

Records released in Bryant case

By Jon Sarche
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DENVER — Authorities looking to arrest NBA star Kobe Bryant on a sexual assault charge also wanted to charge him with false imprisonment, according to a copy of the arrest warrant unsealed Wednesday.

The Los Angeles Lakers' guard has said the two had consensual sex. An Oct. 9 preliminary hearing will determine whether the case will go to trial.



BRYANT

While Bryant was only charged with sexual assault, the July 3 arrest warrant said there was "probable cause" Bryant was also guilty of false imprisonment, a misdemeanor punishable by up to a year in jail.

The handful of documents released by a judge contain few details but provide a glimpse into how authorities put together their case. Separately, a state judge rejected a newspaper's request to release recordings of 911 calls made from the home of Bryant's accuser, saying they are "intensely personal" and could subject the woman to "harassment and abuse."

The decision to charge Bryant with only the sexual assault count was made by Eagle County District Attorney Mark Hurlbert. He has not explained why he pressed only one charge.

false imprisonment rather than the more serious assault charge, Denver criminal defense attorney Dan Recht said.

"The jury won't know it's a class 2 misdemeanor and won't even know it's a misdemeanor. False imprisonment has a serious ring to it," Recht said.

Conviction on the sexual assault charge could bring a sentence of four years to life in prison or 20 years to life on probation.

There was no immediate response Wednesday to calls seeking comment from Bryant's attorneys, the district attorney and the Eagle County sheriff's office.

Authorities have not said what allegedly happened in Bryant's hotel suite.

Meanwhile, the Vail Daily had asked local police for records about emergency responses to the woman's home for 12 months starting last July. The records include unspecified requests for medical help and a report of the

alleged sexual assault.

In denying the newspaper's request, District Judge Richard Hart said he agreed with police and a psychologist who filed an affidavit at the woman's request that releasing the records would harm her and jeopardize her and her family's safety.

The woman "has already experienced harassment, threats and abuse," Hart wrote. "The subject matter of the records is intensely personal and disclosure would likely present an unfair perception of the alleged victim, subjecting her to further harassment and abuse."

Also unsealed Wednesday was Judge Russell Granger's order allowing Bryant to leave Colorado on July 4 about a half-hour after he surrendered to authorities.

Earlier this week, media organizations filed notice that they will appeal Judge Frederick Gannett's order to withhold from the public most of the detailed court records in the case.

Longhorns post second-worst grad rate

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas had the lowest graduation rate in the Big 12 for the 1996 freshman class of football players, according to statistics released by the NCAA.

The best for the 1996 freshman football class in the Big 12. Boston College had the best rate in the nation at 95 percent.

Mackovic was gone after the 1997 season, replaced by current head coach Mack Brown.

When you have a transition year, there are a number of kids who transfer and a number of those were in that group," Brown said.

Only 19 percent of the 23 players who signed scholarships that year graduated within six years. That rate was the lowest in the Big 12. And according to a comparison of national data by the Austin American-Statesman, it was the second-lowest rate among Division I schools. Only the 16 percent posted by the University of Pittsburgh was worse.

In last year's NCAA graduation rate study, which evaluated the freshmen of 1995, Texas football had a rate of 50 percent. The 1996 recruiting class was the last signed by former coach John Mackovic.

"You don't get credit when someone transfers out and graduates somewhere else." According to the NCAA study, 62 percent of all Division I student-athletes graduated from the 1996 freshman class, up 2 percentage points from the previous year. Texas' overall graduation rate for athletes was 56 percent.

That's also 3 percentage points better than the rate for all students nationwide. Nationally, 54 percent of Division I-A football players from the class of 1996-97 have graduated, higher than the 42 percent rate for men's basketball players and lower than the 66 percent rate for women's basketball players.

Texas had an overall graduation rate among athletes in all sports of 56 percent. Texas A&M graduated 65 percent of its student-athletes and 56 percent of its football players.

"That class was kind of an anomaly," said Brian Davis, assistant men's athletic director for academic services at UT. "I came here in 1998, and the biggest thing that struck me was that there were seven or eight players gone by the end of their sophomore year and we subsequently had several others transfer. We got down to a handful of guys who stayed and half those guys went to the NFL."

"I expect it to get back up to the 50s (percent), if not higher."

"I expect it to get back up to the 50s (percent), if not higher," he said. "I feel good about what we've done with the guys who've stayed."

The NCAA bases the graduation report on the number of members of a freshman class who obtain a degree within six years. Factors that lower a school's graduation rate include players who drop out and don't get a degree; players who transfer, regardless of whether they graduate from another school; and players who leave early for professional careers and don't get their degrees within six years.

— Brian Davis
UT assistant men's athletic director

At Texas, Davis said the rates for the next couple of football classes should be improved.

Dennehy's body was found in a field near Waco on July 25, four days after Dotson was charged with murder. An autopsy report showed that Dennehy died of two gunshot wounds to the head. Dennehy's disappearance in mid-June, and the naming of Dotson as a "person of interest" in the case, prompted intense scrutiny of Baylor and its basketball program.

Baylor's 75 percent graduation rate was

Big 12

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Tuscaloosa to take on the Alabama Crimson Tide.

Perry signs Dotson's warrant

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Texas Gov. Rick Perry on Wednesday signed a warrant seeking the extradition of former Baylor basketball player Carlton Dotson from Maryland.

The hearings, held only by Maryland and South Carolina, give suspects another chance to tell authorities why they don't want to leave the state to face charges, Morris said.

Dennehy's body was found in a field near Waco on July 25, four days after Dotson was charged with murder. An autopsy report showed that Dennehy died of two gunshot wounds to the head.

Puttin' points on the board
Three Big 12 teams opened 2003 with school-record streaks without being shut out. Texas tops the conference list with points in 266 consecutive games.

Dotson is accused of murder in the death of Patrick Dennehy, his former teammate. Dotson has been indicted by a McLennan County grand jury and the district attorney's office asked Perry to seek his return from his home state.

Dennehy's disappearance in mid-June, and the naming of Dotson as a "person of interest" in the case, prompted intense scrutiny of Baylor and its basketball program.

Baylor basketball coach Dave Bliss and athletic director Tom Stanton resigned Aug. 8. School investigators said they discovered that Bliss was involved in two players receiving improper financial aid, and that staff members did not properly report failed drug tests.

However, the Longhorns have a long way to go to top the Division I-A list. Brigham Young has a huge lead on the rest of the country with a 349-game scoring streak. Texas' last shutout came 23 years ago, when the 'Horns lost 16-0 to Baylor.

The formal extradition request was sent to Maryland Gov. Robert L. Ehrlich. Dotson, 21, is being held at Kent County Detention Center in Maryland.

If convicted, Dotson faces up to life in prison.

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Nebraska would have the conference's longest streak if not for a 1996 blanking by Arizona State. The loss ended a 231-game streak for the Huskers. Despite that setback, the Huskers have scored in 319 of their last 320 games.

Rick Morris, Maryland's extradition coordinator, said late Wednesday his office had not received any extradition paperwork from Texas' governor. After Texas' request is forwarded to Maryland, Dotson will have a chance to appear before an assistant attorney general at a hearing in the office of the secretary of state.

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Colorado and Iowa State are also in the midst of school record runs. The Buffaloes have not been shut out in 15 seasons, while the Cyclones have scored in every game since 1991.

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8 Game Season, plus Double Elimination Tournament
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Lauren Baber	Alicia Feibel	Ashley O'Beirne
Cyndi Badeen	Makenzie Fitzgerald	Casey Orr
Ashley Baldrige	Sarah Furney	Robbie Jane Paup
Erin Barnes	Autria Godfrey	Kadie Petree
Michelle Bentley	Rachel Gonzales	Lauren Records
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