

# Can we follow the rules please?



**Caught in the Grasp**  
**Douglas Smith**  
sports editor

Recently sports fans have seen a rash of disobedience, such as a string of football stars that have been in trouble with the law. The Dallas Cowboys have always seemed to have a plague of arrests, and somehow, they are America's team. Of course this disobedience can be shown in sports in many other ways.

One example is the disagreement between Ivan Hlinka, head coach of the Pittsburgh Penguins, and some of the team players. In a game approximately two weeks ago, Jarimor Jagr refused to go out for some shifts because of disagreements on the bench. He simply sat on the end of the bench and jawed with Coach Hlinka. The television cameras made sure they got it on tape. Jagr was rumored to have been upset with the team's manner of playing at the time. The Penguins have actually been doing well, although it is early in the season. This would tell the average fan that the Penguins' style is just fine. Could it be that Jagr is mad because this new playing style will take away from his statistics? After all, in the game following the confrontation, Alexei Kovalev had a hat trick, scoring once at even strength, once short-handed, and once on the power play.

Let's look at the facts. The Penguins were not picked to do very well this season. The eastern conference is said to be dominated by New Jersey and Toronto. They have some star power and a up and coming goaltender, but the cohesiveness of the team was in question under a new

coach. Jagr is said to be the best player in the game, and has led the league in scoring the past two years despite being injured on and off. Could it be that his ego is getting to him and that he wants to win trophies and take in more money? His contract is rather rich, but may not be what some people see as right for a superstar. However he plays in Pittsburgh, how much can he expect?

Jagr has not been in the news much for his performance on the ice. In Pittsburgh, if you don't comply with fans' wishes you are booed. This looks like the fate of Jagr as he continues to cause trouble. The only way the Penguins will make the playoffs is if they iron out their differences and work together. The eastern conference of the NHL continues to get tougher each year, and the Penguins have been lucky to make the playoffs in past years. These differences between player and coach put the team in a bad light. Being from the Pittsburgh area, I am not proud of the team.

Granted that some of the occurrences shown by the media are overblown. Two weeks ago Randy Moss ran into an official, but it seemed accidental. Simply because Moss has a history of slight disobedience, the media made sure to show the highlight.

However, most of what we see on television requires a new take on discipline. This past week Troy Aikman ran into an official while feverishly trying to call a timeout, but nothing was done to him. He did not slow down when getting to the official, yet nothing was said. Still, it was an incident that should not have occurred.

We can take this to another level by showing how many professional athletes do not abide by the law simply because they may feel above others. Then again they are human and to err is human, but some of these errors are taken to the extreme. There has always been the issue of drug testing. In many cases the drug in question was

some form of steroid. However, the list of banned drugs continues to grow and grow because of what is being found in players' systems.

There have been many cases recently that ended in death. The Charlotte Hornets lost guard David Wesley because his teammate was racing him. It was a bad incident, but if the two would not have got caught up in the lifestyle, Wesley may still be alive. Also, Ray Lewis was on trial for murder. He is a linebacker for the Baltimore Ravens, and he was released of all charges, but when you saw him in the courtroom you may have still questioned that decision. In an ongoing saga, Carolina Panthers wide receiver Rae Carruth is on trial for murder, and the trial keeps going on with no end in sight. Where this will lead no one knows. Still these are the extreme cases of having little or no discipline.

Of course there is also one case that is of special interest to us at Penn State Behrend. This is the case of Penn State quarterback Rashard Casey and an alleged beating, for which he will no longer stand trial. His friend will still stand trial, but somehow Casey got off. That brings up another question of athletes getting special treatment. It has often been thought that they do, and therefore when disobedience is seen between coach and player it is not a surprise.

In the Casey incident, many hear the circumstances and wonder whether or not there was enough substance to the case. It was in Hoboken, New Jersey. This is not one of the safest places in America, and you may wonder if the sense of paranoia is high and that would make it easier to say a crime occurred. This is just another characteristic of professional athlete disobedience that we as onlookers have no control over. It will be hard to get all the details of a case involving a sports star.

For instance, the disobedience level in the National Football League seems to be growing. Initially it seemed as though the biggest problems were quarterbacks calling

audibles at the line when they were not supposed to. This has grown as a problem, and sometimes even the audibles can create widely televised confrontations. This may have been the case with Jim McMahon and Mike Ditka in the years that both played for the Chicago Bears.

Anyone that has followed the Pittsburgh Steelers since Bill Cowher has taken over has seen a few acts of disobedience. Some may have just been a Cowher attack on players that were not performing, but Lee Flowers has jawed back at the coach before on live television. Of course there was the incident in which Kordell Stewart stood face-to-face with the long jawed Cowher. The players seem to think that they are not given enough time to improve, so they jaw back, but the coach is the person with the authority. I wonder why it is so hard to understand that. Luckily in the case of Flowers, Stewart, and even punter Josh Miller, the little chats have done them well. No longer are they seen arguing with the coaches. In fact, Flowers is one of the leaders on a defense that did not allow the opponent to score a touchdown for 21 consecutive quarters of play.

Not all the blame can be placed on the players. For instance, Carmen Policy is now the president of the Cleveland Browns, but once was in charge of the most illustrious team in the NFL at the time, the San Francisco 49ers. No one could figure out how he got around the salary cap wars. His creative accounting made it through all the loopholes in salary negotiations until he finally resigned from his position. His unemployment was not long lived as he began the rebuilding of the Cleveland Browns. Well someone finally figured out how Policy does it.

The salary cap infringements made by Policy are expected to be punished very soon. The discipline, believed to be a fine of around \$500,000 to Policy and the forfeiture of draft choices by the 49ers, has been pending for more than a year, when the league's Management Council started

reviewing the contracts signed in 1997 by quarterbacks Steve Young and Jim Druckenmiller and tight end Brent Jones. Unfortunately this will not cause much harm to him or his current team.

But a league official, speaking on the condition of anonymity, cautioned Sunday that neither the fines for Policy and Dwight Clark, now with the Cleveland Browns, nor the forfeiture of draft choices by the 49ers, have been finalized. There has been pressure from an unlikely alliance of Oakland's Al Davis and old-line owners such as the Giants' Wellington Mara, the Steelers' Dan Rooney and the Ravens' Art Modell for a larger fine and a suspension. They point to the NBA's unprecedented fine of \$3.5 million and forfeiture of five first-round draft picks from the Minnesota Timberwolves for circumventing its cap in the signing of Joe Smith. Smith has been declared a free agent.

However, the NFL fine is a negotiated settlement rather than a vote of league owners. Several league officials have said in past weeks that it's likely to stay at the \$500,000 figure or less, with the 49ers to forfeit some combination of third-, fourth- and fifth-round draft choices. The 49ers also are expected to face an undetermined amount in fines. Coincidentally, Drunkenmiller was drafted to go to the NFL.

The Smith problem listed above is another questionable act. First of all in the case of Smith and Drunkenmiller, they are not the key players on the team. Why risk so much for someone that may not even be needed? All of the acts listed above are very questionable. It is hard to believe that the value of discipline can be so overlooked. Maybe the professional athletes and team presidents need a discipline lesson.

**Smith's column appears every other week.**

## THE SCOREBOARD

### Behrend Scores

#### Men's Soccer

ECAC Tournament vs. Muhlenburg L 1-0

#### Volleyball

The women's volleyball season has concluded.

#### Cross Country

NCAA Midwest Regionals November 11  
Men finished 18th  
Women finished 22nd

#### Men's Water Polo

The men's water polo season has concluded.

(Standings as of November 14, 2000)

#### MEN'S SOCCER

School	Conference record	Overall
Frostburg	5-0	16-5
La Roche	4-1	6-9-2
Penn State Behrend	3-2	11-10-1
Pitt-Greensburg	2-3	8-9-2
Lake Erie	1-4	1-12
Pitt-Bradford	0-5	4-13

#### WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

School	Conference Record	Overall
Frostburg	12-0	34-4
Penn State Behrend	10-2	15-13
Pitt-Bradford	7-4	18-11
Penn State Altoona	6-6	13-14
Pitt-Greensburg	4-8	5-18
La Roche	2-10	3-24
Lake Erie	0-12	0-12

### AMCC STANDINGS

### National Football League

#### Games for Week 12

Sunday, November 19, 2000

1:00 PM  
Tampa Bay at Chicago  
Indianapolis at Green Bay  
Cleveland at Tennessee  
Buffalo at Kansas City  
Carolina at Minnesota  
Cincinnati at New England  
Oakland at New Orleans  
Detroit at New York Giants  
Arizona at Philadelphia  
4:15 PM  
San Diego at Denver  
New York Jets at Miami  
Atlanta at San Francisco  
Dallas at Baltimore  
8:35 PM  
Jacksonville at Pittsburgh  
Monday, November 20, 2000  
9:00 PM  
Washington at St. Louis

### BCS Ranking

Rank	School	BCS Rating
1.	Oklahoma	2.52
2.	Miami (Fla.)	6.34
3.	Florida State	6.82
4.	Florida	9.62
5.	Washington	13.44
6.	Virginia Tech	16.03
7.	Oregon	17.01
8.	Nebraska	17.93
9.	Oregon State	18.43
10.	Kansas State	19.65
11.	Notre Dame	25.89
12.	Mississippi State	26.84
13.	Ohio State	28.02
14.	Texas	35.04
15.	Texas A & M	38.62



Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference

### College Basketball

#### Preseason AP Women's college basketball poll

- |                |                   |                     |                |
|----------------|-------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| 1. Connecticut | 9. Louisiana Tech | 17. Mississippi St. | 25. S. Barbara |
| 2. Tennessee   | 10. Iowa St.      | 18. Wisconsin       |                |
| 3. Georgia     | 11. Stanford      | 19. No Carolina St. |                |
| 4. Purdue      | 12. Old Dominion  | 20. Vanderbilt      |                |
| 5. Duke        | 13. Penn St.      | 21. Sw Missouri St. |                |
| 6. Notre Dame  | 14. Oklahoma      | 22. North Carolina  |                |
| 7. LSU         | 15. Virginia      | 23. Oregon          |                |
| 8. Rutgers     | 16. Texas Tech    | 24. Auburn          |                |



### NASCAR WINSTON CUP

- Leaders as of 10/15
- \*Bobby Labonte, 4970
  - Jeff Burton, 4709
  - Dale Earnhardt, 4690
  - Dale Jarrett, 4561
  - Tony Stewart, 4521
  - Ricky Rudd 4484
  - Rusty Wallace, 4398
  - Mark Martin, 4362
  - Jeff Gordon, 4196
  - Ward Burton, 3982
  - Steve Park, 3829
  - Mike Skinner, 3743
  - Johnny Benson, 3582
  - Matt Kenseth, 3573
  - Joe Nemechek, 3446

\* Clinched the Winston Cup Championship

## CLASSIFIEDS

**IN STORES NOW!!**  
"Travis Bowen Presents...Erie Area Music Volume 1" The Compilation: featuring music from the Local Area!! Special Guests include: Manon Kelly, SKUDD, The Mollies, Self Inflicted, TRAV feat. Lilith Stabs, RICO, Sabotage theory, Jamie Daire, Double D, Organic Voodoo Machine, and more!!! At: Media Play, Dig Dio's, WestSide CDs, World of Music, Disco Round, Borders, and Earthshine.  
[www.angelfire.com/hiphop/highrollaz](http://www.angelfire.com/hiphop/highrollaz)

**SPRING BREAK 2001!**  
**CANCUN & BAHAMAS. EAT, DRINK, TRAVEL FOR FREE, WANTED CAMPUS REPS!** Call USA SPRING BREAK, toll free (877) 460.6077, for trip information and rates. 25 Continuous Years of Student Travel!  
[www.springbreak.com](http://www.springbreak.com)

**Wanted!**  
**Spring Breakers!** Cancun, Bahamas, Florida, & Jamaica. Call Sun Coast Vacations for a free brochure and ask how you can organize a small group and Eat, Drink, Travel Free & Earn Cash! Call 1-888-777-4642 or e-mail [sales@suncoastvacations.com](mailto:sales@suncoastvacations.com)

**Spring Break!** Deluxe Hotels, Reliable Air, Free Food, Drinks and Parties. Cancun, Jamaica, Bahamas, Mazatlan & Florida. Travel Free and Earn Cash! Do it on the web! Go to [StudentCity.com](http://StudentCity.com) or call 800-293-1443 for info.

**Students, faculty, and staff of Penn State Behrend are welcome to place free classified ads. Please send ads to [BehrColl4@aol.com](mailto:BehrColl4@aol.com)**