

Coker one of many DI coaches recruiting in Bastrop

Former Miami coach met with Bastrop players, coaches Tuesday

BY MICHAEL ADAMS
Sports Editor

Larry Coker knows something about good football players.

While head coach at the University of Miami, Coker coached former two-time Heisman Trophy finalist and NFL quarterback Ken Dorsey, San Francisco 49ers running back Frank Gore, Arizona Cardinals running back Edgerrin James, Houston Texans wide receiver Andre Johnson, the late Sean Taylor and Baltimore Ravens running back Willis McGahee, among many others.

Coker was in Bastrop Tuesday afternoon, along

with assistant coach David Ross, to meet with Bears coaching staff and players for his new gig at the University of Texas-San Antonio.

Coker was hired to lead the new UTSA football program on March 5. This is his first coaching job since being fired in 2006 by Miami.

"We are just going around meeting with some players and coaches to do a little recruiting," Coker said. "These kids in Bastrop are well disciplined, play in a great league and have some positive coaches."

The veteran coach is second only to Texas' Mack Brown in winning percentage from 2001-

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**— Larry Coker,
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2005.

He also had stints at Ohio State, Oklahoma State, Oklahoma and Tulsa as an assistant coach.

In his rookie season as a head coach in 2001, Coker led Miami to a 12-0 record and a national championship victory over

Nebraska.

Miami fired Coker in 2006 after a season marred by the infamous bench-clearing brawl during the Florida International-Miami game.

Thirty-one players were suspended after the brawl.

He said while he faces a tremendous challenge building UTSA's football program from nothing, it is a good challenge to be facing.

"This is a great opportunity in San Antonio," he said. "There are no Division I schools or pro football there and we will play our home games in

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Staff photo by Michael Adams

University of Texas-San Antonio football coach Larry Coker, left, talks with Bastrop head coach Gerald Perry Tuesday during athletic workouts at Bastrop High School. The former University of Miami head coach was in town to meet with players and coaches.