

Two Wizards suspended for season

By Brain Mahoney
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

NEW YORK — Washington Wizards teammates Gilbert Arenas and Javaris Crittenton were suspended without pay for the remainder of the season Wednesday by NBA commissioner David Stern, who said guns in the workplace "will not be tolerated."

NBA

Stern delivered the punishment after meeting with Arenas, turning his indefinite suspension into a suspension without pay.

Both players have admitted taking guns into the Wizards' locker room, a violation of the collective

bargaining agreement, following a dispute on a team flight.

Stern said the players expressed remorse but added, "nevertheless, there is no justification for their conduct."

"The issue here is not about the legal ownership and possession of guns, either in one's home or elsewhere," Stern said in a statement. "It is about possession of guns in the NBA workplace, which will not be tolerated."

Arenas, who is forfeiting about \$147,200 per game, had already

been suspended indefinitely this month. Crittenton, who met with Stern on Tuesday, will lose about \$13,435 per game.

Arenas pleaded guilty on Jan. 15 to a felony gun charge after an alleged confrontation with Crittenton in the Verizon Center. Arenas, who is scheduled to be sentenced March 26, is in the second season of a six-year, \$111 million contract.

He has asked the players' association not to contest the penalty, while Crittenton's plans are unclear. His agent, Mark

Bartelstein, told The Associated Press that "David Stern has done what he thinks is right for the league. We're going to look at it and talk about it with Javaris and the players' association."

The Wizards have 38 games left in a woeful season that was thrown into turmoil when news of the confrontation involving the guns broke on Christmas Eve. The team has distanced itself from Arenas since Stern indefinitely suspended him, removing his posters from the Verizon Center. Crittenton has been injured and wasn't playing, anyway.

The team said it supported Stern's ruling. "Their poor judgment has also

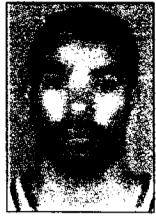
violated the trust of our fans and stands in contrast to everything [former owner] Abe Pollin stood for throughout his life," the Wizards said in a statement.

"It is widely known that Mr. Pollin took the extraordinary step of changing the team name from 'Bullets' to 'Wizards' in 1997 precisely to express his abhorrence of gun violence in our community. We hope that this negative situation can produce something positive by serving as a reminder that gun violence is a serious issue."

Piper Hall, a spokeswoman for Arenas' lawyer, wrote in an e-mail to The Associated Press that neither Arenas nor his lawyer, Ken Wainstein, would comment "at this time."



Arenas



Crittenton

Players preparing for altered Pro Bowl

By Steven Wine
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — Chad Ochocinco took a snap and tested his punting leg, then later tried out as TV commentator while his opponents practiced.

NFL

The NFC defense lined up with three No. 90s side by side — Julius Peppers, Darnell Dockett and Jay Ratliff.

Donovan McNabb pumped his fist in mock celebration when he completed a short pass to an unguarded receiver.

"Ah, that was awesome right there! Woo!" McNabb shouted.

The Pro Bowl's always a little different, even at practice. And this year's game is different from other Pro Bowls.

NFL all-stars held their first workouts Wednesday in preparation for Sunday's showcase, which has a new venue and a new place on the league calendar.

As a one-year experiment, the game has been moved to Miami from Honolulu, its home since 1980. And for the first time, it's being played the week before the Super Bowl instead of in its customary slot the week after the NFL's title game.

The switches paid off in ticket sales. The league expects a sellout, and the crowd of more than 70,000 will be the largest for a Pro Bowl since 1959 in Los Angeles.

One thing hasn't changed: Enthusiasm

for participating remains lukewarm. More than a dozen players turned down the chance to play, citing injury. In addition, the Colts and Saints won't be represented because they're preparing for next week's Super Bowl, also in Miami.

As a result, 31 of the 87 Pro Bowl players are replacing those selected earlier, and the defections keep coming. On Wednesday, Dolphins kicker Dan Carpenter replaced the Chargers' Nate Kaeding.

"We still have a lot of good players," the Packers' Aaron Rodgers said. "I don't think it waters down the game."

Rodgers is only quarterback playing among the six originally chosen. Peyton Manning and Drew Brees, who were selected to start, are preparing instead for the Super Bowl.

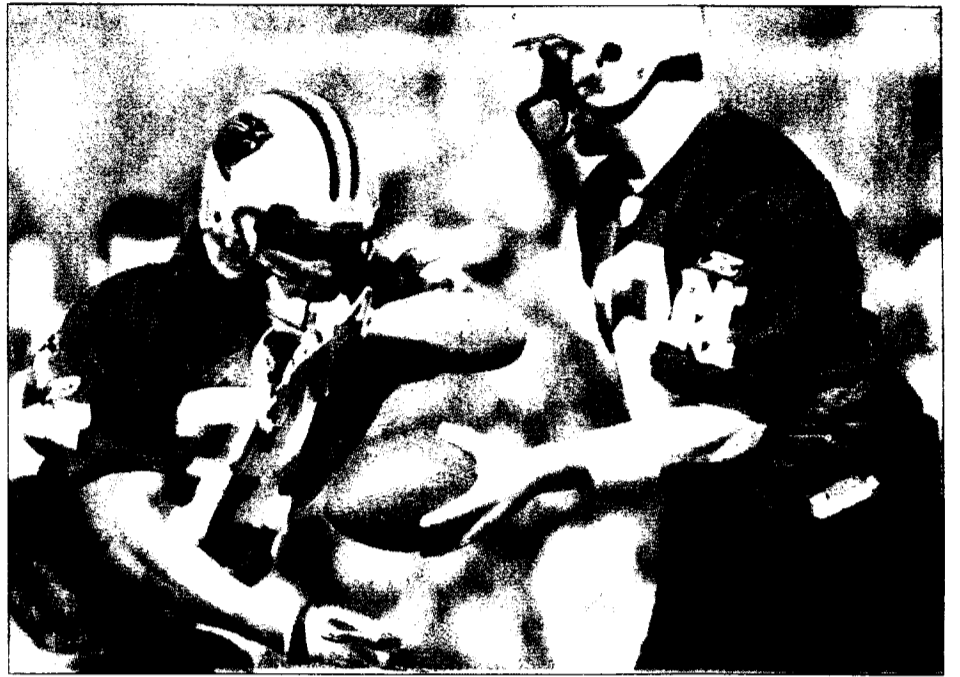
That's the drawback to scheduling the Pro Bowl as a lead-in to the title game.

"It's unfortunate it has to be before the Super Bowl," McNabb said. "It doesn't do any justice for the guys who are playing in the Super Bowl game. But all of us who are here would love to be playing next week."

Along with seven Colts and seven Saints, absent players include Tom Brady, Philip Rivers, Brett Favre, Steven Jackson, Sidney Rice and Brian Cushing.

That still leaves a lot of talent on hand, including Chris Johnson, Adrian Peterson, Andre Johnson, Antonio Gates, DeMarcus Ware and Ray Lewis.

It's old hat to Lewis, chosen for the 11th



Associated Press

Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers (right) hands off to the Panthers' DeAngelo Williams in practice Wednesday for the Pro Bowl. The game will be held in Miami this year the week before the Super Bowl, as opposed to its traditional location in Hawaii after the Super Bowl.

time, the most of any player in this year's game. He said he decided without hesitation to take part.

"I love it too much," Lewis said. "It's one of the greatest accomplishments you can have outside of the Super Bowl. Whether it's your first time or your 11th time, it's the same reward. You understand these times will never be again."

At the other end of the spectrum is Redskins linebacker London Fletcher, the league's most prolific tackler over the past decade. He made the Pro Bowl for the first

time as a replacement for the Saints' Jonathan Vilma.

"Once I knew I was going to the Pro Bowl, I was so excited about it," Fletcher said. "It has been a long time coming, but I'm here now."

Fletcher would have been just as happy playing in Honolulu, where the game will return in 2011 and 2012. The site for 2013 is undecided.

"It's a good idea to have it here in Miami," Ware said. "It's a little bit different."

Diamond Engagement Rings Are NOW ON SALE!
This Is Your Opportunity To BUY LOW From The BIGGEST SELECTION In Central PA At The BEST PRICES!

Round One Carat Diamond Solitaire Engagement Rings
As Low As \$100 A Month!

NO MONEY DOWN, THREE YEARS TO PAY* OR LAYAWAY!

kranich's
JEWELERS

Downtown State College 234.4481
Next To The Tavern Restaurant
Nittany Mall 234.0637
kranichs.com *Qualified Buyers

THE PAPER PLATE
Dining Guide powered by StateCollege.com

ORDER FOOD ONLINE
PSUCOLLEGIAN.COM
AND LINK TO OUR NEW DINING GUIDE!

DELIVERY TAKE OUT = DINE-IN

The Daily Collegian

LOVE LINES

Send a unique Valentine's Day message to someone special.
For more info e-mail mvcollegianad@gmail.com or call 814-865-2531

SPRING SPORTS PLANNER

<p>LADY LION BASKETBALL THE BJC PSU vs. Purdue THURSDAY, JAN. 28 AT 7:00PM</p>	<p>MEN'S GYMNASTICS REC HALL PSU vs. William & Mary SUNDAY, JAN. 31 AT 2:00PM</p>	<p>NITTANY LION BASKETBALL THE BJC PSU vs. Michigan State SATURDAY, FEB. 13 AT 12:00PM COACHES VS. CANCER GAME</p>
<p>PENN STATE TRACK & FIELD ASHENFELTER TRACK PENN STATE NATIONAL FRIDAY-SATURDAY, JAN. 29-30 ALL DAY</p>	<p>WOMEN'S GYMNASTICS REC HALL PSU vs. Minnesota & Alabama SATURDAY, JAN. 30 AT 7:00PM</p>	<p>WOMEN'S TENNIS SARNI TENNIS COMPLEX PSU vs. Akron FRIDAY, JAN. 29 AT 5:00PM</p>

FOR UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION ON ALL PENN STATE SPORTS VISIT: **GoPSUsports.com**