

## TCU football players allege racism from former coaches

by Matthew McGuire  
TMS Campus  
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Two football players from Texas Christian University filed a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education alleging that two of their former coaches racially discriminated and harassed them for more than two years.

Dennis Franchione and Mark Parks, who have since become the head coach and linebacker coach at the University of Alabama, both deny the allegations.

"The investigations have uncovered no evidence of harassment or discrimination of any sort, and I am confident this situation will be resolved soon," said Dennis Franchione in a statement released by the University of Alabama.

The complaint does not identify the players, though brothers Adrian and Allen Lewis told the Associated Press that they filed the complaint. The brothers — who have a black father and white mother — describe years of abuse and mistreatment

from Franchione and Parks.

At one point Parks allegedly said, "All you people care about is chasing [women], fine clothes, fancy cars and good times." Allen Lewis told the Associated Press that Franchione would often ask the brothers if they "were white or black today."

The U.S. Department of Education received the complaint Nov. 15, 2000, and is still investigating.

Franchione said he learned about the complaint during the recent holiday break — after he had moved to Alabama — and participated in an internal investigation at TCU. He had also been in contact with representatives from the office for civil rights in Fort Worth.

"I have coached 28 years with a mission of developing people first and football players second. In that spirit, I could not live with myself if I mistreated a person due to race, or for any other reason... I do not understand how the two players at TCU came to feel as they did, and I feel badly that they believed they had been mistreated."

## Ditka changes his tune, turning on the praise for Fassel, Giants

by Steve Zipay  
Newsday  
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CBS studio analyst Mike Ditka, who angered Giants Coach Jim Fassel by telling viewers in November that "everybody thinks the Giants are soft," changed his tune Tuesday. "I don't see that there's a more deserving team," to be in Super Bowl XXV, Ditka said. "They're the most balanced team coming out of the NFC."

Ditka, who will be in Tampa as part of CBS' pregame programming, said he thought Fassel's approach in attacking the Vikings secondary last Sunday "maybe was the best coaching job offensively I've seen all year... They saw the weakness, they exploited the weakness and they didn't stop, they kept bombing away. I don't think in an NFC Championship game, a lot of teams would have come out and thrown the ball around like they did. They'd play it close to the vest and let the defense win it."

Because both the Giants and Ravens defenses are stifling, the former Bears and Saints coach also said that Vegas was wrong in making the Giants 2 1/2-point underdogs. The teams "are so evenly matched, the game may come down to one play here or there," he said.

Ditka also backtracked on his comments about the Ravens defense not matching up to the 1985 Bears. "I said a couple weeks ago before you can be compared the to the best they'd

have to win the Super Bowl. I'm gonna retract that," he said. "Not only do these guys play well individually, the scheme they play is probably as good as I've seen in the last couple years. What Marvin Lewis does is make you think constantly on offense who you're gonna block. They jump around a lot, move around like Buddy (Ryan) had our guys move around, and get every mismatch they can. The only chance you've got is to spread this defense out."

So, for the Giants, the unlikely Super hero could be Joe Jurevicius or Ron Dixon, Ditka predicted. "I can see the third and fourth receivers of the Giants, whether it be Jurevicius or Dixon, somebody stepping up in that area. I really see that. If they play the way I think they're gonna play, that's the guys they're gonna try to get the ball to. There's no question they're gonna be covered by safeties and that's not the strength of anybody, a safety covering a receiver man-to-man."

Finally, Ditka praised Giants QB Kerry Collins: "When we made a decision to go after him (with the Saints), we felt he was best athlete available at that position. Had he not had those problems, he probably would never have left New Orleans. The biggest compliment to Kerry is that he straightened out his life... He's playing substance-free and he's playing great. Nobody ever questioned his athletic ability. I couldn't be happier."

## Angels' next designated hitter: Jose Canseco

by Chris Foster  
Los Angeles Times  
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ANAHEIM, Calif. - The Anaheim Angels are expected to announce the signing of Jose Canseco to an incentive-laden one-year contract Tuesday, a baseball source said.

Canseco will receive the major league minimum \$200,000 with incentives that could take him over \$5 million, according to the source.

Canseco played in 98 games with the Tampa Bay Devil Rays and New York Yankees last season, but the Yankees gave Canseco a \$500,000 buyout rather than pick up his \$4 million option for next season.

Signing the 36-year-old Canseco is a low-risk move by the Angels, who were in dire need of a designated

hitter. Scott Spiezio was the Angels most frequently used DH last season but hit only .224 with six home runs in 50 games.

The Angels have been burned in the past by aging sluggers, having signed Eddie Murray in 1997 and Cecil Fielder in 1998. But Canseco comes with high-end potential with minimum financial risk.

He missed two months last season because of a heel injury and has also been bothered by back problems in recent seasons. As a result, Canseco hit .252 with 15 home runs and drove in 49 runs in 98 games with the Devil Rays and Yankees last season. Still, he did finish third in the American League with 46 home runs and had 107 runs batted in 151 games with Toronto in 1998, the only time since 1991 he has played a full season.

Canseco joins a lineup already loaded with power hitters. The Angels were third in the league with 236 home runs. Troy Glaus led the league with 47, Mo Vaughn had 36, Garret Anderson 35 and Tim Salmon 34. Darin Erstad had 25 home runs.

By adding Canseco to that already potent lineup, the Angels might be banking that run-production can offset a group of starting pitchers made up of young arms and questionable arms. Pat Rapp and Ismael Valdes were the only veteran pitchers the Angels signed during the off-season.

Canseco ranks 23rd on the all-time list with 446 home runs. He was named the league's rookie of the year in 1986 and most valuable player in 1988 while with Oakland, where he teamed with Mark McGwire to form the Bash Brothers.

## Nesby absent to meet with NBA officials

by Steve Wyche  
The Washington Post  
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WASHINGTON - Washington Wizards forward Tyrone Nesby, who was sent to the locker room by Coach Leonard Hamilton after a shouting match during the first quarter of Monday's 101-95 loss to Milwaukee, was excused from practice Tuesday to meet with NBA officials regarding a legal matter, a source said.

Wizards management and Hamilton said that they have known for more than a week that Nesby had to miss practice, although they did not divulge that he had to meet with league officials. A source close to the situation said that Nesby had to meet with league officials who handle legal issues.

Forward Michael Smith, who was arrested early New Year's Day for misdemeanor assault at a Washington nightclub, and point guard Rod Strickland, who was arrested Jan. 7 and charged with driving under the influence, had meetings with NBA officials regarding their arrests last week.

Nesby's absence had nothing to do with his verbal clash with Hamilton, the coach said.

"He had a prearranged, excused absence," Hamilton said. "We expected him not to be here. This has nothing to do other than him having an excused absence. Otherwise, he would have been at practice."

There is a possibility that Nesby could be fined for his outburst on Monday, but he will not be suspended, a team official said.

It is not known why Nesby was meeting with NBA officials. Nesby has not been in trouble since the Wizards acquired him in a trade with the Los Angeles Clippers this season, a team source said.

Nesby will join the team Wednesday night in New Jersey, where the Wizards (7-32) face the Nets (12-26). Hamilton left open the possibility that Nesby could lose his starting job to Gerard King or Felipe Lopez. The Nets start 6-foot-10 Keith Van Horn at small forward so it is more likely that if Nesby is replaced as a starter, it would be by King, who is 6-9.

## Hamilton ready to bid figure skating a fond farewell

by Helene Elliott  
Los Angeles Times  
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Scott Hamilton will miss the friends he made in 15 years of touring with Stars on Ice, the show he co-founded and nurtured, and the friends he made during more than 30 years of figure skating.

But after the four-time U.S. and world champion and 1984 Olympic gold medalist does his last back flip and skates off the ice April 7, he will miss the little moments that wove the tapestry of his life.

"I'll miss the goofy stuff, the stuff behind the scenes," he said. "And the view from center ice after the last solo. It really is unbelievable, standing there and having the spotlight on you, taking the last bow of the show. The other 21 hours, everything has been crazy, but that last bow, those simple pleasures, make it worthwhile."

Almost four years after he was diagnosed with testicular cancer and a year after he was hobbled by a painful ankle injury, Hamilton believes he is skating better than ever. That's saying a lot: His dizzying spins, soaring jumps and unflagging exuberance have long endeared him to judges and fans.

"Last year, I couldn't put weight on my ankle at all," he said. "This year, it was like the sunshine came through and the angels sang and all of a sudden I can do a lutz again. I was like, 'Yeah!'"

And because he is skating so well and is free of pain — aside from the soreness to be expected in a 42-year-old athlete who skates taxing routines five nights a week — he's confident it's the right time to go.

Hamilton is not sure what he will do next. Maybe stage a Broadway-

type show. Maybe more work as a skating commentator for CBS. Maybe something he hasn't thought of yet.

Whatever he chooses, he will embark with happy memories and with confidence castmates such as 1998 Olympic gold medalists Tara Lipinski and Ilia Kulik will build on his legacy of showmanship, skill and respect for the audience.

"I've done this long enough," Hamilton said during a quick visit to Los Angeles, where he has a home and indulges his passion for golf. "It's time to reinvent myself. I love this tour so much that I think it's time for me to let it go."

"I've learned this year the way to lead is to be the last one, to try to find ways of supporting and presenting the other skaters. The best thing for me to do is step away. My spot will be taken by the next person. These guys (Lipinski and Kulik) have their careers ahead of them and they need time to explore the levels they can reach."

"It's just time, physically and lifestyle. There are things I've put on hold for a long time in the name of my career and some of them can't wait anymore. I want to have a family and children, and I don't want the mother of my children to be changing two sets of diapers at the same time."

The show also features 1992 Olympic gold medalist Kristi Yamaguchi, four-time world champion Kurt Browning of Canada, 1994 world champion Yuka Sato of Japan, three-time U.S. pair champions Jenni Meno and Todd Sand of Costa Mesa and two-time U.S. ice dance champions Renee Roca and Gorsha Sur. Two-time Olympic champion Ekaterina Gordeeva, a co-headliner since 1991, is on sabbati-

cal. A portion of the proceeds from ticket sales will be donated to Target House, a residence for children and their families who are being treated for life-threatening illnesses at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tenn.

Hamilton broke into the elite skating ranks in the 1970s. He initially won notice because of his diminutive size — a childhood intestinal disorder stunted his growth and limited his height to 5-foot-3 — but he won accolades for his skills.

After his 1984 victory at Sarajevo, he started Stars on Ice and helped develop it. "It's a show. It's not just people skating and doing numbers and getting off the ice," Lipinski said. Each skater has a solo and appears in ensemble routines. The music includes jazz, classical, pop and rock, reflecting the tastes of different generations of skaters.

Hamilton laughs at the variation in clothes, musical preferences and daily wake-up calls among cast members. The bond uniting what he affectionately calls "our dysfunctional family" is his professionalism, generous spirit and ability to get along with everyone in what can be a catty and cutthroat sport.

To each skater, his advice differs. To Lipinski, it was "11 o'clock always comes," reassurance that if she makes a mistake, the performance will end and she will have a chance to do better the next night.

"You learn a lot from him, and that's another reason why I came to this tour," said Lipinski, who is skating back to peak form after September hip surgery. "You see a lot of skaters, they're great skaters but they just skate. Here, you just have to go out and watch Scott every night and you learn things."

# Modell earns first Super Bowl trip

by Jason Cole  
Knight Ridder Newspapers  
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OAKLAND, Calif. - Baltimore owner Art Modell can remember every bitter moment, down to the play calls.

Twenty years ago against the Oakland Raiders it was Red Right 80 on a cold day in Cleveland. In the 1987 AFC Championship Game, there was Earnest Byner's fumble.

But for Modell, the hurt runs deeper. He was vilified in Cleveland and around the NFL for his disloyalty to the sacred Browns, moving the team in 1996 for money.

But on Sunday, Baltimore dominated Oakland 16-3 at Network Associates Coliseum to set up the team's first ever trip to the Super Bowl on Jan. 28 where the Ravens will face the Giants, 41-0 winners over the Vikings.

Modell remained stoic because now there is a sweet memory to sooth the hurt.

"Forever," the 75-year-old Modell said when asked how long he has lived with the memories. "You live with it forever. It never escapes you. Just like Shannon Sharpe's 96-yard

play will not escape me. But the losses are more profound."

Thanks to Sharpe and the play of the NFL's stingiest defense led by former University of Miami standout Ray Lewis, Modell has a chance for redemption, a chance to erase all the bad plays and nasty words he has seen and heard.

The Ravens' five-year history is an asterisk in the annals of the NFL because they really are the Cleveland Browns of old. Modell, who bought the franchise in 1961, won an NFL Championship in 1964. Since then, it has been heartbreak.

Heartbreak ended courtesy of Sharpe's NFL postseason record 96-yard reception for a touchdown with 11:08 remaining in the first half to give Baltimore a 7-0 lead. That was more than enough for a stifling defense that held Oakland, the No. 1 rushing team in the NFL, to 24 yards on 17 carries.

The Ravens defense also came up with five turnovers against a Raiders team that gave up only 20 this season.

"Shannon came to me in the third quarter and said, 'I don't know how much we've got left,'" Lewis said. "I just said, 'Don't worry about it.'"

Lewis was right. He had 10 tackles and recovered a fumble; Duane Starks had two interceptions; and Jamie Sharper had two sacks and an interception for a defense that set an NFL record this season by allowing just 165 points in 16 games, 20 points fewer than the 1985 Chicago Bears.

The Super Bowl likely will put a huge spotlight on Lewis, the NFL's defensive player of the year.

Lewis was arrested after the Super Bowl in Atlanta last year and charged with murder in the stabbing of two men outside a night club. He eventually pleaded guilty to obstruction of justice and received probation.

"What I went through this offseason was like pure hell," Lewis said. "My teammates didn't care about that. My teammates listened to me and said, 'It's over now. Forget that distraction, wear it down. It's a closed chapter.'"

Lewis said going to Tampa "to play 20 minutes from my home town (Lakeland, Fla.) is unbelievable. It hasn't really settled in yet."

The Ravens dominated from the start, but couldn't capitalize on great field position.

Late in the first quarter, Robert Bailey intercepted Rich Gannon at the Oakland 19. But the Ravens gained just one yard in three plays and Matt Stover's field-goal attempt from 36 yards hit the right upright.

"The nature of our defense, you get a feel of having control of the game defensively," Baltimore coach Brian Billick said. "That dictates what you do offensively. We've gotten into that pitter, that routing. I'm going to have to burn my diploma from BYU. I may never throw the ball again."

On three occasions the Ravens had the ball inside the Oakland 20-yard line, Billick didn't throw into the end zone.

"If they're not the best defense ever, they're right up there at the top," Oakland coach Jon Gruden said.

The defense allowed Billick to play one of the most conservative games in the history of the league. Baltimore was facing a third-and-18 play from its own 4-yard line. They called a play that Billick termed "Double rip slant" out of a four-receiver formation. That basically meant the two inside receivers ran slants.

The play is designed to get 10 or 12 yards and just get the Ravens out of a hole. From the Raiders perspective,

they were salivating at the chance to have Baltimore punter Kyle Richardson, who was blocked twice in the previous game against Tennessee, kick out of the end zone.

But quarterback Trent Dilfer saw strong safety Marquez Pope lined up against Sharpe, making Sharpe the automatic target on the play.

"I like Shannon matched up with any safety in this league," Dilfer said. Pope botched the coverage. He was in position to drop Sharpe for roughly a 6-yard gain, but hesitated. Sharpe ran past him.

No matter, Raiders safety Anthony Dorsett should have been there for the stop. Except Dorsett cheated up on the play instead of playing safe. That left Dorsett with a terrible angle on Sharpe. Wide receiver Brandon Stokley then came up with the key block, taking out defensive back Tory James.

Sharpe then finished the longest touchdown pass in NFL playoff history.

"We had to take the crowd out of it," Sharpe said. "I got so sick of hearing about the Black Hole (the nickname for Network Associates Coliseum). So when we scored that touchdown, I just took a shovel and cov-

ered up the hole."

From there, the defense took over. The Raiders, who had averaged 38 points over their past seven home games, had one first down in the first half. Of eight possessions in the half, six ended in punts and two in interceptions.

The Ravens' other scores came off Stover's field goals of 31, 28 and 29 yards.

"What does crow taste like? All of you got to eat crow tonight," Sharpe said. "We're going to Tampa to put this offense on display. We're not that good, but we're effective."

So dominant were the Ravens that when Lewis was asked about when he felt the defense had control, he responded: "When we walked on the field."

The Ravens knocked Gannon out of the game twice. The first time when defensive tackle Tony Sirgusa fell on him in the first half, hurting his left shoulder. The second time in the fourth quarter for just plain poor play.

That left Modell to his stage at midfield to accept the AFC Championship trophy.

And a chance to forget.