

Guarantees for college athletes

By JOHN SWINTON
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I would welcome the space to show how Tom Verducci's logic failed him when he attempted (in the Dec. 8 Daily Collegian) to analyze the reasoning Dr. Allen Sack, Director of the Center for Athletes' Rights and Education, presented to Colloquy on Dec. 3.

Verducci granted Dr. Sack his major premise: that athletes who receive payment to play sports are, ipso facto, professional employees. Almost no one except the athlete's employers and their cartel, the National Collegiate Athletic Association, seriously argues this point.

Like most other fans and sportswriters, though, Verducci resisted the next corollary: that a group of workers implies a management. I'll prompt him here by suggesting that it is our alma mater, Penn State, which hires and pays the players. The next logical step is to examine their working conditions.

First, are the athletes paid fairly in accordance with the work-related risks they run, the time and effort they expend, and the profit they generate? Second, who benefits most from their labor: the athletes themselves, the alumni, the coaches, the students, local merchants and townsfolk, or the University?

Third, as Penn State employees, what sort of freedom does their work allow them, or put another way, what penalties do they suffer if they undertake to adjust their working conditions?

The anomalous fact that revenue-

forum

producing athletes must also be, or pretend to be, college students skews the otherwise neatly balanced equation between players and laborers. Unlike a Terry Bradshaw or a Ron Jaworski, Todd Blackledge must propitiate two bosses in two entirely different contexts: I'm not saying Todd can't do it; I'm saying he must do it. Not all players find schoolwork impossible.

By contrast, my understanding of Dr. Allen Sack's position is that universities should not be permitted simultaneously to follow a "business model" and a "service model," when dealing with their revenue-producing athletes, particularly at a time when the NCAA has abandoned these athletes.

Dr. Sack considers it absurd for big-time coaches to be squabbling through their upstart College Football Association, over hundreds of millions of dollars in broadcasting and ancillary revenues (their "property right") while, through the NCAA, they reduce their athletes' laundry money, change four-year athletic scholarships into one-year "renewable" grants, and reinstate freshmen eligibility.

It's absurd, that is, from the standpoint of the amateurism these coaches continually invoke. It makes perfect sense from a business standpoint.

As former Southern Cal, now Tampa Bay, football coach John McKay observes, "Every recent NCAA rule has gone against the college athlete."

It can be difficult to believe that these robust college athletes can be exploited — even when the papers overflow with news of intercollegiate athletic abuses and even when we know how easily coal miners and steelworkers were once exploited.

But do our athletes enjoy workmen's compensation? Have they been enticed to their campuses honestly? Do their studies lead to an education, or just to eligibility? Having manipulated at one school, how conveniently can they sell their services somewhere else? Do they receive continual, competent medical supervision? Can they resort

to an effective grievance procedure? Do they have a contract that spells out a university's obligation to them? Instead, they run eagerly (at first) into a line of work that requires them to pay lip service to a fictional amateur ideal; to accept only what compensation their employer chooses to give them; to face inelegibility, humiliation, and further ostracism by accepting gratuities virtually thrust upon them, to risk their education when they displease their coach; and to masquerade for the press as Renaissance scholars who somehow made a wrong turn on the way to the Sorbonne.

Verducci wants revenue-producing athletes decelerated to continue this sham because for them to speak and act like other American workers "can only make matters worse in an already poisoned world of college sport." Is this what Penn State teaches its budding journalists — that responding to what they recognize as the truth will only make matters worse? Is this what Penn State taught Allen Sack, class of 1974, whose Center for Athletes' Rights and Education carried quick support from both the U.S. Department of Education and the NFL Players' Association.

Dr. Sack may be idealistic, but it seems to me that he's working within the system.

He doesn't pretend that all student-athletes are model citizens.

Nor does he contend that revenue-producing athletes ought to form unions and bargain collectively.

Hesimously argues that as professional employees, they ought to have — they do have — that right.

Ladda, Guinan named as soccer all-stars

sports briefs

The women's soccer club, although not selected for the AIAW national championships after an 8-5 record, finished the season ranked fifth in the Mid-Atlantic region, behind national-ranked teams Cortland State, Princeton, Rochester and Hartwick.

Junior winger Shawn Ladda, who tallied 11 goals and five assists for the Lady Lions, was named a first team Mid-Atlantic all-star along with sophomore midfielder Pat Guinan. Junior sweeper Laurie Jones and senior winger Sheryl Blumenthal were second team choices.

Farmer appeared at the conference along with Chancellor Charles Young and Athletic Director Bob Fischer to discuss the NCAA sanctions of Tuesday which placed the UCLA basketball program on two years probation, made the Bruins ineligible for postseason competition this season, and ordered the school to return its second-place trophy from the 1980 tournament.

All seemed genuinely concerned about events of the past and determined to make sure violations weren't repeated in the future.

"I really can't have my head down or be ashamed, because there's nothing for me to be ashamed about," said Farmer, who was selected to coach the Bruins after Larry Brown left for the New Jersey Nets of the National Basketball Association after the 1980-81 season. "I'm sad, but it's done with, it's all over now. Let's get on with the future."

NVTC Marathon

Some of the local running talent will take on the maximum test of endurance when they compete in the Nitany Valley Track Club's 10th annual marathon at 10 a.m. Saturday.

The local marathon, initiated by men's track and cross country coach Harry Groves, will have contestants competing in six divisions, four for men: Open, Sub-veteran (age 30-39), Veteran (40-49), and Senior (50 and up), and two for women: Open and sub-veteran (30 and up).

In addition to the 26.2-mile race, a 10,000-meter run will be held at 10:30 a.m., with runners competing in the same six divisions.

Both races begin in the parking lot near the H.R.B. Singer Building, behind the golf course on Park Road. Trophies, plaques, and gift certificates will be awarded in each division.

UCLA probation

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The NCAA ruling that banned mighty UCLA from basketball tournament competition this

Michael to manage Yanks in '83

By HAL BOCK
AP Sports Writer

HOLLYWOOD, Fla. (AP) — The New York Yankees managerial merry-go-round took another sudden turn yesterday when the American League champions announced at baseball's winter meetings that Gene Michael would return as the club's pilot for three years, beginning in 1983.

The latest twist in the continuing Yankees' soap opera came after Cleveland sent outfielder Jorge Orta and two minor leaguers to Los Angeles for pitcher Rick Sutcliffe and second baseman Jack Perconte.

Meanwhile, commissioner Bowie Kuhn took a day off from the meetings to testify in Washington at a congressional hearing on cable television.

The Yankees held center stage at the meetings, announcing that Michael would succeed Bob Lemon, who will handle the club for 1982 before moving on to other duties in the organization.

The Yankees' managerial shuffle was settled after owner George Steinbrenner granted Lemon's wish to manage the team for one more year.

Lemon has twice served as a relief manager for Steinbrenner, taking over in July 1978 and leading the club to the world championship, then relieving Michael last Sept. 6 and taking the club to the World Series again.

"I want to know if I can go home," joked Lemon. "And George wants to know if I can go home. I have very few complete games. I'm the Goose Gossage of the managers."

Once Steinbrenner agreed to give Lemon the Yankees for 1982, the owner turned to Michael, who still had two years left on his contract. The two agreed to a two-year extension of that deal and Michael will spend 1982 as a scout before returning to the dugout in 1983 and for two more years.

Michael was asked why he thought he could get along with Steinbrenner now after being fired by the Yankees' boss only three months ago.

"I'm smarter now," he said. "I've learned you can't say some of the things I've said and not have problems."

Michael had positioned himself for the axe last summer when he complained publicly about Steinbrenner's repeated threats to fire him and refused to apologize to the owner for the outburst.

"I know we've got some problems, but I think that's over and I don't see any major problems again — except winning," he said.

Michael said he had not discussed a return to managing with Steinbrenner until Tuesday, after the decision had been made on Lemon.

"He told me what he had in mind," Michael said. "He has a pretty strong mind."

Michael was asked what it was like to work for Steinbrenner.

"He's tough. We all know that. He wants to win and that's great for New York," he said.

Michael becomes the third manager to be fired, then re-hired by Steinbrenner. Billy Martin and Lemon also have had success in the Yankees' dugout and the club has had six managers in the nine years that Steinbrenner has been principal owner.

"I knew I was back in the family when he woke me at 3 a.m. and said, 'Get out of bed,'" Michael said with a laugh. "That's when I knew I was back."

While the Yankees' dugout soap opera continued, Cleveland and Los Angeles negotiated an intriguing five-player swap.

The Indians sent Orta, who batted .272 last season, along with two minor leaguers, catcher Jack Pimble and pitcher Larry White, to the Dodgers for Sutcliffe, the 1979 National League Rookie of the Year, and Perconte, a promising second baseman.

Pimble batted .288 at Waterloo and White was 10-12 with a 3.51 earned run average at Chattanooga last season. Perconte batted .316 with Albuquerque and Sutcliffe, a 17-game winner in 1979, struggled to a 2-2 record in 14 games with the Dodgers last season.

When the Dodgers dropped Sutcliffe, a 6-4, 225-pound right-hander, from their list of eligible players for the playoffs and World Series, he got into an bitter argument with manager Tom Lasorda and reportedly broke some furniture in the clubhouse.

Dave Garcia, manager of the Indians, took note of that, saying, "I don't know him, but I know I'm not gonna talk back to him."

Preliminary major league joint meetings got under way after the closing session of the minor league meetings. On the agenda were discussions of three division play and revenue sharing, among other items.

In another trade, Oakland swapped pitcher Rich Bordi to the Seattle Mariners for third baseman-outfielder Dan Meyer. Bordi spent 1981 at Tacoma where he was 9-11 with a 3.68 ERA. Meyer batted .252 with three home runs and 22 runs batted in for the Mariners.

The Chicago Cubs traded outfielder Jim Tracy to Houston for outfielder Gary Wood. Tracy batted .259 for Chicago and Woods hit .209 for the Astros last season. Both players were assigned to the minor leagues. The Cubs also designated for assignment outfielders Mike Lum and Jim Tracy and second baseman Steve Dillard. The Cubs had been over the 40-man limit after completing a five-player trade with Philadelphia and signing free agent pitchers Bill Campbell and Ferguson Jenkins on Tuesday.

St. Louis acquired two veteran pitchers with major league experience from the Mexican League. Eric Rasmussen and Vicente Romo were both assigned to the Cardinals' Class AA affiliate at Louisville.

In another minor transaction, the Yankees acquired catcher Mike Lebo from Toronto, completing a deal which last month sent third baseman Aurelio Rodriguez from New York to the Blue Jays.



Bob Lemon

CFA-NCAA fight reaches the court

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — The next round in the television dispute between the National Collegiate Athletic Association and the College Football Association will be held in federal court here today.

The latest issue involves a request by attorneys for the University of Oklahoma and the University of Georgia Athletic Association to certify the other 59 members of the CFA as parties to their suit against the NCAA.

Andy Coats of Oklahoma City, an attorney for OU and Georgia, said the class action request, if granted, would give the other schools the same protection as that provided by the court to OU and Georgia.

OU and Georgia filed suit against the NCAA, asking a ruling on who owns the property rights in televised college football games, and seeking protection if the CFA schools decided to go through with a football television contract with NBC.

After a hearing in October, federal judge Luther Eubanks issued a temporary restraining order, barring the NCAA from making any threats or taking disciplinary action against OU or Georgia while their suit is pending.

"If this is certified as a class action case, the other schools would be eligible for their same protection as OU and Georgia," Coats said.

Some CFA officials believe such a ruling would give its members a greater sense of security if they should decide to go through with the four-year, \$100 million contract with NBC, and they must make that decision by next Monday.

"I suppose it might, but not much," said Coats, "because the protection would evaporate if we don't win the suit."

James D. Fellers of Oklahoma City, one of the NCAA's attorneys, said the NCAA will oppose the class action request on several grounds, including that they do not know how many of the other CFA schools really have the same contentions and grievances as OU and Georgia.

"We think the class action request is a little premature," Fellers said. "The CFA board has voted to help finance the suit."

Asked if he thought the CFA sought a ruling now because of the imminent decision on the NBC contract, Fellers said, "I think you've got it figured out pretty well."

Penn State football coach and athletic director Joe Paterno has been a central figure in the creation of the CFA.

The CFA ratified the TV contract with NBC in September, but gave its members a chance to opt out of the contract. Two previous deadlines were extended, but the new deadline of Dec. 14 was announced after the conclusion of an NCAA special convention in St. Louis last week.

Dr. William Banowsky, the OU president, said at that time OU would stick with NBC if only nine other schools would do the same, including the University of Texas and one Big Eight member.

Coats said several other CFA schools want to intervene in the suit, but he suggested "it might be better to let us seek a class action certification."

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