Dead rabbits may cost two points

(CPS)

Tossing a dead rabbit, or even a live one, on the court could cost the home team two points.

Hoping to control what it sees as increasingly unruly fans at basketball games across the country, the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) announced Feb. 11, that it was empowering referees to get touch with spectators.

It's "reinterpretation" of existing rules lets referees award two free throws and possession of the ball if their opinion that an action was unnecessarily delaying a game by throwing debris on the court. In the past only one foul shot was awarded.

"We want it called constantantly," Dr. Edward Steitz of the NCAA's basketball rules committee said. "This is the result of a continued increase of fans throwing objects like toilet paper, eggs, dead fish and chickens onto the court."

If the crowd doesn't stop, referees can assess a technical foul on the home team coach.

"In the past, some players and coaches even encouraged fan rowdiness," Steitz said.

According to Steitz, no single incident led to the rule's change, but it was announced shortly after University of Missouri at Columbia fans provoked Iowa fans waving their arms to game to admonish some UNC players that said 'Your Momma is a Cow,' " Harvey said.

"I'm happy that things are working out, but that's only natural," Klaasen said.

The seven footer, tenth in scoring and seventh in rebounding, remains optimistic about the Vikings' chances. "They (the team) seemed to pick up the slack. They may miss the leadership, but they're playing well together," said Klaasen.

Klaasen is optimistic about his health as well. He is being fitted for a brace on Monday and should know by Wednesday if he is going to be able to play.

Whatever happens with his knee, there are other things to look forward to in his future. Klaasen is engaged to be married and plans to go home and work on the farm with his dad and his brother. Klaasen's exploits on the basketball court will not soon be forgotten.

Klaasen takes injury in stride

By BRAD MASON

Speedster Darwin Klaasen is optimistic about his chances to return to action. Klaasen, who suffered a knee injury early in the season, closed out his final home season from an unfamiliar position, that of the bench.

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Brown named b-ball coach

By NEAL RONQUIST

Lisa Brown has been named the head coach of the Augustana women's basketball team. Brown, who has served as an assistant coach for the past two seasons, will replace Kathy Turpin who resigned recently.

"It was a tough decision," Brown said of accepting the offer to coach the Vikings, "but I knew that I wanted to be here. It will be a big challenge, and that's why I like it.""I'm happy that things worked out for me here. I like the small church-affiliated school, I like Sioux Falls and I like the academic setting of Augustana College. The school sells itself." "I'm happy that things worked out for me here. I like the small church-affiliated school, I like Sioux Falls and I like the academic setting of Augustana College. The school sells itself."

Former Coach Kathy Turpin said, "I am pleased and happy to know that a person who had a part in developing and building the program will continue as coach. With her responsibilities I know that Lisa has had experience to know what the program is about."

Lisa Brown named women's basketball coach.

Brown said that she had a chance to be named women's head coach but wasn't sure what her chances actually were. Among Brown's immediate goals will be recruiting another point guard. As for next season Brown said she would like to see the Vikings become a 500 or better team in the North Central Conference.

Brown, who becomes the fifth person to hold the position of women's basketball coach at Augustana, attended Mobley Area Junior College in Missouri, the University of South Dakota and Culver-Stockton College, where she played basketball under Turpin. She holds a master's degree from Augustana.