

Sports

Tribble says he used drugs along with Bias

WASHINGTON (AP) — Brian Tribble, the man acquitted of supplying the cocaine that killed basketball star Len Bias, now says he took drugs with the All-American on the morning he died.

But because Tribble has already been tried and didn't take the stand in his trial, the prosecutor in the case says he is free from any prosecution. "It's a mistake I readily admit," Tribble, 25, said during an interview Monday with WJLA-TV in Washington. "I admit it truthfully and now, right here on camera."

Tribble was found innocent June 8 of cocaine distribution and possession. Robert Bonsib, the assistant state's attorney in Prince George's County, Md., who prosecuted the case, said Tuesday that the verdict frees Tribble from further prosecution on those charges. Bonsib said that since Tribble never took the witness stand to proclaim his innocence, he also is free to say whatever he wants without committing perjury.

There are no further charges pending against Tribble. "At this point he can admit to total involvement without any jeopardy of prosecution from this office," Bonsib said. "It's over."

Bias' teammates, Terry Long and David Gregg, testified during the trial in Upper Marlboro, Md., that Tribble joined them in taking drugs with Bias in a University of Maryland dormitory room on June 19, 1986, the morning the basketball star died.

They said the four were celebrat-

ing Bias' selection by the Boston Celtics with the second pick in the first round of the National Basketball Association draft when Bias suddenly collapsed at about 2 a.m.

Bonsib's case rested on two premises: that Tribble used drugs with Bias on the fatal morning and that he supplied them.

The station said Tribble's interview was given at the advice of his attorney, Thomas Morrow, who told his client to "lay it all out on the table."

"I would like to say it was recreational type usage that was going on," Tribble said. "It wasn't no abuse or no habit type of thing."

He said despite his acquittal, the drug involvement and Bias' death still haunt him. "I'm still trying and I'm still . . . you know . . . getting myself back together," Tribble said. "It was a very frightening experience. It was a tragic experience . . . but I've learned a great deal from it."

Tribble hasn't said who gave Bias the drugs that killed him. "I wish some reporter would ask him sometime where he got the cocaine," Bonsib said. "What he has admitted to is nothing more than what we contended. It's no surprise to us."

The prosecution also presented as a witness a 17-year-old, self-proclaimed drug dealer, Terence Moore, who said he often sold drugs for Tribble.

After the trial, the jury foreman told reporters that the panel did not believe the prosecution's witnesses.

Astrodome could see expansion

HOUSTON (AP) — A Harris County judge hopes a plan he has to improve the Astrodome will keep the Oilers in Houston, but it will cost taxpayers more than \$2 million annually.

County Judge John Lindsay's plan would boost seating in the stadium by about 10,000 seats at a cost of about \$2.5 million in county property taxes. An additional \$300,000 to \$500,000 per year would come from tenants of the Astrodome.

The Oilers management, which reportedly has been courted by officials from Jacksonville, Fla., to move the team to their city, has agreed in principle to the proposal, but wanted terms of the agreement to be more specific.

"We're not sure if the agreement says there will be 57,000 to 58,000 seats or 65,000 seats," said Chip Namias, an Oilers spokesman. Namias said the team is concerned about the actual number of seats that will be added to the Astrodome.

The Astrodome currently seats about 47,000 for baseball. The proposal calls for the county to add "at least 10,000 seats." The proposal also calls for new turf over a concrete floor in the stadium, as well as expansion to the Astroarena.

Seating has been a factor in the stadium's bid for a Super Bowl. Lindsay said his plan would increase total football seating to 66,900.

"It (the plan) does put us up in the area where we can attract a Super Bowl," he said. "That is where we wanted to be all along,"

Recent rule changes decrease professional football's appeal

By Ed Bodde
Assistant Sports Editor

There is something intimately more exciting in watching any football game than watching a baseball game in the middle of July.

Perhaps it's because football season is shorter, and each game is more important. Or could it be that sports fans would rather see one man trying to separate another man's head from his body instead of a little white ball being tossed around a diamond?

Viewpoint

There are Sunday football barbecues and Super Bowl parties, but people don't throw bashes for baseball games.

The atmosphere of a football game just seems to lend itself to more fan involvement.

So it's with anticipation that this sports fan looks forward to the start of each football season. Or at least I used to. For me, football has changed and not for the better.

I don't know who suggested the changes for "pete's" sake, but something has got to be done. For the last few years the National Football League has seen a drop in its television ratings. And the so-called experts haven't been able to come up with any significant reasons why. Let me supply just a few.

• First of all, the Constitution of the United States grants rights to all people regardless of race, creed or color unless you're a defensive back in the NFL.

A defensive back cannot touch a wide receiver once he's five yards beyond the line of scrimmage. And any time the receiver and a defender collide, that dreaded yellow handkerchief goes up into the air to signify pass interference — defensive pass

interference. It makes no difference who ran over who or who tripped who, the defender always seems to be guilty.

I am getting a bit tired of games being decided on pass interference penalties that are really just good defensive plays. Hey all NFL officials, let's see some more non-calls before the average score becomes 77-70.

• Another problem with the game is the "in the grasp" rule. It allows for a quarterback to be declared down if, in the official's judgement, he's "in the grasp." Is this professional football or two-hand touch? Why don't we just put skirts on all the quarterbacks?

And the purpose of the rule is to prevent injuries to quarterbacks. I have yet to see a quarterback get injured where the "in the grasp rule" would have helped.

And worse, I don't even think most quarterbacks like the rule. Almost all argue when they've been ruled to be "in the grasp." What I want to know is, can a quarterback actually break a tackle? Get rid of this rule Pete Rozelle. Getting tackled and breaking tackles is part of the game.

• My third gripe with today's professional game has to do with the 15-yard personal foul penalty and the unsportsmanlike call. If you were to watch the highlights of a game played 15 to 20 years ago, I am sure one difference would stand out in your mind. The game played in the '60s and early '70s was rougher and probably dirtier, too.

Now I'm not saying dirty play like Charles Martin's late hit of Jim McMahon is OK, but too many clean hits are getting whistled as personal fouls. And officials don't seem to realize that when your 6 feet 4 inches tall and 260 pounds, it's awfully dif-

icult to stop a full speed charge toward a quarterback. Unless a defensive lineman records a sack or arrives just when the ball is released, it's often called a late hit.

Defensive players are being charged with personal foul penalties not just if they hit a guy who is out of bounds but also if they hit a guy who is about to run out of bounds. Why not just reduce the width of the field to 40 yards?

The sad thing is that games are being decided on these calls and not on who is the better team. These personal foul calls are also resulting in fines for many players. Can you imagine Dick Butkus' or Mean Joe Greene's reactions if they had to pay a fine for hitting someone too hard?

• My final complaint having to do with today's game involves the league office, owners and injuries. There are far more injuries in the game now than 15 or 20 years ago. And as I've already said the game was far more brutal and physical then than now.

If I had to pinpoint one thing that is causing more injuries, or at least shorter careers, it's artificial turf. Turf is harder and contains better traction than grass. The result is a severe pounding on the knees. Players, the majority of whom hate it, have actually had season-ending knee injuries on turf without even being hit.

Unfortunately for the players, turf is cheaper and much easier to maintain than grass, and neither the owners nor the league office have seen any reason to change to grass. When there's a buck involved for the owners, the possibility of career-ending injuries to players seems to get overshadowed.

Perhaps Commissioner Rozelle should ask himself, does any of this make sense?

Astros pull out 4-2 victory, end Expos' winning streak

MONTREAL (AP) — Danny Darwin threw a five-hitter over eight plus innings, and Alan Ashby hit an RBI double and Jose Cruz added a run-scoring single Tuesday night, leading the Houston Astros to a 4-2 victory, halting Montreal's eight-game winning streak.

Darwin, 7-6, who struck out three and walked one, gave up a leadoff homer to Tim Raines in the ninth before Dave Smith got the final three outs for his 16th save.

Smith allowed a double to Hubie Brooks and a two-out single to Vance Law for Montreal's other run.

Before Raines' homer, Darwin allowed only two runners past second. Mitch Webster tripled with one out

in the first but was tagged out at the plate on Tim Raines' grounder. Law doubled with two outs in the fifth and moved to third on a wild pitch before Jeff Reed popped out.

Floyd Youmans, 7-4, had his string of scoreless innings ended at 20, when Houston, which broke a four-game losing streak, scored three runs in the third. Bill Doran drove in the first run with a ground out to shortstop and the Astros added a run on consecutive doubles by Denny Walling and Ashby. Houston scored again one out later on Cruz' single.

It was only the fourth time in Houston's last 12 games they have score more than two runs.

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — If it's not one record, for Don Mattingly, it's another.

But he rarely seems to know when he's making history.

If the New York Yankees' first baseman isn't setting home-run records, he's setting records for extra-base hits. If it's not extra-base hits, it's putouts, as it was Monday night when Mattingly tied a major-league record with 22 putouts in a nine-inning game.

Monday night, as Tommy John's sinker was inducing Twin after Twin to hit ground balls, Mattingly was doing no more than what a first baseman is supposed to do — trot over to the bag and catch balls

thrown to him by whoever has scooped up the grounder.

His 22 putouts — of the 27 possible outs — tied a major-league mark set in 1906 when both Thomas Jones and Hal Chase did it. The only other first baseman to do it was Hall of Famer Ernie Banks of the Chicago Cubs in 1963.

"With two outs in the ninth, I saw it on the board and I couldn't believe it," Mattingly said. "I'm really not doing anything on those, just catching the ball. Another record. Just what I need."

"Donnie's the record master," said Mark Salas, the Yankees' catcher. "They're gonna want his glove now."

Fort Worth site of U.S.-Mexico soccer clash

FORT WORTH (AP) — Fort Worth has been selected to host an exhibition soccer game between the U.S. National Team and a First Division team from Mexico City, officials said.

The game, between the U.S. team and seven-time Mexican First Division champion Cruz Azul, will be Aug. 30 at Clark Stadium. Also planned is a game between all-star teams from North and South Texas and a parade saluting youth soccer.

"Soccer is the fastest growing sport in the U.S. and in our area," Fort Worth Mayor Bob Bolen said Monday. "Hopefully, this event will just keep the sport rolling along."

Bolen also said he has proclaimed

Aug. 30-Sept. 5 as International Soccer Week.

The game, which will conclude the three-game Downy Clasico International series between the teams, will be more than just a showcase for the countries' best outdoor talent.

U.S. National Team Coach Lothar Osiander will be evaluating 26 players, including Dallas Sidekicks midfielder Eddie Radwanski, for his 18-man roster that will compete in the final round of Olympic qualifying.

The United States, which defeated Canada in the first round in May, must defeat Trinidad and El Salvador to become one of the 15 Olympic teams.

"Unbelievable, unbelievable, unbelievable," Manager Lou Piniella said.

To Mattingly, ignorance is bliss. For example, he didn't know he was closing in on the American League record for hitting homers in six straight games last week "until someone told me after five games."

He went on to hit homers in eight straight games to tie Dale Long's 31-year-old major-league record before being "held" to a single and double Sunday by the Texas Rangers.

The double in that game gave him at least one extra-base hit in 10 straight games, breaking Babe Ruth's 66-year-old AL mark and moving him within four games of

Paul Waner's 60-year-old big-league record.

But Mattingly said he "didn't even know about it until you guys told me" after the string was snapped with an 0-for-4 game Monday night against the Minnesota Twins.

Another record. Ho-hum. Still, Mattingly admitted that after he knew he needed only one more putout to tie the record Monday night, he was hoping for another grounder.

Monday wasn't all smiles for Mattingly, however. On Saturday he sprained his right wrist and it has been sore since. He aggravated the injury Monday and his status will be evaluated on a day-to-day basis.

Cowboys' top draft picks absent from rookie camp

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. (AP) — The Dallas Cowboys' top two draft picks remained away from the practice field Tuesday, missing the second day of workouts for rookies and free agents.

Danny Noonan and Ron Francis were also no-shows Monday, the first day of the workouts, raising the ire of Dallas coach Tom Landry and NFL club president Tex Schramm.

"Every day they're out, they're hurting the heck out of themselves," Landry said. "This is a valuable time for the rookies this week because if they miss this they're going to have to take a back seat to the veterans."

Landry has said Noonan and Francis both have a chance to start for the Cowboys this season, adding he believes the holdout was hurting Noonan's chances more than Francis

because Noonan plays on the defensive line.

"Noonan is not going to be a nose tackle (as he was in college), so he has a lot to learn," Landry said.

Schramm said the Cowboys don't plan to offer Noonan or Francis another penny for rejecting their contract offers.

"We don't pay dividends for rookie draft choices to stay out of camp," Schramm said. "Neither player will get more or less than what we've already offered them."

Their absence is the result of "slotting," a system by which agents try to ensure their player doesn't make less than players drafted behind them, Schramm said.

"What is happening is agents are posturing so it will help them next in recruiting the college seniors," he said.

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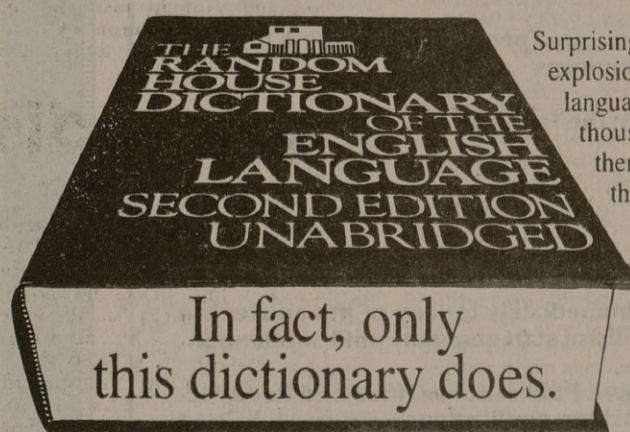
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