

Enough already about women in locker rooms

**A**s a female sports editor, I have heard enough about the women-shouldn't/should-be-in-the-locker-room controversy.

**Nadja Sabawala**

Everyone from my mother to random friends of my friends have asked me what I thought about the whole thing.

Should women reporters be allowed into men's locker rooms? I don't think so. On the other hand, neither should male reporters.

When an athlete has just competed for hours, sweating and playing to exhaustion, the last thing he wants to worry about is talking to the press. So they shower, get dressed and slip out the back door.

That's the reason reporters go into the locker rooms. Women reporters don't go into a locker room to "pick up" men as it has been quoted.

Texas A&M is part of a few organizations that has eliminated the problem of women in the locker rooms before the "problem" even started.

After a game, the team is allowed a short cooling off period. Then players, who are requested by the media prior to the conference, come out to talk with reporters. It's obvious that some of these players don't want to be there, but they are there.

No reporters are allowed in the A&M locker rooms, male or female.

But there are still many organizations that, unlike A&M, allow reporters into the dressing rooms. And most people are aware that not everyone linked to sports are as professional in their character as their ability.

The start of it all

New England Patriots owner Victor Kiam proved that. On Sept. 17, Lisa Olson, a reporter for the Boston Herald, was interviewing players in the Pats locker room. An unfortunate incident allegedly occurred in that some of the players sexually harassed Olson while she was interviewing cornerback Maurice Hurst.

Five days later, Kiam supported the players' actions and called Olson a "classic bitch." He later denied he ever said that about Olson and then he took out full-page ads in Boston and New York newspapers denying the same.

(In my eyes, only the guilty have to prove themselves innocent.)

So, this locker room incident probably would have just blown over, had Kiam not made an idiot of himself and publicized his idiotic actions as well!

Now, it's a hotter topic than Southwest Conference realignment was this summer.

• Cincinnati Bengals' coach Sam Wyche excluded a female reporter from the locker room.

• NFL Commissioner Paul Tagliabue appointed an investigator to find out exactly what happened in the New England locker room.

• Tagliabue fined Wyche \$30,000 for the aforementioned barring of a woman reporter.

The end of it all?

What started out as an unnecessary action by a few immature Patriots' players has developed into a daily saga.

Perhaps a few rules and changes may arise from all of this mess and sports writers can go about their jobs and sports figures can go about theirs.

So if you ask me, I'll tell you ... I'm not really that concerned about it.

Athletes have a high turnover rate: in one year, out the next. Not so female journalists. Years from now, when all those childish football players will be watching the new heroes on television and reading about them in the newspapers, we'll be right where we are now — reporting the news.

Notre Dame kicked out of No. 1

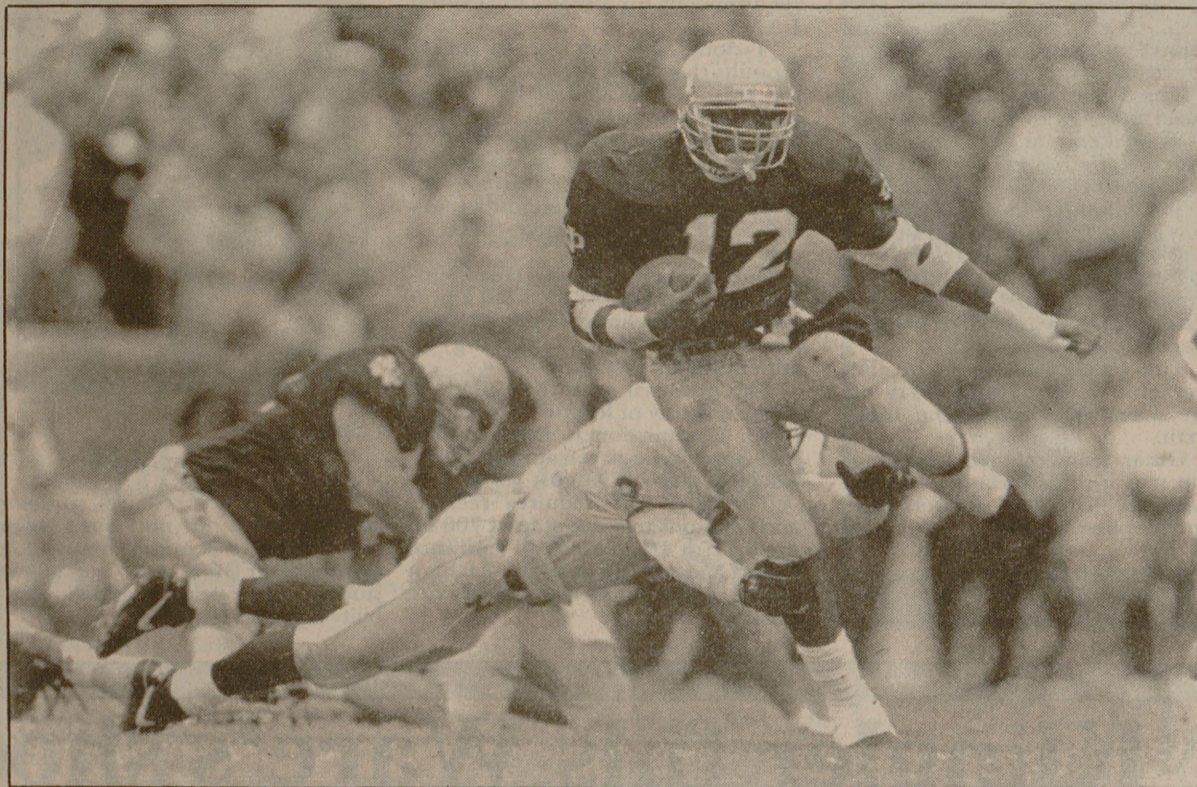


Photo courtesy Notre Dame Sports Information

The Fighting' Irish fell to No. 2 in the AP Top 25 poll after a 36-31 loss to unranked Stanford.

From Staff and Wire Reports

Last week, Texas A&M dropped eight places in The Associated Press Top 25 college football poll after a devastating loss to Louisiana State. On Monday, the Aggies dropped a spot even after they won.

A&M (4-1) beat Texas Tech 28-24 Saturday, but still dropped to No. 20 in Monday's poll. The Aggies travel to No. 12 Houston this week.

Elsewhere, an early defeat didn't stop Michigan from an early rise to No. 1.

Losses by last week's top two teams lifted the once-beaten Wolverines to the top of the poll. It's the earliest a team with a loss has ever been ranked No. 1.

"It's nice, but we've got a long way to go," coach Gary Moeller said. "If we're No. 1 at the end of the year, then we'll get excited."

Michigan, which has won three straight since losing its opener to Notre Dame, replaced the Fighting Irish as the nation's No. 1 team. The Wolverines moved up from No. 3 after Notre Dame lost to Stanford 36-31 and then No. 2 Florida State was beaten by Miami 31-22 Saturday.

Michigan received 34 first-place votes and 1,453 points from a nationwide panel of sports writers and broadcasters. Undeclared Virginia,

Reds scuttle Pirates' try to go ahead

PITTSBURGH (AP) — The Cincinnati Reds broke their hitting slump and Zane Smith's magic on Monday to take a 2-1 lead over the Pittsburgh Pirates in the National League playoffs.

Neither team did much hitting in the first two games, combining for only 10 runs and 23 hits. But the surprise was how easily the Reds got to Smith for a 6-3 victory.

In 10 starts for the Pirates after being acquired from Montreal on Aug. 8, Smith gave up nine earned runs in 75 innings. In Game 3, the Reds got five runs off Smith in five innings.

The power came from unlikely sources, too.

Former Pirate Billy Hatcher hit a two-run homer in the second inning and Mariano Duncan snapped a 2-2 tie with a three-run homer in the fifth and drove in another run in the ninth with his third hit of the game to make it 6-3.

Game 4 is scheduled for 8:18 p.m. Tuesday night as first-game

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