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Breaking News

USC Names Pope John Paul II New Football Coach



(AP) - In a startling announcement today, USC Athletic Director Mike McGee has confirmed that the

University of South Carolina has hired the head of the Roman Catholic Church as it's new head football coach, succeeding coach Lou Holtz.

Holtz is expected to announce his retirement in the next few days, probably prior to the USC-Clemson Football game

"When we hired Lou Holtz, most of the fans thought he was God." said McGee at an impromptu press conference held today at the Cockpit. "Obviously he wasn't, but we think we've gotten a bit closer this time."

Coach Holtz, never at a loss for words, had this to say. "They want someone who can walk on water here. Most people think Johnny Paul can do that. Of course, they thought I could do that six or seven years ago... the fans deserve this."

Although a formal contract is yet to be signed, McGee says negotiations are almost finalized.

"There were a few sticking points, but most of those issues have been resolved." Reportedly, the Pope had asked that Williams-Brice Stadium be made available for Mass on a weekly basis, a request McGee strenuously objected to.

"You start with Mass, then the next thing you know there are tractor pulls, Carolina Panther games, Rolling Stones concerts, hockey games... the list goes on." said McGee.

On the streets, loyal Gamecock fans were ecstatic when told the news.

"People say USC doesn't have a prayer of winning the SEC." said Biff Wussie, a longtime Gamecock supporter. "Now, we'll have all the prayers we're gonna need."

Others look at off-the-field possibilities.

"I can see the fans in the stadium now, all wearing those little Pope caps with "Cocks!" written on them." says Muffy Dipstick, owner of a local USC apparel store in 5-Points. "And can't you just see Cocky now in one of those tall, pointy Pope hats? So adorable!"

According to McGee, other changes can be expected as well.

"We plan to replace our current cheerleading squad with nuns." he explains. "And we'll be selling bottled holy water in the concessions stands at football games. We also plan to change name of the Roost to Vatican South."

When asked if the Pope was USC's first choice to replace Holtz, McGee was cryptic.

"Well, from the beginning, we never really thought Spurrier would be available. But the Pope... well, we've had our eye on him since the **Clemson** game last year. Todd Ellis looked at the scoreboard after the game was over, and said "Ho-ly Sh*t!", and a light went on in my head right then and there."