



STEVE McNAIR: PLAYED A VIOLENT GAME, DIED A VIOLENT DEATH

By Kerry Schmidt July 11, 2009

Tennessee QB Steve McNair played THE most violent game. And, according to teammates, he was “the toughest guy I have ever been around,” said WR Kevin Dawson and echoed by TE Frank Wycheck.

He died a violent death, being shot at point blank range four times.

At least he was asleep at the time.

He was in a condo he rented with a friend.

He was shot by an Iranian immigrant, 20 year old Sahel Kazemi, a waitress. More reason to hate Iran.

Kazemi was “a friend” of McNair’s, according to Kazemi’s nephew Farzin Abdi.

He added that she felt that McNair was going to divorce his wife of 12 years, Mechelle McNair, and that she would live with him.

She was so set on that – in her own mind, that she put all her furniture up for sale and introduced him to her family. McNair, according to Wayne Neeley, who rented the condo with McNair, said that, to him, it was not serious at all, just “a situation.”

Mechelle was not aware of their affair, said a spokesman, and that she was in seclusion. As of this writing, she has made no comment.

Kazemi was stopped for a DUI 36 hours before, wherein she joked and told “stories” to the arresting officer, among other things.

McNair, who was sober, was in the passenger seat of the Cadillac Escalade that he bought, registered in both names. She wanted him to come talk to her, but he just got a cab and went to the condo.

He also, reportedly, took her on trips to Los Angeles, Las Vegas, Key West and Mississippi.

It is officially listed as a murder/suicide

More than enough of this terrible incident.

McNair’s high school records were fantastic, thus he had numerous scholarships from large schools. But they all wanted him to play DB, where he had set records for INT’s. (He also set state records in passing).

Thus, he went to Alcorn State, a I-AA school in Lorman, MS, a 2 ½ hour drive from his hometown of Mount Olive.

He did not start his first game, but came off the bench and rallied his team to a win over Grambling.

He started every game thereafter. Along the way, he rewrote the NCAA record book, making a run at the Heisman and turning the historically black school into a college football hotbed.

Fans, black and white, flocked to see “Air McNair.” As he ran over defensive players and fired footballs everywhere. NFL scouts and TV cameras became a regular.

He ended his career with 16,823 passing yards and 119 TD, a record that still stands.

Given the sad ending to a man known for being humble and generous – he was involved in two major charities, held clinics for kids and was a regular at hospitals for kids with serious illnesses.

Thus, Titans’ Coach Jeff Fisher said to focus on McNair’s positives and his resume. Fisher said, “The Steve McNair I knew would want me to say, ‘I’m sorry, I’m not perfect (sic), please forgive me. The Steve McNair I knew would want me to say, ‘Celebrate my life for what I did on the field, for what I did in the community and for the kind of teammate I was.’”

And his teammates echoed his statements.



RB Eddie George said, "...get past the circumstances and look at the human being we were all impacted by. He blessed us with so many great memories and he left a positive effect on this community."

Yet of all the accolades on his charity and community work, his teammates spoke in glowing terms of the player he was.

"He was, by far, the toughest QB I have ever known," said WR Kevin Dyson.

"I've seen him take awful shots, run over to the bench, get another kind of shot to kill the pain, and come right back in."

Fisher said, "He was the toughest player, at any position, I have ever coached."

Former TE Frank Wycheck added, "A lot can be said (re) QB's, Brett Favre and his consecutive starts and stuff. But no one ever played the game the way McNair played the game as far as being a fullback, halfback, a QB and a blocker all rolled into one."

RB Eddie George added, "His ability to play through pain was like nothing I have ever seen before."

Wycheck offered "a typical McNair play."

He'd run around, make someone miss, then run over someone and then get blasted by a defensive lineman. He'd come right back to the huddle with his helmet all crooked and blood on his chin guard. Then he'd look at us and say, "Isn't this fun? Smile guys: This is fun!"

George said "I've seen many a QB come back after a busted play and throw his helmet, scream at the players and stuff. He never did that."

He added, "Someone may have dropped a ball, ran the wrong route, I'd miss a hole and go down for a loss, or worse, fumble, yet he never once complained. It was just, "Let's go guys, and he'd go right back to the receiver or RB who just screwed up, give them the ball again.... That showed his complete trust in us, and no matter what we did, he patted us on the backside."

"He was just so cool under pressure," said George. "He was never affected by a bad play. He was just the ultimate leader."

Now you see the "big" injuries, guys down on the field, whatever. But I know from experience, that, as tiny a thing as it may appear to be, a dislocated finger (at the joint, the finger is bent backwards at a 90% angle) is as painful as anything.

If you ever see a player run to the bench, get surrounded by trainers, coaches, etc, as they readied, then did snap the finger back into place, the look on the players' face said it all.

"I've seen him get every finger on his left hand, including his thumb, get dislocated – a couple twice in the same game, and he would not miss a play," said George. "I've never seen any other player come close to that."

"He also was the only player I knew who played nearly half a season with a major turf toe," said Fisher. "And several times, it was stepped on, but he never came out and never complained. Not a word."

Many a player is listed at times as "out" with a "turf toe." Especially a player who had to move around a lot like a QB.

"He was a QB, whose passes were sometimes a shaky spiral, but the way he played, more like a LB than a QB. He took many a hit, but he also gave out his share," said Dyson.

Superstar Baltimore LB, Ray Lewis – who was combustible and carried a big ego – said of McNair, "He was the only QB I ever saw whose intensity matched mine."

Lewis personally recruited McNair to join Baltimore in 2006, but all that toughness and contact had taken its toll. He was benched in 2007, then retired after the season.

"He was the face of the Titans," said Fisher. He was probably the most loved (by the fans) player I've ever coached. As far as they were concerned, he could do no wrong."



OFF THE WALL SPORTS

He would sign autographs, appear at many a function and “just help out anywhere he could for the community,” said a front office person.

But sadly, all the shots he endured from defensive players, and the shots he took to help the pain, it was the final 4 shots that stopped him. A tiny, likely crazed Iranian immigrant who did what no giant player could do.

At 36, his life ended as he slept.

“I still can’t believe he’s dead,” said Wycheck. “I always thought he was indestructible.”

McNair finished his career with 31,304 yards and 174 TD’s over his 13-year career. He made 3 Pro-Bowls and was co-MVP in 2003.

He leaves behind a wife and 4 kids, including Steve Jr, who is a highly sought after WR.

He will be certainly be missed, and remembered. Remembered for his on- field accomplishments, and, just as much for his work in the community and the great leader and teammate he was.

There are other things going on in the world of sports.

I’m not that much of a tennis fan, but I was enthralled by the incredible 4 ½ hour Wimbledon match.

In 49 games, Roger Federer only broke Andy Roddick’s serve once. But that was enough. He won the final set, 16-14. Never before has something like that happened.

The victory earned Federer his 15th Major, thus passing the 14 of Pete Sampras, who was in attendance.

I certainly watched the AT&T golf tournament.

Tiger Woods was a crappy host of his own tournament, winning it by a stroke, thus giving himself his 68th career win.

And next week, he goes for his 15th Major – which would tie his friend Federer – when he plays in the British Open. Each time Tiger has won a tournament just before a major, he won.

How much difference does Tiger make when he is in a tournament?

Last year, recovering from his knee surgery, he did not play. With his attendance this year, the TV ratings were up...207%!

For the TV stations, Tiger IS golf.

LeBron James was putting on a “skills camp” in Akron, Ohio last week.

In a game, Xavier University sophomore guard Jordan Crawford put a move on James and finished it with a 2-handed slam dunk over James.

The short game was being videotaped. Immediately after the dunk, James called over Nike Director Lynn Merrit. Right after said conversation, Merrit demanded, and got, the two video tapes of “the dunk.”

Nice touch, James. I wonder if he was wearing his NY hat again.

Take a MLB team that has not won a WS in 100 years, and see if you can make a profit.

The Cubs and Wrigley Field, were sold in 1981 for \$20.5 Million.

Last week, Joe Ricketts, owner of TD Ameritrade, bought the Cubs, stadium and all, from the Tribune Co. for.....\$900 million!

I know Victoria’s Secret sells some pretty expensive women’s under garments. On their yearly TV “spectacle,” some outfits are thousands of bucks.

Well, one little plain, black sports bra was returned to its rightful owner last week. It was estimated to be worth over a half a million bucks.

Brandi Chastain, after scoring the winning goal in the 1999 World Cup, tore off her jersey, thus exposing said bra. One of the most famous sports pictures of all time.

Anyway, after several years of wrangling, Chastain finally got her bra back last week.

I guess she could sell it to Victoria’s Secret?!

Heads of major sports organizations can say the darndest things.



OFF THE WALL SPORTS

Formula 1 boss Bernie Ecclestone insists he will not resign because of his comments praising Adolf Hitler's leadership in an AP interview last Monday. Ecclestone not only defended his comments, he added that Hitler "got things done." Especially to 6 million Jews. He took no calls from the major Jewish organizations and said they "had no authority" to get him to resign.

I'm guessing he will not be a featured speaker at many F-1 events. NOTE: I'm sure that murdering bitch Kazami, her Iran loved his speech.

MLB's great commissioner, Bud Selig is loved for his decisions. In a fan vote on how the home field should be decided for the WS, 87% said best regular season record should decide.

You listening, scheisamacher Selig?

Athletes are fighting back on drug tests. NASCAR driver Jeremy Mayfield got his "indefinite" suspension for testing positive overturned in the courts.

You remember the NFL's Vikings players sued and got their 4-game suspensions lifted. Maybe the judges are druggies.

My beloved (puke) Barack Osama (I spell it this way because if you type Obama, the spell-checker automatically changes it to Osama) got no love from his talk with Russia last week. His press conference was on state TV, opposite a soccer match expected to draw a huge audience. Journalists suspect the Kremlin was trying to divert eyes from Osama.

Damn, I sure wish we would do that!!! Anytime he comes on, I switch to a commercial. Much more entertaining, and truthful!

It's very early in the race, but if by any chance Lance Armstrong should win the Tour de France, it would be one of THE most incredible victories in any sport ever!

Well, the weather here in Southeast Loooooossiannnnnna is back. Will be well over 100 this weekend, with high humidity.

May have to put an ice cube in my single malt!