

SETUP?



Knight hints incident with Indiana U. student a setup

by Andrew Bagnato
September 09, 2000
Chicago Tribune

When Indiana University imposed a "zero-tolerance" conduct policy on Bob Knight last May, it seemed only a matter of time until the controversial coach tested its limits. It took 116 days - and the policy hasn't even been finalized.

Now Knight's future is back in the hands of Indiana President Myles Brand, who must decide whether the basketball coach violated a written understanding that "any verified, inappropriate physical contact with players, members of the university community or others in connection with the coach's employment at IU will be cause for immediate termination."

There is no dispute Knight had physical contact with a 19-year-old student Thursday at Assembly Hall on the Bloomington campus. But there are sharply contrasting accounts of the incident. The student, Kent Harvey, alleges Knight cursed and intimidated him after Harvey greeted him with, "Hey, what's up, Knight?" Knight contends he merely was trying to teach the student a lesson in manners.

The university said it had opened an investigation. "It's important to remember that this is an allegation only, but one we're taking very seriously," Indiana spokesman Christopher Simpson said.

Knight, who turns 60 next month, responded quickly, calling a news conference at Assembly Hall to give his version.

"I would have to be an absolute moron, an absolute moron, with the things that have been laid down on me, to grab a kid in public and curse at a kid in public," Knight said. "That is absolutely, totally untrue."

In the past, IU has been slow to react to many incidents involving Knight, who has enjoyed massive popularity in his 29 years as the Hoosiers' coach. But the university promised Knight

would be under greater scrutiny after an investigation pushed him to the brink of dismissal last spring.

That investigation was prompted by charges, supported by a videotape, that Knight had grabbed the throat of a former player during a 1997 practice. But the investigation also brought to light myriad other charges of abuse, including allegations Knight had hurled a vase in the direction of an athletic department secretary and that he had had physical confrontations with a former assistant coach and the team's publicist. Brand fined Knight \$30,000 and suspended him for the first three games of the 2000-01 season. The president also said he was placing Knight under a "zero-tolerance policy."

"It's his last chance," Brand said at the time. Brand established a panel to draw up specific conduct rules. Knight has yet to see the guidelines, which were expected to be submitted to the board of trustees at a meeting next week.

With Knight under scrutiny, this incident is more charged than many of his past imbroglios, which usually have landed him in the headlines but not in trouble.

In Thursday's incident, freshman Kent Harvey charged that Knight grabbed him, whirled him around and cursed him as they passed each other in a doorway to the arena. Harvey, two brothers and two friends had gone to Assembly Hall to pick up football tickets. Harvey said he had greeted the coach with, "Hey, what's up, Knight?"

Harvey is the stepson of Mark Shaw, a former Bloomington-area radio talk-show host who has ripped Knight on the air. Shaw said his stepson's right arm bore marks Thursday night.

"[Knight] grabbed the elbow so deliberately that I saw where the skin had been torn away in two or three places," Shaw told CNN. "He yanked him around and kind of confronted him against a doorway where Kent felt confined. [Knight] got right in his face and started in with

the usual expletives. ... After a brief period of time, he let Kent go."

Knight acknowledged grabbing the student's arm but denied applying force. He also denied that he swore.

Knight said he told the student: "Son, my name is not Knight to you. It's coach Knight or it's Mr. Knight. I don't call people by their last name, and neither should you."

Knight said he had not lost control of the temper that has led to countless run-ins with the media, police, referees and even his own boss.

"Don't even think that you can enter anger into this thing," Knight said.

"This was simply a matter of manners and civility. I don't think that my voice ever rose above a conversational tone or quality."

From the moment the university announced that it was imposing civility rules on Knight, the coach's supporters have worried that fans, reporters, referees or rival coaches would try to bait him into violating them. Knight hinted that he might have been the victim of a setup. "It seems to me to be a very interesting coincidence that this student involved is the stepson of the guy that, over the years, has probably been the most vitriolic critic that I've ever had," Knight said. "That's interesting."

Knight's account was supported by Hoosiers assistant coach Mike Davis, who witnessed the incident and said he was outraged when he heard the allegation.

"When I came to work this morning and I heard about this, I'm like, 'That's the biggest lie I ever heard in my life,'" Davis said. "I couldn't believe it. I don't know how hard Coach had the kid's arm, but Coach never raised his voice, he never said a cuss word to the kid and [the students] all were laughing."

"It's a flat-out lie. If Coach would have grabbed the kid and cursed him out, I'm quite sure they wouldn't have been laughing."

[Tribune news services contributed to this report.]

Editorial

It's a newspaper's duty to print the news and raise hell

by Wilbur F. Storey
September 06, 2000
Colorado Daily - U. of Colorado

Freedom of the press is a fragile thing. Ideally, reporters are supposed to be able to do their jobs without hindrance from the state. In real life, however, government and business work hard to deflect or mislead reporters.

The past two years have seen freedom of the press, guaranteed by the First Amendment, take several hard hits. Not legally speaking, of course. On paper the First Amendment is still intact. But in the streets, where it really counts, freedom of the press has never been more imperiled.

Locally, Brian Hansen, who until recently worked for the Daily, was arrested for holding his ground when Forest Service law-enforcement officials ordered him away from a protest he had

Washington, D.C., Philadelphia and Los Angeles resulted in reporters being arrested and beaten in what has evolved into an overt effort on the part of police to bar the independent media from doing their jobs.

In Seattle, where police initiated violence against non-violent protesters, several reporters were arrested, threatened with pepper spray and gassed. Those arrested were released the next day with apologies.

In the nation's capital, police treated ABC, CBS, and NBC affiliates with respect, but everyone else as suspects, clubbing reporters whose credentials were in full view, forcing them away from scenes they were covering, and failing to acknowledge media accreditation when it suited their purposes.

In Philadelphia, police harassed staff at the Independent Media Center, threatening to shut down the office,

"Together, these events paint a picture of government, specifically law enforcement, that is increasingly hostile to the progressive movement and increasingly reluctant to allow reporters access to their handiwork. They want to crack skulls, spray people's eyes and gas crowds without being held accountable."

been covering above Vail. Specifically on location to observe and report on the way the protest was resolved, Hansen felt he had a duty to remain.

The federal government saw his arrest as a way of gaining a federal precedent that would give law enforcement more power in dealing with reporters, allowing federal officers to go about their business in greater secrecy. After a year of prosecuting him, the U.S. attorney's office finally dropped the charges Thursday, ending an unnecessary and expensive ordeal for Hansen.

While the immediate danger has passed, the Forest Service took the opportunity provided by Hansen's case to draw up guidelines for their officers to use when arresting reporters. A spokeswoman for the Society for Professional

Journalists, which, together with the Daily, has covered some of Hansen's legal costs, has described these guidelines as "very troubling" and "patently offensive." If nothing else, the guidelines indicate the government's determination to treat newsgathering as a suspect activity.

Nationally, demonstrations in Seattle,

which was being used by reporters from independent media organizations across the nation.

In Los Angeles, a convenient bomb scare closed the IMC temporarily, following repeated and unjustifiable police threats to shut it down. Witnesses claim that police tried to drive reporters away by deliberately targeting them with rubber bullets during the LAPD's violent crackdown on protesters, most of whom were peacefully listening to a concert in the permitted protest zone.

Together, these events paint a picture of government, specifically law enforcement, that is increasingly hostile to the progressive movement and increasingly reluctant to allow reporters access to their handiwork. They want to crack skulls, spray people's eyes and gas crowds without being held accountable.

And, for the most part, they're succeeding, as the corporate media for the most part carry law enforcement's message to their readers.

Yet, as society's hired henchmen, law enforcement merits intense scrutiny, perhaps more than most government agencies. And scrutiny is what we at the Daily will continue to provide.

Barbato's ITALIAN RESTAURANTS

3512 Buffalo Road
Phone - 899-3423

Lunch Buffet 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. 4.79 +tax
Dinner Buffet 5:00 p.m. - 8 p.m. 6.29 +tax

2 Medium Pizzas

with cheese and 1 topping

only **8.99** +tax

Dine-in — Carryout
\$.99 delivery