press

All lanes of Interstate 45 carry northbound traffic as motorists evacuate in advance of Hurricane Rita on Thursday near Buffalo, Texas.

of a toxic spill from the 87 chemical plants and petroleum installations that represent more than one-fourth of U.S. refining capacity.

Rita also brought rain to already battered New Orleans, raising fears that the city's Katrina-damaged levees would fail and flood the city all over again.

At 8 p.m. EDT, Rita was centered about 350 miles east-southeast of Galveston and was moving at near 10 mph. Its winds were near 145 mph, down from 175 mph earlier in the day. Forecasters predicted it would come ashore somewhere along a 350-mile stretch of the Texas and Louisiana coast that includes Port Arthur near the midpoint.

Forecasters warned of the possibility of a storm surge of 15 to 20 feet, battering waves, and rain of up to 15 more on TRAFFIC, page 2

## Locals brace for storm

### Grocery stores, gas stations run short on supplies

By AMY HALLFORD  
Staff Reporter

Fort Worth may be more than 250 miles from the coast, but local residents are not taking chances.

Fort Worth gas stations and grocery stores are flooded with customers and hotels are running out of rooms as Hurricane Rita makes its approach.

A Wal-Mart Supercenter on Anderson Street is struggling to provide enough bottled water for customers who are stocking up in preparation.

"We are swamped. All you see in the store are big bas-

kets," said Regina Hall, a telephone operator for Wal-Mart. Although the store is crowded and check-out lines are long, Hall said people "just seem happy to be alive."

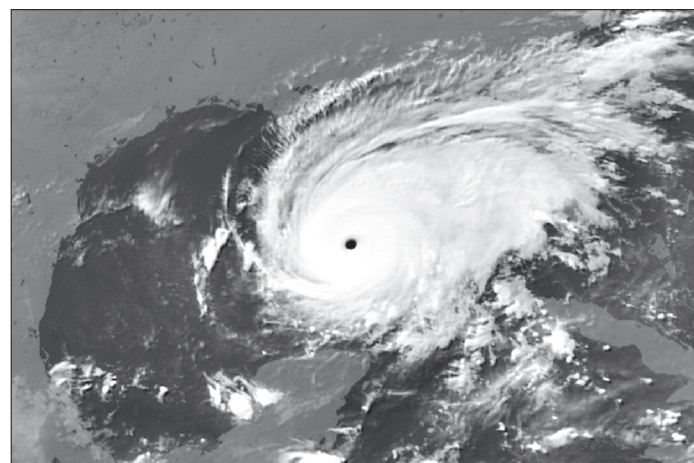
"No one seems distressed or disheartened," Hall said. "Customers are remaining calm."

A Sam's gas station next to the Wal-Mart is also experiencing a rush of people.

"We've been very busy but that isn't really a problem," a gas station attendant said. "The problem is people filling up and driving off without paying. We have seen a lot of that."

"Fuel and go" isn't the only problem gas stations are facing.

A Diamond Shamrock gas station on McCart Avenue more on GAS, page 2



AP Photo / NOAA

This satellite image provided by NOAA and taken at 4:45 am EDT Thursday Sept. 22, 2005 shows Hurricane Rita over the Gulf of Mexico.

## Safety trumps marching band trip

### Rain, traffic from Rita halts travel to Mexico

By KRISTA HUMPHRIES  
Staff Reporter

Instead of enjoying the sun and sand in Monterrey, Mexico, the Horned Frog Marching Band, TCU Showgirls and TCU Cheerleaders will be here, enduring the effects of Hurricane Rita.

Today, they were supposed to be on their way to Mexico to perform during halftime of a Mexican soccer match, said

Brian Youngblood, marching band director and associate director of bands.

The decision to cancel the trip was made Wednesday. Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Nowell Donovan, TCU Safety Department director Randal Cobb, and director of bands Bobby Francis decided that traveling south would not be a good idea because of rain and traffic resulting from Rita.

"It's the uncertainty of not knowing what's going to happen," Donovan said. "I'm sure that creates a great deal of wun-

### EXTRA INFO

Below is a list of TCU event cancellations caused by Hurricane Rita:

- TCU LEAPS — Postponed until the spring semester. Exact date to be announced.
- Women's Soccer at Rice
- Women's Soccer vs. Sam Houston State — Postponed until Sept. 30.

happiness, but I'm sorry."

On Wednesday morning, cheerleading coach Jeffrey Tucker told Donovan and more on TRIP, page 2