

Sporting View

Locker room should be a private place

by John Muser
The Collegian

With all of this serious stuff going on with women sportswriters being barred from men's locker rooms, it only seems fitting that I start by throwing a fiesty quiz question at you.

It looks as though the Pittsburgh Pirates not only have a Cy Young award winner on their club (What, you know anybody in the National League who's done better than Doug Drabek this year? Yeah, right.) and the league's MVP (Barry Bonds and/or Bobby Bonilla). Do you remember the last time this occurrence happened and who the players were? Answer later on.

- Why did the Pittsburgh Steeler stay in bed? Because somebody painted a goal line around his bed and he couldn't figure out how to get across it. (The words "Pittsburgh Steeler" can be interchanged with the words "Cleveland Brown".)

- While the previous was not a really good joke, neither was last week's hassle involving reporter Lisa Olson of the *Boston Herald* and several unidentified New England Patriots football players. In fact, it was no joke at all.

Olson was reportedly harassed by several players, and Patriots Owner Victor Kiam even called her, well, "a classic (so-and-so)".

But that wasn't the only incident that involved a woman reporter in the past week. Cincinnati Bengal's Coach Sam Wyche barred Denise Tom of *USA Today* from the Bengal's locker room. In fact, the coach was quoted as saying, "Sam Wyche was not letting a woman into the locker room with all his players naked."

Why have women sports reporters suddenly become the center of attention? There have been women in the sports media for many years now, and you would think that they would have gained acceptance. In fact, there was one in Wyche's locker room last week, but the Cincy coach claims he was unaware of her presence.

Well, while it's possible that Sammy might be snowing us a bit on that one, I believe that he may have a valid point about not having women in a locker room with naked men.

Sure, it's constitutional for a woman reporter to be in the locker room so that she has as much of a chance as her male counterparts to get the story. But at the same time, wouldn't you feel a little uncomfortable talking to a member of the opposite sex about how you just lost the big game while you're standing there in your jock strap? I think I would be, whether that person was male or female.

In other words, the locker room is a private place. Perhaps it is time that interviews should be done only in a press conference room (or just when the player is in public) like Joe Paterno does for his football team at University Park.

This solution may hinder reporters in doing their jobs, but it's the fairest way for both male and female reporters to get the story, as well as give the athletes some of their privacy back.

- By the way, as of Wednesday, the NFL had not yet announced their punishment for Wyche, other than a huge fine. This won't be the first time that the Bengal's coach has been fined for barring reporters from the locker room. Wyche was fined \$3,000 last year for barring all reporters from his team's locker room after a 24-17 loss to Seattle.

Maybe it's not the reporters Sam's barring out, but instead he's just embarrassed that he lost to a team with a silly bird on its helmets.

- I find it interesting that the Pirates clinched their first division title in 11 years on the same day as their last one (Sept. 30). I also find it interesting that their opponent in the League Championship Series happens to be the same as the one in '79 (the Cincy Reds). And, just like then, the first two games are being held in the Western division winner's ballpark.

Does this mean that the Pirates have to adopt a terrible disco song like the '79 team did with "We are Family" so they can win the LCS and then the World Series? If that's what it takes, I only have one thing to say: GO REDS.

- Speaking of the '79 Pirates, I wonder if they would have won the Series if they had adopted a quality song, like something by the Eagles or Rush.

- Quiz answer: In 1988, the Los Angeles Dodgers had the Cy Young award winner (Orel Hershiser) and the MVP winner (Kirk Gibson). The Dodgers went on to win the World Series in five games over the Oakland A's.

Judge clears ban on sports drug testing at Stanford

(CPS) A federal appeals court said the NCAA's program for testing athletes at member schools unconstitutionally infringes on students' privacy rights.

The program, first challenged in court by Stanford University athletes in 1988, unfairly punished athletes without necessarily proving they were abusing the drugs found in their systems.

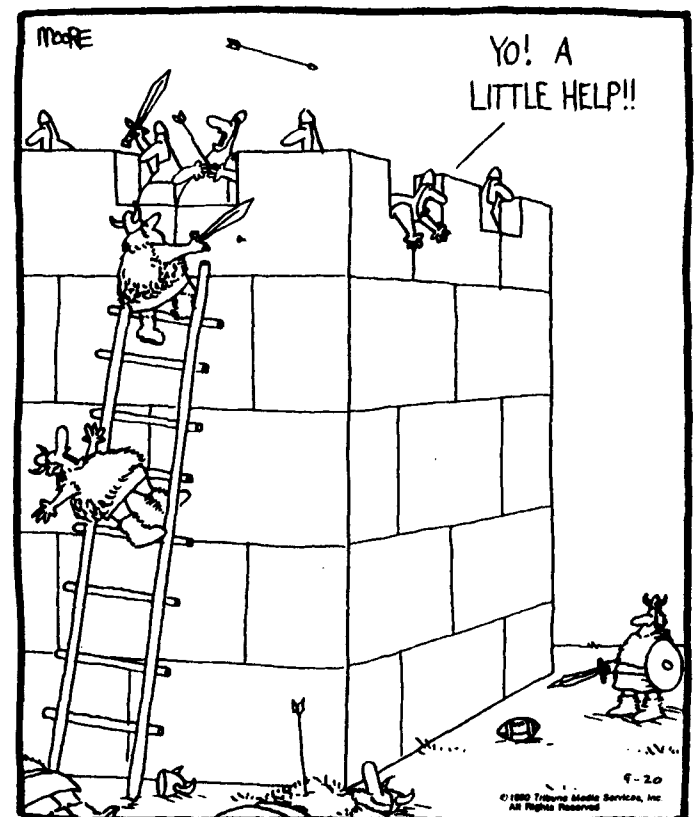
It also proscribed substances that are often found in birth control pills, Coca Cola and herbal tea, the 6th District Appellate Court ruled Sept. 25.



Stanford lawyer Debra Zumwalt said she hoped the ruling would convince the NCAA to change its program.

"Stanford is not against all drug testing. We want to make sure it's legal," said Zumwalt.

IN THE BLEACHERS

by Steve Moore



**MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL
&
LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES**

Begins October 4th at 8:07pm

wpse
am 1450

"The TALK of Erie"