

... vote unanimously to move the ball far from the goal on extra point attempts. What we say is, put it back to about the 20, and make 'em kick it through the hole. Let's get rid of that automatic PAT, which gives us about as much excitement as washing your face. The coaches are opposed to this, sure, but they aren't the ones paying the bills in this sport.

We are also seeking a change in the kick-off rule that gives the receiving team the option of downing the ball behind its own goal and putting it in play out on the 20.

The committee was polled on what it considers the stupidest scene in football and here's what it decided on:

The game-opening whistle blows. The crowd comes to its feet and yells. Drums roll. Pennants wave. A guy kicks the ball which soars downwind. Twenty-two men, representing millions of dollars worth of professional talent, charge up and down the field. Then the ball is caught five yards deep in the end zone, the catcher of it sinks to one knee, an official blows the whistle, and the 22 players trot off the field and sit down. Wow. What a spectacle.

No frivolity here

Come on, folks, if a guy can kick a football almost 70 yards, let's not penalize his team when he does it. Let's make the receiving team catch the ball and run it out of the end zone.

You may think that these are all frivolous proposals. They are not. The committee screens proposals and votes frivolity out.

A case in point. At this season's meeting, a member proposed a rule that any touchdown made by a defensive lineman should count 10 points instead of 6, because such a touchdown is so rarely made. He specified the rule would apply to down linemen, not linebackers. He pointed out that a defensive lineman must recover a fumble, steal the ball, or intercept a pass in order to make a touchdown. A lineman can play years in the NFL without ever scoring, and therefore a touchdown made by such a guy ought to be worth bonus points.

The committee threw that one out. I admit the vote on it was 8 to 4, but that's only because four of our members played defensive tackle in high school.

Inside

Galveston port officials decided Wednesday to let Pride Cruise Lines' casino ship make its first voyage from the island before the firm puts up a \$500,000 offer of credit to guarantee the port makes money from the day-cruise venture. Page 35A.

By PAUL MCKAY
Houston Chronicle

CONROE — Former Plainview tennis coach Jon David Weatherred was found guilty of capital murder Wednesday for killing and robbing William Ralph "Bill" Strawn, the fiance of his ex-girlfriend.

Weatherred, 31, son of a Swisher

County commissioner, choked back tears and was consoled by a throng of relatives shortly before being handcuffed and taken to the Montgomery County Jail.

"I could live with it if I'd done it," he told relatives.

His father, W.C. "Buzz" Weatherred of Kress, leaned over from his courtroom seat and said, "Jon, we all know that bitch."

The remark was apparently a

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Murderer DeLuna is put to death

By KATHY FAIR
Houston Chronicle

HUNTSVILLE — A self-described black sheep who believed his death sentence was part of some pre-ordained blueprint today became the fourth

person executed in Texas this year.



DeLuna

Carlos DeLuna, 27, one of nine children, died of lethal injection at 12:24 a.m. for the February 1983 robbery and murder of Wanda Jean Lopez, a Corpus Christi convenience store clerk.

Lopez, 24, mother of a 6-year-old daughter, was stabbed to death as she frantically called police and described her assailant.

"I hold no grudges," said DeLuna in his final words. "I hate nobody. I want to let my family know I love them, and I want to tell everyone on death row to keep the faith up. Everything will be all right and to keep it going."

As the lethal injection was administered, prison chaplain Carroll Pickett held onto DeLuna's right leg.

DeLuna's fate was sealed about 4:15 p.m. Wednesday, when the U.S. Supreme Court, with only Justices Thurgood Marshall and

William J. Brennan Jr. dissenting, refused to grant the former electrician a stay. DeLuna's attorney then turned to Gov. Bill Clements, who rejected the plea for a reprieve.

News of the high court's decision appeared to upset DeLuna, said prison system spokesman Charles Brown. Prison officials did not elaborate on DeLuna's reaction. A week ago, he had said he feared facing his executioner. "I'm human. Of course I'm afraid to die," he said.

"My daughter was afraid, too," said Lopez's mother, "because she knew he was going to kill her."

DeLuna's bouts with the law began in 1978, when he was 16 and arrested for public intoxication. He was arrested six times that year, on charges that included burglary, paint sniffing, auto theft and running away.

By his 18th birthday, he had been arrested six more times, mostly on public intoxication charges. He served his first prison sentence in 1980 for unauthorized use of a motor vehicle and attempted rape of a Dallas woman.

DeLuna was on parole just two days when the parole was revoked after he attempted to rape the mother of a prison pal. He had been on parole about six weeks when arrested for Lopez's death.

"I just ran with the wrong crowd," DeLuna said of his troubles with the law.

DeLuna, the 33rd person, all

See EXECUTION on Page 39A.

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Execution

Continued from Page 33A.

erred was not the trigger man in the slaying. He argued that investigators singled Weatherred out at the exclusion of other potential suspects, particularly those who could have been linked to Zelmo Beil, the man who testified that he kept Weatherred's car without carrying out the job of having Strawn "roughed up" and "run off" from Beene.

The slaying was a capital offense because Strawn was robbed of \$150 cash and his car. The indictment also accused him of burglary because a paycheck was stolen from Beene's home.

But Stover argued that the thefts were part of a cover-up for the murder.

Strawn's car was on fire in Houston's Fifth Ward when police found it four days after the slaying. Stover theorized that the automobile was abandoned by Weatherred at the Greenspoint Mall area before random car thieves took it to the Fifth Ward, stripped it and burned it.

Weatherred, who according to seven defense witnesses was in the Plainview/Lubbock area around the time of the murder, somehow proceeded from Greenspoint to Houston Intercontinental Airport and caught a plane back to West Texas after abandoning the car, according to Stover's theory.

murderers, executed since Texas resumed the death penalty in 1982, spent his final day talking with relatives and a friend. He refused lunch and supper.

"I want him to pay for what he did to my daughter," said Mary Vargas, the victim's mother. But she said DeLuna's death would not erase all of her pain of the past six years.

"You feel an emptiness, in yourself," Vargas said. "Something is missing."

DeLuna's death, she added, would "make me feel a little better. You can rest when you know justice has been done."

The attorney who prosecuted DeLuna described him as sullen and a liar.

"His is more of a surreptitious violence," said Steve Schiwetz, a Corpus Christi attorney who had been with the Nueces County district attorney's office when DeLuna was tried. "His primary victims were autos and women. I can't remember any instance of him trying to pick on a male."

Although he testified at his trial that someone else robbed and murdered Lopez, DeLuna refused to elaborate on the crime after his conviction. One witness at his trial identified him as the knife-wielding man seen outside the store, and another witness saw him struggling with the victim inside the store.

DeLuna was found hiding beneath a parked vehicle about a quarter of a mile from the store, barefoot and without a shirt. His bloody shirt and shoes were found in a yard the next day.

He had been convicted of attempting to rape a woman he had stalked across a Dallas YMCA parking lot and then later, while celebrating his parole, attempting to rape the mother of one of his prison buddies, Schiwetz added. The second assault occurred after the 57-year-old woman had what Schiwetz termed a "Welcome Home from the Joint Party" for DeLuna and her son.

DeLuna's attorney, Chris Weaver of Dallas, said he was frustrated with the lower courts' refusal to grant a stay based on claims that jurors were not instructed on consideration of mitigating evidence, a matter previously argued successfully before the U.S. Supreme Court.

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 and Cathleen Mary Albright — case #87-10720-H5-7
 T. and Kathryn E. Starnes, Jr. — case #88-08100-H2-7

LE
 7:30 P.M.
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PREVIEW
 Thursday, December 7th 9:00 A.M. Until 5:00 P.M.
 Friday, December 8th 9:00 A.M. Until Sale Time
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