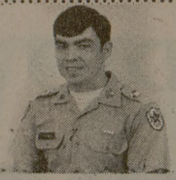


Sportsfolio

By PAUL McGRATH



'She's got body for it'

Jazz draft woman

The University of Houston has placed under probation by the National Collegiate Athletic Association because of recruiting violations.

While the above statement is not true, there is a possibility it is not completely fictional either.

The Darrell Shepard case is no longer receiving much publicity, but that does not mean it is closed.

Recall the situation. Shepard, a big quarterback prospect highly recruited across the nation, gives all indications of going to the University of Texas, but then on signing day, puts his name on a letter-of-intent with the Cougars.

A short while later, it is learned that Shepard is driving a new car, financed by a bank in Brazoria County on the Gulf Coast. The man who closes the deal is a University of Houston graduate, Houston coach Bill Yeoman publicly admits he helped Shepard locate a bank to obtain a loan.

Yeoman says he would rather have a Houston-grad get the Shepard's business than someone from another school. He calls it "a business deal."

Shepard's mother says she always says new cars for her children when they graduate from high school. Her son, Woodie, plays football at Oklahoma.

University of Texas Athletic Director Darrell Royal said Shepard's mother informed him that Woodie was wanting to transfer to Texas, and alluded that certain financial arrangements would have to be made concerning Woodie's car.

As for Darrell Shepard, Longhorn

Coach Fred Akers told UT publicist Jones Ramsey, "All I know is that one minute he (Shepard) was coming to Texas, and the next minute he's going to Houston and driving a new car."

Perhaps the loan was indeed, a sound business deal. Perhaps not. However, the case rings familiar of the incidents surrounding the Karl Godine-Jarvis Williams case which ended in a one-year probation for Texas A&M.

Williams received aid in getting a loan for his brother to make a car payment. The aid came from a person which the NCAA lists as a representative of the University's athletic interests. After unscrambling the Howard Cosell-like phrasing, what the NCAA is referring to is a recruiter.

This aid given Williams was one of the allegations the NCAA charged A&M with, tabbing it an illegal recruiting inducement.

If such is the case, then Houston should be headed for a confrontation with NCAA investigators. Surely, Yeoman could be termed a representative of the school's athletic interests.

It seems ridiculous that what could otherwise be taken for a friendly gesture or just another business deal should be a violation of NCAA rules. Yet, the Shepard case, as was the incident involving Williams, strongly appears to be such a violation.

A Texas A&M Athletic Council representative said he has been watching the Shepard case in the newspapers with high interest. He refused to say any more than that. So far, neither has the NCAA.

United Press International
NEW ORLEANS — The New Orleans Jazz, who are known for showy promotions but have failed to field a winning team in three seasons, became the second NBA team in history to draft a woman.

In the seventh round last week, New Orleans drafted Lusia Harris, a 6-3 forward from Delta State College in Mississippi. She led her team to three consecutive national titles and played on the bronze medal U.S. Olympic team at Montreal.

Jazz General Manager Lewis Schaffel said she would be offered a chance to participate in rookie camp.

Harris is married and has indicated previously she had no interest in professional basketball. However, recently she has said she was undecided.

Schaffel said a decision on whether she could play would be up to Jazz coach Elgin Baylor.

"She's got the body for it, and I don't mean that facetiously," Schaffel said.

He said the team got several players he was surprised were still left. The Jazz traded away their first-round pick and their first pick was late in the second round, the 44th choice in the draft. They had one choice in each of the next five rounds.

"We got a few players that we rated higher than they were picked in the draft," Schaffel said.

No woman has ever played in the NBA and only one other woman,

Denise Long, has been drafted. Golden State drafted Long four years ago, but the selection was nullified at the time.

Delta State had a 107-6 record during her four years there and she

averaged 26.3 points a game in the past three seasons. Schaffel said he would be looking hard among free agents to make a deal.

"Every player that we think can help us will be spoken to," he said.

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'Bird' returns
United Press International
NEW YORK — Mark "Big Bird" Fidyrych is back in full feather after posting two impressive victories and winning the American League's Player of the Week award for June 5-12.
The young right-hander compiled an ERA of 0.50 in those two games, allowed only 12 hits, striking out 12 and walking just one. Fidyrych is the first Detroit pitcher to win the award this season.

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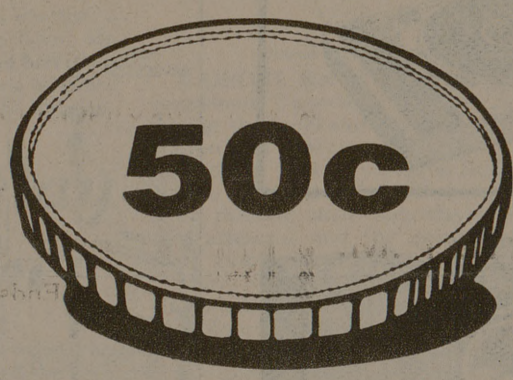
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