

TANK McNAMARA®

by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds



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SMU threatens NCAA with appeal, lawsuit

Associated Press

DALLAS — Officials at Southern Methodist University plan to challenge the findings and recommendations of the NCAA Committee on Infractions dealing with the school's football program, the Dallas Times Herald reported Thursday.

The appeal will be the first step toward a possible lawsuit challenging the NCAA's enforcement procedures, the newspaper quoted two unnamed sources as saying.

The appeal would postpone any public announcements concerning the details of the committee's findings until after the appeal is heard before the NCAA Council, which meets Aug. 14-16.

SMU President L. Donald Shields was informed of the findings in a letter received last week.

The appeal is expected to be announced when the 15-day waiting period expires next Thursday, the Times Herald reported.

"They're not going to spend that kind of time and that kind of money over the last year and a half and not appeal the case to the NCAA and file a lawsuit," one of the sources was



the university during NCAA hearings, would not comment on the possibility of an appeal.

Whether the appeal would make SMU subject to possible tougher sanctions now being considered by the NCAA remains to be seen, said David Berst, NCAA enforcement director.

The NCAA Commission of Presidents recently revealed new proposals for stricter enforcement that would divide infractions into minor and major categories, including so-called "gas chamber" penalties against repeat violators of major infractions.

Among the "gas chamber" penalties is a provision that would allow the NCAA to disband a program for one or two years in extreme cases. A special NCAA convention will consider the proposals June 20-21 in New Orleans.

"Ultimately, the NCAA Council has to determine how any new legislation becomes effective," Berst said, adding that voting delegates at the special convention would decide the effective date of any new rules.

Astros' Cruz abandons roadtrip for toe X-rays

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — The Houston Astros said Wednesday they are sending veteran outfielder Jose Cruz home for further X-rays of a dislocated toe he suffered May 24.

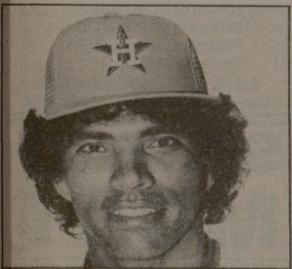
"We're going to have our team physician take a look at it," said Houston spokesman Mike Ryan. "The left toe is not responding to treatment."

Ryan also said an injury suffered last week by Astros rookie left-hander Jeff Calhoun was diagnosed in Houston as separated ribs on the right side.

He said a decision will be made Friday on whether Calhoun, 0-1, will be placed on the National League's disabled list. The first-year pitcher, like Cruz, was hurt during batting practice.

Ryan said treatment for Cruz, a 37-year-old veteran of 15 major league seasons, has consisted of "rest and trying to keep off it as much as he can."

Cruz suffered the injury as he stubbed his toe during batting practice prior to a game against the Chicago Cubs. Cruz has a .329 batting average, third in the NL.



Houston's Jose Cruz

6 arraigned for trafficking illegal drugs in baseball

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Names of major league baseball players are not likely to be mentioned during arraignments Friday for six of seven men charged in a federal grand jury investigation of drug trafficking.

U.S. Attorney J. Alan Johnson, who directed the probe that produced indictments last Thursday, said he expected only a brief proceeding before a federal magistrate.

"They all plead not guilty at this stage, primarily," Johnson said.

He declined comment on whether plea bargains have been reached with any of the defendants.

At least a dozen players testified before the grand jury, most under grants of immunity, and at least three of them had undergone drug rehabilitation.

No baseball players were named in the indictments, but they could be called as witnesses if the cases reach trial. Published reports have quoted unnamed sources as saying the alleged dealers sold drugs to players.

Those charged in the indictments have said some of the players were friends.

Arraignments are scheduled to begin at 11 a.m. Curtis Strong, 38, of Philadelphia, is the only defendant still awaiting an arraignment date.

Meanwhile, a study of the indictments showed that more than two-thirds of the 165 violations charged to the defendants allegedly occurred on dates from 1980 through 1984 when the Pittsburgh Pirates played home games in Three Rivers Stadium.

One of the defendants is accused of selling cocaine on every date the team was in Pittsburgh in 1983, either playing or on a day off.

Johnson declined comment on the pattern of the dates involved in the indictments.

But Strong's lawyer, Adam Renfro Jr., was quoted in Thursday's New York Times as saying: "Without question, this whole thing involves baseball players."

Renfro did not return telephone calls to his office on Thursday.

Another lawyer, Stanton Levenson, who represents Jeffrey Mosco, said: "My assumption is that this is the case that 12 ballplayers got immunity on."

Mosco, 30, of Pittsburgh, is charged with 12 counts of cocaine distribution.

Of the 111 counts against Dale Shiffman, a 33-year-old unemployed photographer from Pittsburgh, 106 are for alleged possession with intent to distribute cocaine. He is charged with the violation 87 times in 1983, all of them allegedly occurring when the Pirates either played games or had days off at home.

Gary Ogg, Shiffman's attorney, did not return telephone calls Thursday.

Another defendant, Shelby Greer, 29, of Philadelphia, traveled to Florida nearly every other week during a two-year period to buy cocaine, prosecutors said at a bail hearing.

The cities he visited, according to the indictment, included Denver and Pittsburgh and five others with National League teams — Houston, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, St. Louis and San Diego.

Greer's attorney, John Zagari, said his client would plead innocent Friday. Zagari declined further comment.

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