



POLICE BLOTTER UPDATE IN THE SPORTS WORLD

By Kerry Schmidt 04-17-2005

Spring is in the air, thus MLB teams have their lineups in order, the NFL draft will work towards those teams also fixing their lineups and spring football lineups are practicing. But a number of athletes have already made another type of lineup. The police type. Must be something about that springtime air.

Note: The number of lineupers are so numerous, I apologize to those omitted.

From just dumb to big problems, let's take an updated look at America's finest.

Starting small, how about dumb. The NFL's scouting combine last February is the showcase for future millionaires. Well, five such dollar seekers showed up and flunked.

As is their drug tests. Four tested positive for Ricky Williams' drug of choice and one for steroids. The million dollar – or now lack thereof – marijuana meeting.

Moving on to bigger and better stuff. Arizona State running back Loren Wade, who set the school's freshman rushing record last season, is charged with the shooting a former State player in the head in the parking lot of a Scottsdale night club. Ah, Wade, murdering someone is not a good start on your sophomore season. Prior to the shooting, Wade had made threats to two female State students. Sun Devil's coach Dirk Koetter said, "I did not connect that dot." Whoa, a coach who cannot even connect dots. Maybe he falsified his kindergarten resume.

Getting to minor stuff (see Colorado below), NCAA Champs Southern Cal's starting CB – he had an interception in the big win over Oklahoma, was charged with rape. Coach Pete Carroll came down hard on him. He suspended him from spring practice.

The staid Midwest did not want to be left out. Iowa State dismissed three players from the team. Two are awaiting trial on burglary charges, the third's offense (or defense) is unknown. A fourth player, accused of beating a man in a fight over his girlfriend, somehow was successful in appealing his spring suspension and will play in the spring game. While his coach was forgiving, the police are not so nice, as he is awaiting trial on the assault charge.

But them good ole southern boys lead the way. Nine South Carolina players were arrested on various charges. Yep, the rednecks sure know how to stand out in a crowd, er, lineup. And, their punter must not be very good, because he was kicked off the squad just for violating team rules.

Back to Arizona State. They're gaining on South Carolina. Two more of their players have been ousted from the team after being arrested for allegedly photographing a naked female student sans her permission. But that's OK, they can just transfer to Colorado.

So, we got murders, rapes, burglaries and would-be "Sports Illustrated" camera buffs.

Taking a break from the heavy stuff, a woman, Sonya Ellitott, has filed suit against Flacons' QB Michael Vick. She says he knowingly gave her a sexually transmitted disease in April, 2003. Geeze Mike, there must be a better Easter present you could have given her.

The civil case is pending. The girl's attorney had the quote of the week. "It's not about the money." Yea, and there is an Easter Bunny.



OFF THE WALL SPORTS

More girlfriend misunderstandings. Tennessee QB Brent Schaeffer and WR Bret Smith were suspended indefinitely from the team after they were charged with hitting a student who was arguing with Schaeffer's girlfriend.

Now if true, Tennessee ties South Carolina, because since February, 2004, eight other Vol players have been investigated by police on charges ranging from underage drinking to reckless endangerment.

Back to the southern rednecks. Two Georgia boys, DT Kedric Golston and linebacker Derrick White were arrested on disorderly conduct charges after a fight outside a bar in Athens, GA. Boys will be boys.

Gaston trumped Golston, however, when he added simple battery of a police officer and obstruction of justice to his police blotter. Cops hate that extra paperwork.

But the king of all criminal contests belongs to the University of Colorado.

You may remember that early last year, stories began to surface that alcohol and females were used to lure recruits to sign with the school. Boulder, the real "Sex and the City" story.

The more the DA's office investigated, the more numerous counts of the alleged football fun surfaced. There were reports that nine women, including then Buffalo place kicker Katie Hnida, had been raped by Colorado players since 1997.

Also, there were allegations that two female trainers were sexually assaulted by an assistant coach and that one was pressured by football players to perform sexual favors for recruits. Several lawsuits are pending.

So what has the fallout been?

Well, Colorado President, Betsy Hoffman and the Athletic Director and the Chancellor resigned. Note" The AD happened to own the largest liquor store in the area, so where did the alcohol come from?

However, Coach Gary Barnett still is the coach. He was suspended for a short while, with full pay, but was reinstated when the school board said, "...we found no grounds that any illegal or immoral activities occurred." Must have been a thorough investigation.

But a new "scandal" has surfaced. A leaked Grand Jury transcript spoke of questions of "oversight and accounting" of thousands of dollars from Barnett's summer football camps.

Acting AD Jack Lengyel said he would support Barnett assuming the funds could be accounted for.

Let's see. It's fine to overlook alcohol, sex, rape, harassment, assault and other minor inconveniences, but man oh man, if a few bucks are missing, this is serious!

Barnett is the same coach who referred to the female kicker as "not only was she a girl, she was terrible."

Colorado goes to the head of the class, er, police lineup. The Raiders' Al Davis' slogan, "Just win, baby," must be the Buffalo's legacy.

So, you steroid footballers, go to Colorado, get drunk, have sex, rape and pillage, don't graduate, and all is well with the world.