

Liberal coach temporarily suspended; team on probation

LIBERAL (AP) — The Kansas State High School Activities Association has penalized the Liberal High School football team and temporarily suspended the team's coach for violating an equipment rule.

The school is the first in the state to violate the two-year-old rule, which prohibits the association's

member schools from issuing equipment during the summer for a school coach's camp or a camp at another site.

The association's executive board on Monday placed the team on one year of administrative probation after the school self-reported two instances of equipment violations. Under the ruling, the Liberal

program will remain eligible for postseason play and awards, but will be closely monitored for further infractions.

The rule violations were committed by head coach Rich Anderson, who used Liberal equipment for a team camp in Liberal and at the University of Nebraska-Kearney in June.

The camp in Liberal was Anderson's camp, not the high school's.

The board ruled to suspend Anderson through Sept. 8. He will have no contact with the team for practices or the first game of the season.

Anderson was on vacation and didn't attend the hearing. He came

to Liberal last season after a long tenure in Pratt.

The board also ruled the Liberal program must practice without pads for an additional four days during fall camp. Normally, teams have just three days without pads.

Finally, school administrators must report to the association's board on how the school tried to

rectify the infractions. Administrators also must identify the equipment used over the summer and make sure that it is still legal, or must recondition and re-certify it for the 2003 season.

Editor's note: Anderson served several years as head football coach of the Goodland Cowboys.

Colby Legion team in state action today

Information reaching the *Free Press* at 10 a.m. today indicates Colby will be playing Baxter Springs at 3 p.m. today in Pratt at the Kansas State 2003 "AA" American Legion Championship Tournament.

Sabetha took on Larned at 1 p.m. today and the rest of the day's schedule has Andover-Nickerson taking the field at 6:30 p.m. and Centralia-Pratt playing at 8:30 p.m.

Action continues on Friday,

with losers of the first round games (above) playing at 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m., and the winners squaring off at 6 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.

The tourney continues Saturday and Sunday, with the championship game set for Monday.

Colby was Zone 6 winner, Baxter Springs Zone 2 winner, Larned Zone 7 winner, Sabetha Zone 1 winner, Andover Zone 3 winner, Nickerson Zone 5 winner, Centralia Zone 4 winner and Pratt.

Player sidelined until questions are answered

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Ohio State tailback Maurice Clarett will be held out of preseason football practice until questions regarding his eligibility are settled, the school said.

The school's release also included an apology from Clarett in connection with events related to the theft from a car from the Woody Hayes Athletic Facility on April 17, and a statement from Clarett's attorney, Scott Schiff, saying that the car was a borrowed vehicle and that Clarett exaggerated the value of some items reported stolen from it.

The NCAA has investigated a police report filed by Clarett which said cash and thousands of dollars of stereo equipment owned by him were stolen from the car he was driving.

HOCKEY

PITTSBURGH (AP) — The Pittsburgh Penguins are about to get the news they've waited months to hear: Mario Lemieux is ready to announce that he will play at least one more season.

Team officials anticipate that Lemieux will reveal at a news conference Thursday morning that he plans to play the 2003-04 season, the 16th of his injury- and retirement-interrupted career.

Lemieux began working out six weeks ago — something he almost certainly would not be doing if he wasn't planning to play — and he intends to resume his usual on-ice conditioning program next month.

BASEBALL

MONTREAL (AP) — Expos players and their union are unlikely to approve having the team play home games in different sites next year.

The team met with the No. 2 official of the players' association, which negotiated the agreement that allowed 22 of the Expos' home games to be moved this season from Montreal to San Juan, Puerto Rico.

The Expos are being sought by Northern Virginia; Portland, Ore.; and Washington, D.C. Baseball owners still haven't determined where the team will play next season, and Puerto Rico also has offered to host the team for all 81 games in 2004.

CINCINNATI (AP) — The Oakland Athletics bulked up their outfield by getting Jose Guillen from the Cincinnati Reds for right-hander Aaron Harang and two minor league pitchers.

Briefs

Guillen was the Reds' top hitter, filling in during Ken Griffey Jr.'s two serious injuries. He was hitting .337 — third in the National League — with 23 homers and 63 RBIs in 91 games.

FOOTBALL

WESTMINSTER, Md. (AP) — The Baltimore Ravens and holdout quarterback Kyle Boller reached a verbal agreement on a five-year deal.

Boller, the 19th overall pick in the 2002 NFL draft, started every game for California last year, throwing for 2,815 yards and 28 touchdowns.

TERRE HAUTE, Ind. (AP) — The Indianapolis Colts agreed to a contract with second-round pick Mike Doss, and the safety was expected to report to training camp Thursday.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — A jury convicted a Minneapolis man of murder in last year's shooting death of University of Minnesota football player Brandon Hall.

Jermaine Stansberry was on trial for beating and robbing a former Minnesota football player and shooting Hall, the player's friend, after a confrontation Sept. 1 in downtown Minneapolis.

Stansberry, 28, was charged with second-degree murder, first-degree aggravated robbery and being a felon in possession of a weapon.

He was found guilty on all counts.

TENNIS

WASHINGTON (AP) — Andy Roddick beat Bob Bryan 7-6 (5), 6-4 to reach the third round of the Legg Mason Tennis Classic. Roddick, who won the first hard-court title of his career at the Legg Mason in 2001, showed Bryan that his serve was working right away by opening his first service game with a 134-mph ace.

AUTO RACING

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (AP) — In the wake of fiery crashes over the last two months, NASCAR said that all vehicles in its three top series will soon have a fire-extinguishing cylinder in the fuel cell area.

Winston Cup drivers Ken Schrader, Dale Jarrett, Ryan Newman and Bobby Labonte were forced to scramble from their burning cars.

Wichita team pulls big upset in title game

WICHITA — What was supposed to be the NBC National Championship game for boys baseball players 18-under was turned into a state championship game Wednesday at Lawrence Dumont Stadium in Wichita when the Wichita Jets upset the Ohio Cardinals 8-4 after being run ruled by the Cardinals in the double elimination tournament just four days earlier.

The game was played without the NBC State Championship Midwest Wolverines whom the Jets had knocked off Tuesday night 7-5 in another thriller.

The Wichita Sluggers didn't play in the State Championship as they

had an automatic bye into the tournament as the host team.

After the first few days, the team from Ohio, composed mostly of players who played high school ball on the No. 6 ranked high school team in the nation last spring looked to be invincible.

They weren't, as Goddard's Ryan Bohanan proved Tuesday night pitching for the Sluggers.

Bohanan used his cutter fastball, and a down and away curve to send the Cardinal hitters back to the dug-out talking to themselves while striking out 12.

Earlier, Augusta's Jake Sims had sent the Texas Diamondbacks home with a stunning 6-2 defeat, helping his own cause with a home run.

Probably the player of the tournament for the Jets was third baseman Ryan Hudgins of Campus who went yard four times in the last four

games. Hudgins homered twice against the Diamondbacks, and once against the Wolverines Tuesday night, then had a towering blast to close the gap in Lawrence Dumont against the Sluggers.

The Sluggers picked up a berth in the College NBC tournament which starts on Saturday at Lawrence Dumont, leaving Bohanan who was scheduled to play in the area code games in Florida that weekend scrambling to find a late plane ticket so he can help his team out.

The Jets threw seven pitchers on Wednesday in the two games, while the Sluggers went through four in one as both teams were thin.

Valley Center's Jared Simon got the win even though he gave up the blast to Hudgins in the bottom of the ninth.

He also got a game ending double play ball which erupted the

bench. Going into their senior year, Sims and Justin Hanzlick, the two Jets from Augusta have now played in four consecutive NBC World Series championships, winning one, and finishing second twice.

That, with the size of the trophies given out by the NBC makes for a fairly attractive trophy case.

Both players will attend Augusta High School this fall as seniors. Sims is being courted by several Division I basketball schools presently, and will receive a lot of attention from baseball coaches as well.

Hanzlick will no doubt get some looks this spring with the Augusta team.

With the reputation the Jets have established, most of the team is receiving looks from colleges and universities, and there were several pro scouts at the game Wednesday evening.

Neuheisel's ouster final

SEATTLE (AP) — Keith Gilbertson took over as Washington's head football coach, the day after Rick Neuheisel's firing became official.

The Huskies' former offensive coordinator will earn \$870,000 a year under a four-year contract, athletic director Barbara Hedges said.

Hedges fired Neuheisel for breaking NCAA gambling rules by participating in neighborhood pools during the past two NCAA basketball tournaments. She said he wasn't forthcoming when first questioned by NCAA investigators.

Neuheisel has maintained he didn't know he was breaking the rules, saying an athletic department memo from the school's compliance officer gave him permission to gamble with neighbors.

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