



Duke University. Some trying times for the storied School

By Kerry Schmidt

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Hey, have you heard about the latest golfer phenom? He is Tadd Fujikawa, 16, and last week he became the youngest player to make the cut in a PGA tournament when he did it at the Sony Open last month.

Then he won the Hawaii Pearl Open, a tournament for 180 pros and amateurs. He did so by firing a 4-under 68 on the final round, making birdies on the final three holes to beat professional Greg Meyer.

My wish for the 5' 1" young man? I want him to petition the LPGA to allow him to play a couple of rounds on the women's circuit. Take than Michelle Wei.

At least Fujikawa has won a tournament. When will Wei win one?

Men's Rights!

Duke University, besides being one of the top academic universities in the country, is probably best known for Coach K and the famous Duke Blue Devils' basketball program. They are almost always in the Final 16 and usually in the top 10 in rankings.

Going to a game at Duke's Cameron Arena is like going into a shrine, at least for all the Duke faithful. It is one of the most famous college arenas in the country. And definitely one of the toughest for opposing teams to play in.

But for the first time since 1996, the Blue Devils are not ranked in the top 25, this after losing their fourth consecutive game, also something that has not happened since 1996.

Should Duke not even make it to the March Madness – unlikely since no matter how far they fall, the old farts will put them in, it would be an historic time.

But that is not the biggest story on the staid, manicured campus of this prestigious school. They are the "Stanford of the South," and it is often said of them that only the entitled, white rich kids get to go there.

Not only, but there are a lot of the above, and I am not passing judgment on that. It is what it is.

So, when the Duke lacrosse players decided to hold a "kegger" last March 16, besides a bunch of hangovers, a gigantic, sordid mess came out of that beer blast.

Three varsity lacrosse team members were charged with rape, sexual battery and other related happenings during the toga party.

Where's Bluto when you need him?!

The team had hired a couple of "strippers," both black, from one of the local bars in town.

One of the women alleged that she had been forced into a bathroom and gang-raped, sodomized and orally assaulted by three players. She said she could, "100% identify two and 90% the third one."

To say that this case made national headlines and attention is like saying Rex Grossman sucks. (perhaps that was a bad choice of words, given the story.)

Now this part is where I get into some dangerous areas, but it is also the reason I put my column on my own web site. No censors.

Within 24 hours of the alleged incident, the NAACP, Jesse Jackson, Al Sharpton, NOW and several other women's groups were holding press conferences and calling for just



about everything but the total closing of the University. NOTE: The new group, RAPE (Righteous Assh...s Protesting Everything) was there also.

The national head of the NAACP showed up in Durham the next day, and launched into a tirade about “rich, privileged white boys” who besides being confederate flag waving rednecks (note, over 65% of the student body is from outside the south), but that “their wealthy mommies and daddies have endowed them with this total sense of entitlement, which allows them to think that they can do whatever they want, especially where African-Americans are involved.” He went on to state that the boys involved looked upon these two women as little more than animals that can be used for whatever purpose they so desire.

For over a week, the diatribes continued on these three Hannibal Lecters.

The District Attorney who handled the case, Mike Nifong, quickly held several press conferences, in which he made “numerous improper comments” about the character, credibility and reputation of the accused.”

Among the 41 documented statements, he referred to the players as “a bunch of hooligans,” and in answer to a question, he said, “I am convinced there was rape, yes, sir.” He even questioned why (the payers) had attorneys, since who would need them if they were innocent.

This all took place within days after the story broke, and with the numerous groups and organizations calling for blood, Nifong quickly affiliated himself with the Dracula bunch. Did I mention that Nifong was up for reelection in May and that his poll numbers were down?

Thus, Nifong bulled ahead, grabbing headlines and standing with NCAAP leaders, et al, in raving how these “hooligans” would quickly be brought to justice, and that the fact they were rich white boys made no difference.

Well it was lucky for Nifong that the election was so soon after the incident, because the case very quickly began to unravel.

The victim, in light of many of the medical and DNA findings, soon began to recant many of her allegations. Her friend said (the victim) told her that she had not been forced into the bathroom.

The victim stated that she had been offended in three areas, and that the perpetrators did not use condoms.

When the rape kit results came back from the hospital, there was no sign of any injury or forced entry.

I do not have the time nor desire to state all the gross findings, but not only was there no DNA evidence from the accusers on the victim or her clothing, but there was semen present of “at least three other males,” none of whom were the accused.

These parts are just a tip of the iceberg.

Obviously this new evidence greatly damaged Nifong’s case, and as such, he deliberately withheld these new facts from the defense, which is not only a very unethical act, but also illegal under the laws of disclosure.

And, Nifong withheld this, and other pieces of evidence for up to six months!

Furthermore, he later admitted that he personally had never spoken with the alleged victim, and only found out later that she had since stated she now could not identify the alleged attackers, but she also could not remember if she was, in fact, raped.



Now in his behalf, I can state that he stopped giving press conferences – shortly after he won re-election. Of course, by this time, he was clearly seeing that he virtually had no case, but continued to withhold information.

The North Carolina Bar Association has recently charged Nifong with over 25 counts of unethical and improper behavior. He has been taken off the case and it has been reassigned to other parties.

He most certainly will receive ethics sanctions and it is possible, a Bar spokesman said, that Nifong could be disbarred.

But folks, he DID get re-elected! That's all he wanted.

The rape cases were dropped, but Nifong stated, before he was relieved of his duties, that he still intended to charge the accused with kidnapping and sexual offenses.

So, what does all this totally useless and sordid crap mean? Not much, really, except to show how vehemently and quickly people are to jump to judgment, and to climb aboard band wagons that allow them to justify their own agendas and put themselves into the spot light.

Especially when they can hoist the ever popular race card.

Now Jesse Jackson and Al Sharpton are infamous for this. I guarantee you that neither of them really gave a damn about what the facts were in this case. It was just another chance for them to show themselves to be the great defenders of “their people.”

The women's organizations are just as guilty.

Now I know that these opinions would never get by an editor, but I am quite sure that if this had been a white woman that was the raped and the accused individual was a black male, yes, it would have made the news, but on the back pages.

I guess it is quite possible that these accused are from rich family backgrounds and that they are less than perfect. But who among us is? One of the other players is alleged to have written a racial slur on an email he sent.

And certainly their behavior was not well thought out.

But what gets me is that for weeks, even after the case woefully began to fall apart, you still had some of these self-appointed spokespersons for the “abused” ranting and raving about the white-run system and how this was just being swept under the rug, “like so many others.”

See, to these revolting people, facts mean nothing. All that matters is that they get to be in the spot light and tell everyone how important they are as protectors of the oppressed.

Yes, I agree that there are times when wealth and power can prevail over honest and just causes, but this sure as hell was not one of them.

I suspect that after the new attorneys of the case examine all the evidence – now that they have it, they will likely just dismiss most of it.

Hopefully the jocks at Duke, and at any university, will at least learn a lesson from this.

However, I am sure we will hear some future stories about “keggers” gone wild.

And, likely, Jesse Jackson and his ilk will be front and center again.

It's Friday, I think I'll go to that big keg party planned at the local U. here.

Maybe I should invite Jesse and Mr. Nifong. PUKE!