

Three ex-Royals can play

# Kuhn lifts drug suspensions

**United Press International**  
 NEW YORK — Willie Wilson, Willie Aikens and Jerry Martin, the first active baseball players ever sentenced to prison for drug violations, Tuesday had their suspensions lifted by Commissioner Bowie Kuhn who warned them of any renewed involvement with drugs.  
 The three players, each of whom served three months in prison after pleading guilty to trying to buy cocaine, will be able to play beginning Wednesday. Wilson, the American League batting champion in 1982, is the only one of the three still with the Kansas City Royals. Aikens has been traded to the Toronto Blue Jays and Martin was signed as a free agent by the New York Mets.  
 "Obviously, Manager Bobby Cox and Vice President of Baseball Operations Pat Gillick are pleased he's been reinstated," said Blue Jays spokesman How-

ard Starkman. "It means quite a boost to the club."  
 "We now have a lefthanded hitter with some power. Willie will be used as a left-handed designated hitter and relief for Willie Upshaw at first. We are happy for Willie Aikens. He's done his penance and now he can get on with his profession, which is playing baseball."  
 Mets general manager Frank Cashen said, "We are glad that it's over and we're looking forward to have Jerry make a contribution to our ballclub."  
 A Mets spokesman said Martin will likely be activated in time for Wednesday's game at San Francisco. Since New York

is at the 25-man limit, a player will have to be dropped in order to make room for Martin.  
 The players pleaded guilty to misdemeanor drug charges in Kansas City last October and were sentenced to three months in prison by United States Magistrate J. Milton Sullivant. Wilson and Aikens were also fined \$5,000 each while Martin was fined \$2,500.  
 Sullivant at first sentenced each player to the maximum term of one year in prison but immediately reduced the terms to three months.  
 "I reviewed with each player his involvement with drugs, his compliance with probationary

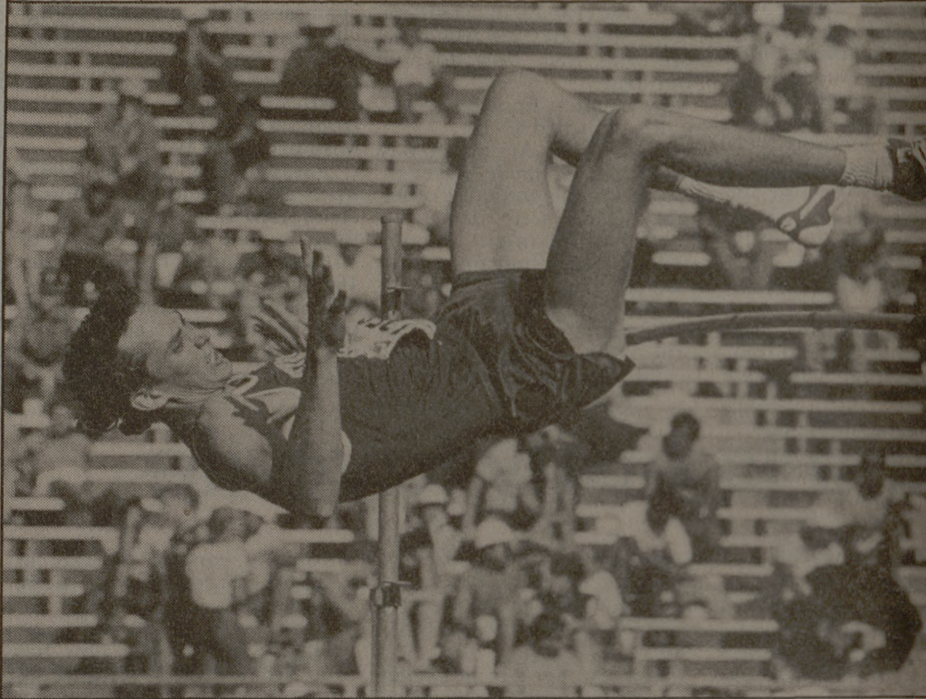
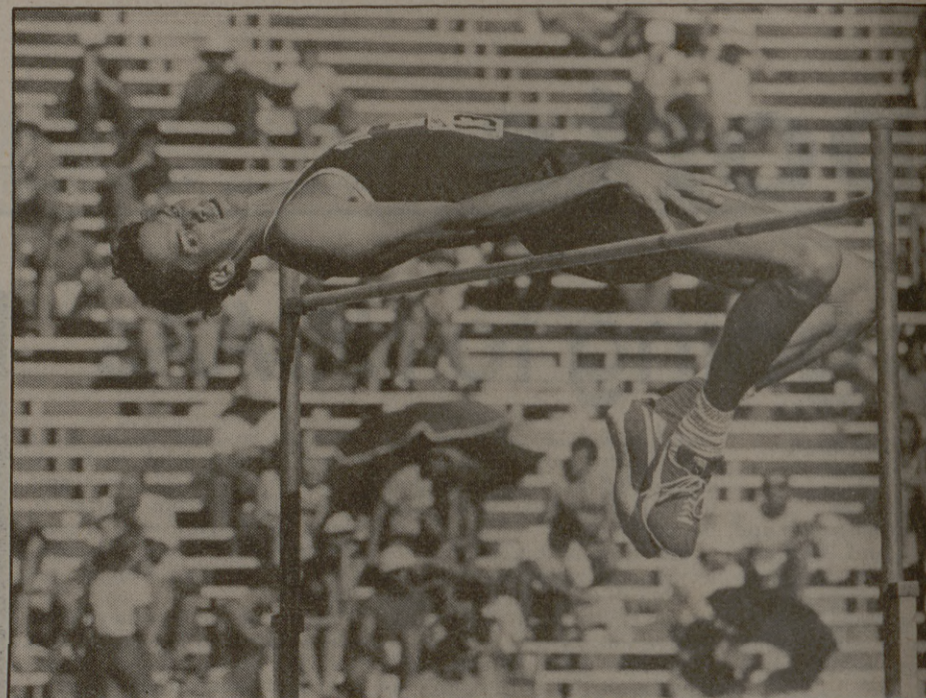
terms (which extend for approximately two years) and the aftercare and community service which will be continuing," Kuhn said in a statement. "It is important each man understands the potential consequences of any renewed connection with drugs."  
 "I am pleased to say both the testing we have administered and the aftercare have produced good results to this point. I have also received from each of the players his continuing assurance of intent to comply with all aspects of his probationary program, an expression of remorse for his drug involvement which I believe sincere."

## Coach's alleged lesbianism basis of \$75 million libel trial

**United Press International**  
 COLUMBIA, S.C. — The mother of a University of South Carolina basketball player testified Tuesday she demanded school officials take action after her daughter claimed former

coach Pam Parsons was having a lesbian affair with another player.  
 Ronni Keisler, 47, was among the first witnesses in Parsons' \$75 million libel suit against Sports Illustrated magazine for a 1982 article depicting the coach as an admitted lesbian.  
 Keisler, mother of senior Brantley Southers, said her daughter told her Parsons and former player, Tina Buck of Atlanta, were "so in love they'll be together for the rest of their lives."  
 "She said they held hands, laid on the couch together and kissed," said Mrs. Keisler.  
 Keisler said she contacted university President James Holderman demanding the school take action. She said she feared her daughter would also be drawn into an affair with Parsons.  
 "The only thing that was ever in it for me was to save my daughter from this woman," Keisler said.  
 Parsons, 36, now a waitress in Atlanta, was once one of the most successful female basketball coaches in the nation. She claims her career was destroyed by the article, and she has had to drift from town to town and leave when her identity is discovered.

Holderman testified Tuesday that he dispatched assistant athletic director Ron Dickerson to confront Parsons with the allegations Dec. 31, 1981, and she resigned on the spot.  
 But Columbia attorney Jean Toal testified that Parsons decided to withdraw her resignation. Mrs. Toal said that during negotiations with the university to settle the matter, Parsons denied having an affair with Buck, who has dropped out of school.  
 Three days after the initial resignation, Toal said her client agreed to voluntarily resign in exchange for a \$20,000 cash settlement and an agreement with university officials that neither side would comment publicly on the case.  
 Toal said the "keep-silent agreement" was subsequently violated by school officials, who were quoted in the six-page Sports Illustrated article that appeared a month after the resignation. School officials, who were originally named in the suit, have already settled out of court.  
 During opening arguments, lawyers for the magazine told the jury they would prove the article is true, which is a complete defense in a libel case.



**Up and almost over** Photo by PETER RO...  
 High jumper Ethan Glass goes high but comes up short this past weekend in Austin while competing in the Southwest Conference track meet. The Aggie team finished sixth. Hurdler Chappelle Henderson was the only member to finish first in an event. Aggie easily dominated the meet, followed by Texas. The Aggie women finished in seventh place.

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## Players are most afraid of telling their mothers

**United Press International**  
 NEW YORK — The ballplayer was talking to me about drugs, saying he had never used them in his life. What's more, he was sure he never would.  
 He was so positive, he made me curious. I asked him why he was so sure.  
 "My mother would murder me," he said. "She'd have a fit if she ever found out I was fooling around with the stuff."  
 This particular player is no kid. He's past 30, considerably beyond the voting age. Physically, he's one of the bigger players in both leagues, going better than 6-foot-4 and 230.  
 By no stretch of the imagination is he any Mama's Boy, either. He has not led a sheltered life and owns the satisfaction of knowing he has made his mark in his chosen profession.  
 The fact that Mother's Day was just last Sunday is one of the reasons that made me think about what this player had to say about his mother. The more I thought about it, the more I realized he felt no different about his mother than all, or certainly most, of the others did.  
 Every day, we hear of some

other player turning himself in for being involved with drugs. The scenario usually is the same. The player tells a teammate he trusts (who very likely knows about it already) and then the two go to the manager, who, in turn, usually goes to the general manager.  
 After a period of rehabilitation, a press conference is called and once that is over the player tries to put happened behind him. Does he ever want to talk about it?  
 Of course not.  
 Who does want to talk about it? Few of those foolish enough to have become involved with drugs ever are anxious to go over all the sordid details again. It hurts too much.  
 The point is that a player who has done something wrong and finally decides somebody else should know will tell a lot of different people except one. He'll tell his wife, his agent, his teammate, his manager, his general manager, and some doctor he never saw before in a rehabilitation center.  
 In the end, he'll even tell the press.  
 But the one person he dreads to tell most is his mother.

The way things are done now, players found to be users all become subject to authority or another club, the commissioner, arbitrator or the judge. But you now — who is the authority, the pre-eminent in the mind of every player.  
 His mother, of course. You think not?  
 Listen to this then he every word of it is true.  
 The player in question is an American League.  
 One of the top of called the player to his and told him to sit down because he was going to phone call.  
 "Who you calling?" player wanted to know.  
 "Your mother," was the reply.  
 "What for?"  
 "To tell her what you did what we're doing about it."  
 The player waved both arms frantically to stop the from being made.  
 Less than two minutes purely of his own volition wrote out a check for \$250 on his own, he dropped his projected grievance.

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