

Barring Rose from the Hall hurts baseball

Even the terrible destruction in the Persian Gulf can't keep my mind off Pete Rose.

Already banned from baseball for his association with gambling, Rose recently suffered another blow to his hopes for a bust at Cooperstown, New York.

Craig Wilson

The Hall of Fame executive committee, by a 7-3 vote, passed a resolution last Thursday prohibiting players to be named on Hall of Fame ballots if they have been banned from the league.

So the all-time hit leader in major-league baseball history will be remembered as nothing but a petty criminal by the same people that cheered his game winning singles, his 4,000th hit, and his infamous third-base slide.

But I know several people that have done worse things than gambling. Is gambling that serious a crime?

I have heard that gambling is a disease of sorts; something like addiction that takes over and gives one a distorted belief that he will win more than he loses after the betting finally ends. In fact, when the betting ends the gambler is usually broke.

Rose obviously suffered from this sickness.

My roommate, an avid baseball fan, said that Pete Rose was the "Nolan Ryan of hitting."

He also commented that Rose is being blasted for gambling while others have done comparable wrongdoings and sit majestically in stone at Cooperstown.

My girlfriend, a baseball fan, couldn't believe that baseball's all-time hit leader could be kept from the Hall of Fame.

So, after considering these opinions from knowledgeable, yet imperfect individuals, I made some general conclusions.

- Rose is being persecuted by the Hall of Fame committee, who, in an obvious attempt to protect the image of the game at all costs, has disregarded the qualifications of getting into the Hall.

- It is ironic that last week Gaylord Perry, a proven checker and baseball sufferer, was voted in.

- It is ironic that last week Ferguson Jenkins, a convicted drug trafficker, was voted in.

- It is ironic, on a less criminal but more moral note, that exposed adulterers Steve Garvey and Wade Boggs will likely make the Hall at some time.

The Hall is taking a hard line approach at the Rose case because of the wrongdoings during the 1919 Black Sox scandal, when Shoeless Joe Jackson and seven other players attempted to throw the World Series. Thus, gambling is still not tolerated.

But where is the line drawn? Is it acceptable to ban Rose from the Hall simply because he bet on other baseball games?

Sure, that's cause for a suspension from the league. But to allow the Perrys and Jenkins of the league to be

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Wilson poised to leave Aggies for NFL

By ALAN LEHMANN
Of The Battalion Staff

It's too late for R. C. Slocum to close the gates at Kyle Field. The Bull is already gone.

Junior fullback Robert Wilson announced Wednesday that he would forgo his final season of eligibility to enter the National Football League draft.

"It's been a tough decision," Wilson said. "I just felt it was time for me to move on and help my family financially. I really appreciate everything Coach Slocum and Texas A&M has done for me and I wish them well."

Slocum said that the team will miss Wilson, but he understands the decision.

"This was a personal decision Robert had to make," Slocum said. "We visited at length and he has decided to apply for the NFL draft."

"We're disappointed Robert will not be with us next year, but I support his decision."

Wilson, nicknamed "Bull" for his bruising running style, is projected by many analysts to be drafted very high, possibly in the first round.

But Wilson's running talent is not the only thing that should have professional teams drooling. His blocking skills are ideal for pro offenses and his speed is superb considering his size.

For three years, the 6-1, 245 pound Wilson paved the way for Darren Lewis with bone-crunching blocks. Together, the two combined for 7,779 yards and formed the most vaunted Aggie running tandem since Curtis Dickey and George Woodard roamed Kyle Field in the late 1970s.

Wilson's career began on a bright note as he started the last nine games of his freshman season and was named the SWC newcomer of the year in 1988. His rushing high that season was 93 yards and two touchdowns against Baylor.

In 1989, Wilson averaged 4.7 yards per carry and finished with 590 yards, second on the team to Lewis.

But Wilson's biggest contribution was in the Hancock Bowl.

When Lewis could not play because of a knee injury, Wilson bore the brunt of the Aggie ground game. And he responded like a bull in a china shop rambling for 145 yards on 16 rushes for an incredible 9.1 yards per carry.

Although A&M eventually fell to Pitt in that game 31-28, Wilson kept the game close and gave the Aggies a chance at a win.

Picking up this year where he left off in 1989, Wilson enjoyed the most successful season of his career. He ran for 724 yards, averaging 5.4 yards per carry, and scoring five touchdowns.

Wilson's blocks opened the door for Lewis to claim the SWC career rushing title.



JAY JANNER/The Battalion

Robert Wilson (20), Texas A&M's three-year starter at fullback, has decided to skip his senior year in Aggieland so that he may enter the NFL draft.

Wilson was used as a decoy on the play when he should have been leading the charge.

But no pro team will use Wilson as a decoy for long. Quality fullbacks are scarce in the NFL. He will be probably be drafted high and used as a fullback/blocking back.

If there is any question of Wilson's skill it is in his ability to catch passes. He caught only nine this season for 75 yards and a touchdown.

His low totals were no surprise because the Aggies abandoned the passing game early in the season and Wilson had few opportunities to be a receiver.

Even though Lewis was slighted in the Heisman balloting, Wilson's performance did not go unnoticed.

His stock continued to rise as he put on a nationally televised blocking clinic against the University of Texas. Play after play he flattened Longhorns like pancakes for Lewis to run over.

Perhaps the best testament of Wilson's worth was the play on which Lewis lost yardage — the two-point conversion.

It was no coincidence that the one Aggie rushing play all day that failed to gain yardage was also the only play that Wilson didn't lead the blocking.

No team in the NFL will evaluate Wilson on his receiving stats. Two of the NFL's top pass-catching backs, Tom Rathman and Roger Craig, played their college ball at Nebraska where passes are as rare as blue moons.

Is Wilson mature enough to play in the NFL?

Slocum seems to think so. "He is an outstanding young man and an outstanding football player," Slocum said. "We wish him all the best and I hope the NFL works out for him."

Defenders around the SWC would have to agree.

Collegiate athlete/reservists leave for Middle East conflict

DALLAS (AP) — The Nicholls State basketball team had just won its first game Dec. 5 at North Texas when starting freshman point guard Ray Washington got the call.

"His mother had called," coach Ricky Broussard said. "She said his commander was trying to get in touch with him."

Broussard and his players knew what that meant. Washington was going to war. His next opponent could well be Iraq.

It was something they had braced for but still were not prepared to see.

"I thought everybody would be real excited after the game," Broussard said, after the 112-106 victory over

North Texas. "But everybody was just kind of slow-moving."

"It was a very sullen mood on the way back. It really hurt us."

Nicholls State, in Thibodaux, La., is among a handful of regional college teams whose season — once full of promise — is now full of prayer for a teammate who also serves as an active member of the National Guard.

After the United Nations' deadline expired Tuesday for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait or face attack from U.S.-led forces, athletes like Washington are getting ready for much more serious roles in Saudi Arabia.

The roll call includes: — Kerry Dowlin, a Texas Tech golfer, became the first

and so far only Southwest Conference athlete to join Operation Desert Shield when she shipped out from Fort Bragg on Friday.

— From the Southland Conference, Northeast Louisiana diver Christina Readori and McNeese State baseball player Greg Garner are at bases in California waiting for travel orders.

— From the Lone Star Conference, Cameron volleyball player Bettie Calloway is part of the 44th Medical Evacuation Unit from Fort Sill.

— The Nicholls State football team also lost tailback Bennett Williams to the Persian Gulf conflict in late November.

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