

Former LSU coach will speak in Daphne

► Dale Brown will headline charity event March 2 at Daphne Civic Center

By **TOMMY HICKS**
Sports Reporter

Former LSU basketball coach Dale Brown will appear at the Daphne Civic Center on March 2 as the guest speaker at the Mercy Medical Hospice, Pediatric and Charity Care event.

"I have known Sherry Bloodworth (of Mercy Medical) and her mother for years," Brown said. "When (Sherry) told me about the hospice program they have and what they are doing, I told them of course I would help."

The event, being billed as an "indoor tailgate party" will also feature a silent auction, including an autographed size-23 Shaquille O'Neal basketball shoe and LSU basketball and football tickets provided by Brown. Food and beverages will also be available. Tickets are \$35 each or \$50 per couple. A table for 10 costs \$250. For more information, call (251) 621-4884.

Brown, now retired, is just as passionate today as when he coached when it comes to "a litany of things I don't like" surrounding the game and those who govern it. Some of his thoughts:

■ Players should be allowed to transfer from one school to another if their head coach leaves for another job. "Coaches can jump from one spot to another spot, but the players can't," he said. "The (NCAA) rules don't take care of the players. They don't look out for their interests." Brown said such rules highlight a "monumental hypocrisy."

■ He dislikes the rule that prevents players from going straight to the NBA from high school, which leads to the one-and-done situation that has become prevalent among players with the talent to make the jump, Brown said. "You can't blame the kids," he said. "That's the only choice they have."

■ If Brown had his way, players wouldn't foul out. "It's the only game you've got where the star can foul out of the game and not be allowed to play the rest of the game," Brown said. His solution: every time a player commits more than five fouls, the opposing team gets the option of three free throws or inbounding the ball. Or, he said, he'd support three free throws and possession of the ball.

■ Brown feels freshmen should not be eligible to play their first year and have five years to play four.

■ He believes Kentucky point guard John Wall is the most exciting player he's seen this season.