New evidence revealed linking Rose to bets placed on Reds

CINCINNATI (AP) — Baseball investigators told a state judge Thursday they have extensive evidence that Cincinnati Reds manager Pete Rose bet on his team's games.

Special investigator John M. Dowd said the substantial evidence includes telephone records, signed checks and betting sheets in the manager's handwriting.

Dowd told Judge Norbert Nadel and a courtroom crowded with reporters that testimony against Rose has been corroborated.

"There are nine witnesses who, in one way or another, have given information about Pete Rose betting on baseball or the Reds," Dowd said.

The first public glimpse into Dowd's report confirms that baseball has evidence that could get the major leagues' all-time hits leader banned for life from the game.

Rose's lawyers filed suit this week in Hamilton County Common Pleas Court trying to block a hearing next Monday in New York with baseball commissioner A. Bartlett Giamatti — the final step before the commissioner could act on the allegations.

Dowd was baseball's only witness Thursday during a day-long hearing before Nadel, who will decide whether to give Rose a temporary restraining order blocking the hearing with Giamatti. The hearing was recessed late Thursday afternoon before Dowd could be cross-examined by Rose's lawyers.

The hearing will resume Friday, with a decision from Nadel expected at the conclusion.

Rose's lawyers have characterized Dowd's report as biased, filled with hearsay and based on the testimony of a few criminals. Dowd and baseball attorney Louis L. Hoynes Jr. rejected those contentions Thursday.

"There is evidence, substantial and heavily corroborated evidence, that Mr. Rose bet large sums of money on major-league baseball games and on games of the Cincinnati Reds," Hoynes said, in his opening statement.

Hoynes and Dowd bristled at contentions by Rose's lawyers and supporters that the investigators were biased against the manager.

Dowd said a handwriting expert employed by baseball investigators had concluded that the handwriting on three "betting sheets" is Rose's. The three slips indicate wagers on professional sports, including baseball games, and were taken from Rose's home by Paul G. Janszen, who claims to have run bets for the manager.

Rose wants the court, not Giamatti, to determine whether he bet on Reds' games.

Two former Carter H.S. athletes charged in robbery investigation

DALLAS (AP) — One of two state champion football players charged in the robbery of two Dallas video stores Thursday lost his invitation to play for the college that awarded him a scholarship.

Former Dallas Carter cornerback Gary Bernard Edwards, 17, and All-American defensive back Derric Damion Evans, 18, each were released on $10,000 in bonds Wednesday from the Lew Sterrett Justice Center.

Evans was considered the best of the 1989 recruiting class at the University of Tennessee, but coach Johnny Majors said he will not be allowed to play for the Volunteers.

"Because of the serious charges involving Derric Evans, I have decided that he will not be allowed to participate in football at the University of Tennessee," Majors said. "In no way am I making judgment of the facts concerning Derric's case."

Evans and Edwards were arrested shortly after 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, just hours after a Video Exchange clerk was robbed at gunpoint of $175 in cash. Detective Hollis Edwards said the two match the description of two men who robbed two video stores at gunpoint.

Majors said he would release Evans from his national letter of intent if the teen-ager asks. That would allow him to accept a scholarship at another school, but he would have to sit out a year and would lose a year of eligibility.

Lt. Jerry Calame said the paperwork on the two robberies has been completed and "it's in the mail" to the district attorney's office. A spokeswoman from the district attorney's office said the cases had not been filed by 4 p.m.

Meanwhile, Calame said, police are looking into whether the two could be linked to other robberies, as well.

"We have several more (cases) still under investigation," Calame said. "They're in different stages. Some are almost completed and others, we still have to go out and make some calls and show some pictures."

Evans and Gary Edwards were starting seniors on the Carter team, which last season became the first Dallas Independent School District team since 1950 to win a state football championship.

Gary Edwards has accepted a football scholarship to Houston.

Confusion surrounding the sports world bordering on chaos

Jeff Osborne
Assistant Sports Editor

When describing the current state of athletics, I am reminded of the 1919 "Black Sox" scandal involving eight players of the Chicago White Sox which rocked the world of sports.

The players were convicted of intentionally losing games in the World Series for money, which caused outrage and sadness across the country. One heartbroken young boy said "say it ain't so, Joe," to player "Shoeless" Joe Jackson, who was involved in the scheme.

Today, the urge to cry out "say it ain't so" is stronger than ever. We have certainly seen wrongdoing or speculation of misdeeds in sports in the past, but the current confusion surrounding the sports world seems to be bordering on rampant chaos.

In the past year, there have been more sports scandals than I can remember. The Pete Rose saga, the resignations of football coaches Jackie Sherrill and Barry Switzer amid controversy, and penalties which prevented the 1988 NCAA basketball champion Kansas Jayhawks from defending their title.

Also, debates over professional players salaries and enough horror stories about steroids to stretch to the moon and back, with Olympic runner Ben Johnson and former South Carolina football player Tommy Chaiken leading the list. Oh, and let's not forget the plight of former Cincinnati Bengal Stanley Wilson, who threatened to squeal on teammates for an article in *Penthouse* because he was busted for drug abuse and they weren't.

Sportsmanship was once the name of the game, but all too often thees days the rule is take the money and run, and if you're caught doing something wrong, make sure someone else gets blamed.

The controversy revolving around Pete Rose of the Cincinnati Reds, a legend in baseball, seems to have dragged on forever. Whether Rose actually bet on his team or not still remains to be answered, but things don't look good for the man who had the world at his feet a few short years ago when he set a record for number of base hits in a career.

The resignations of Coach Barry Switzer of Oklahoma and Jackie Sherrill of Texas A&M came within six monhts of each other. Both had successful, but controversial programs (with Switzer and his team having more success and controversy). The Sooners and Aggies had both become perennial conference champions (except in 1988), and were making national headlines with their exploits both on and off the field.

Joe Paterno, football coach at Penn State, once said he would keep coaching at the college ranks because he "didn't want to leave college football to the Jackie Sherrills and Barry Switzers of this world."

At all levels, sports are increasingly becoming a big business, with the pleasure side being pushed aside in the shuffle. A "win at all cost" attitude is seen as normal, and good sportsmanship is becoming increasingly rare.

Sports once provided people a chance to relax, unwind and take time off from the real world. Now, sports are filled with corruption and controversy, a mirror image of the real world.

Sportsmanship is defined by Webster's Dictionary as "fair play; the ability to win or lose graciously." Recently, events have seemed to prove that it's whether you win or lose, not how you play the game (just don't get caught). Successful coaches can get the ax for one season of disappointment.

Sports can be a source of entertainment and pride if we keep everything in perspective. Even those of us who get paid (in money or an education) for playing or writing about sports should realize the greatest victory comes from wiining within the rules.

Competing for pleasure has faded with the advent of a multi-billion dollar sports industry.

Nowhere else has the significance of buisiness' role in sports been portayed better than with Jerry Jones' Dallas Cowboys. The callousness of Jones' dismissal of Cowboy personnel who had been loyal to the organization for years. The firing of Tom Landry was a painful awakening for fans. Landry's long record of success didn't even get him the chance to step down gracefully from an organization he had put over a quarter of a century of his life into. The last cornerstone of what once was America's Team was swept away like yesterday's news.

Jones' granting of a contract worth over 11 million to rookie quarterback Troy Aikman has stalled salary negotiations throughout the league. Players with first-rate talent now threaten to fight Mike Tyson (Tony Mandarich) or play baseball (Deion Sanders) unless they get as much or more than Aikman. Maybe we should let them carry out their threats. Life goes on.

Fans need to reclaim the game from the muck and mire of controversy. Sure, it's fun to win, but does it really mean anything if you have to brek the rules to get there?

If the time comes when the answer is yes, then we have twisted the meaning of sports into an ugly spector of what it once was--entertainment, and a way to teach cooperation among players and the importance of rules.

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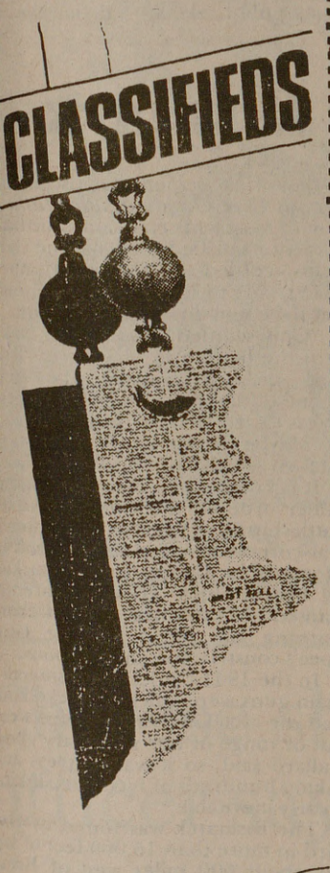

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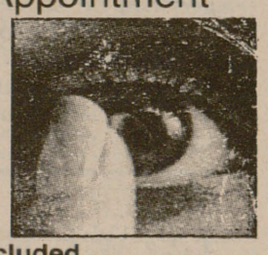

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