

Dykstra denies knowledge of probation

By RALPH BERNSTEIN
AP Sports Writer

CLEARWATER, Fla. — Lenny Dykstra and his Philadelphia Phillies' bosses all said yesterday they knew nothing of a published report that baseball would place him on a year's probation for his involvement in illegal gambling.

Paul Hagen, Philadelphia Daily News baseball writer, reported in yesterday editions that baseball commissioner Fay Vincent told Dykstra of the punishment in a meeting Saturday at the Phillies' spring training camp.

Dykstra has admitted losing at least \$78,000 in illegal high stakes poker games.

The Daily News' story said that if Dykstra refrains from gambling during the year the case will be closed without any fine or suspension. Dykstra testified last week about his gambling losses at a trial in Mississippi of a man charged with operating illegal poker games.

At the Phillies' training camp, Dykstra at first declined comment when asked if he had been given the year's probation.

Then, he asked, "where did you read this at?"

Informed of the newspaper source, he

replied, "Oh. That's (the reported ruling) pretty good though, isn't it?"

But pressed to say whether he knew anything about it, Leyva said, "No."

Later he told reporters, "I don't know anything about it. I didn't read it. What's it about baseball?"

Phillies' president Bill Giles said, "I haven't heard anything. I wouldn't be surprised if that's the case. But I wouldn't know. I know he (the commissioner) wants to get it over with."

Phillies' general manager Lee Thomas, asked if he understood that Dykstra had been given the probation, replied, "I don't have an understanding of anything. I don't know anything."

In New York, a secretary in the commissioner's office said Vincent was en route from Florida to spring baseball camps in Arizona.

The secretary said that Rich Levin, the commissioner's public relations aide, said, "There has not been a decision at this point. And when there is, the commissioner's office will release it."

Vincent indicated that Dykstra's punishment would be light during an informal news conference Saturday when he visited the Phillies' camp.

He said then that a person's attitude

helped determine baseball's action in such cases.

"Some people are resistant. They deny, argue that they didn't do it," he said.

"Other people tell you right away, 'I did something wrong, stupid. I'm sorry. I won't do it again.' Well, no system of justice is going to treat people the same. Each person takes a different handling."

It was obvious that Vincent was drawing a line between his action in expelling Pete Rose from baseball for gambling and what he planned to do in the Dykstra case.

Dykstra reported his action to the commissioner's office last summer, said he was sorry and that it wouldn't happen again, according to Giles.

Giles said last week that Vincent had dismissed Dykstra last summer with a warning.

But when Dykstra was asked by the U.S. Attorney's office to testify in the trial last week of Herbert Kelso in Oxford, Miss., the outfielder's gambling activities became public.

Vincent denied ever ruling on the Dykstra case and said it was an ongoing investigation.



Lenny Dykstra

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Tarkanian: UNLV not a sure shot in NCAA tourney

By ROBERT MACY
Associated Press Writer

LAS VEGAS — Having survived a close call against Georgetown, UNLV coach Jerry Tarkanian says there isn't a team left in the NCAA tournament that can't beat his defending national champions.

"I've said it all season — any team can beat us on a given night. There's no team left in the tournament that can't beat us," said Tarkanian, whose undefeated

Runnin' Rebels (31-0) held off the Hoyas 62-54 on Sunday to reach the round of 16.

"They're all going to be tough from here on in." The Rebels leave for Seattle on tomorrow for their Thursday night game against Utah. Arizona meets Seton Hall in the other West Regional semifinal.

Tarkanian has other worries, too. Center George Ackles, who suffered a sprained ankle in Friday's victory over Montana, played only 13 minutes against the Hoyas and had two points and one rebound. His status

for Thursday is uncertain, although he is expected to play. His replacement, 7-foot Elmore Spencer, scored only two points but blocked six shots.

"We didn't want to use him unless he was 100 percent and he wasn't," Tarkanian said of Ackles.

Ackles said he played with a lot of pain on Sunday.

"Hopefully, with a couple of days' rest and treatment at home, I'll be ready for Seattle," Ackles said.

"George has been our starting center all year and it hurts when he's not at full speed," Tarkanian said.

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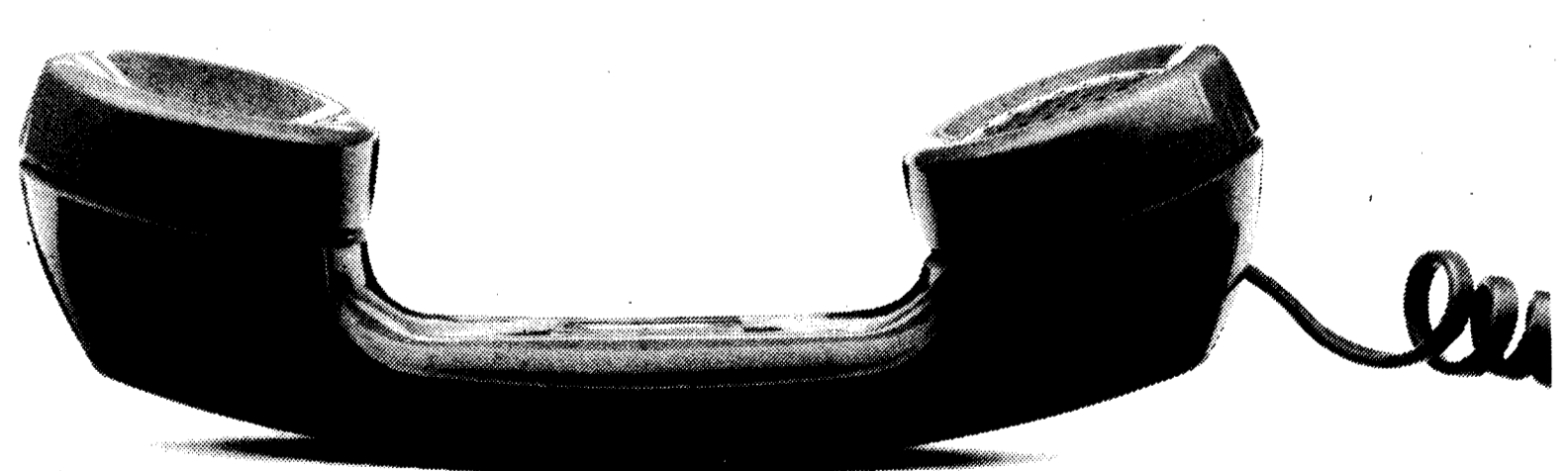
DATE	TOPIC	PLACE	TIME
3/18	Fat Content in Foods	HUB	10-2
	Body Fat Testine	HUB	12-2
	Body Image Program	Simmons Hall	8:30
3/19	Fat Content in Foods	HUB	10-2
	Body Fat Testine	HUB	12-2
3/20	Sugar Content in Foods	HUB	10-2
3/20	Nutrition & Exercise The Fitness Combination	HUB	7pm
3/21	Careers in Nutrition	HUB	10-2
3/22	Dietary Guidelines	HUB	10-2
3/28	Body Image Program	McEwan Hall	7:30
3/29	Nutrition Use-Go	HUB Outside	10-2

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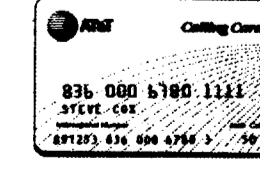
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