

SPORTS

Lady Eagles' Beatty, Robinson Earn Conference Honors

HAMPTON, Va. — North Carolina Central University senior Tiona Beatty and head women's coach Joli Robinson have been awarded weekly honors from the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association.

Beatty (Queens, NY) was awarded CIAA Player of the Week after averaging 27.5 points per game, including 22-27 from the charity stripe in two victories for the Lady Eagles last week. The guard's top performance came on Jan. 29 in a 79-63 win over Virginia State when she handed the Lady Trojans 29 points en route to her second conference honor of the year.

At 21.2 ppg, Beatty is second in the league in scoring. She is also second in the conference in three-point field goals made (2.33 per game) and fourth in three-point percentage (.378).

Robinson was awarded the CIAA Coach of the Week after handing Winston-Salem State its first divisional loss of the season and extending the Lady Eagles win streak to four games, their longest in two seasons. With a 3-2 divisional record, NCCU is currently third in the CIAA West.

Baseball historians trying to determine whether William Edward White was first black player in major leagues

NEW YORK (AP) - Baseball historians are trying to determine whether William Edward White was the first black player in the major leagues.

White played one game for the Providence Greys of the National League on June 21, 1879, and the Society for American Baseball Research is researching his history.

The Wall Street Journal reported on the White case Friday.

Until now, it was generally accepted that the first two black players were catcher Moses Fleetwood Walker and his brother, Welday, an outfielder. Both played for the Toledo Blue Stockings of the American Association, then a major league, in 1884. After that, no black player appeared until Jackie Robinson with the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1947.

White attended Brown University, was born in 1860 and was the son of A.J. White of Milner, Ga., according to school records.

Peter Morris, a SABR researcher, got in contact with Civil War historian Bruce Allardice, according to the Journal, and Allardice found the only A.J. White in Milner in 1880 was Andrew J. White and that the 1880 census said his household included a 35-year-old mulatto woman, Hannah White.

Mark Arslan, a genealogist of the White family, told Allardice that the 1880 census reported A.J. White owned 70 slaves. Allardice and Arslan found that the 1870 census showed Hannah White was living with her mother and three children, including a 9-year-old mulatto boy, William White.

Morris found that A.J. White's will, in a courthouse in Zebulon, stated he left the balance of his estate to "William Edward White, Anna Nora White and Sarah Adelaide White, the children of my servant Hannah."

Jim Gates, library director of the Hall of Fame, has been aware of SABR's research on the project.

"We don't have a lot on William Edward White," he said. "Several SABR people had been through and indicated this was one of the people they were searching on, so we gave them all we had. Hopefully, they will continue to find more information."

Rockies shift focus to finding character to go with talent

By John Marshall

DENVER (AP) - There was a time when the Colorado Rockies valued talent well above character and baseball knowledge.

Not anymore.

After a few high-priced flops and plenty of losses, the Rockies have shifted their focus and money to players who can contribute in the clubhouse as much as they can with their arms or bats.

Talent is still important - no team can win without it - but the Rockies want a little substance to go with the skills.

"I know people don't want to hear this," general manager Dan O'Dowd said, "but we've learned from the past that having players without character doesn't mean anything, even if they have skill."

"I feel pretty good about the 25 we'll break with and the 32-35 we'll use," he said. "I don't think they'll be a guy in the group that doesn't measure up to our test of character through the course of the season."

It's an approach that made Colorado the league's busiest team in the offseason.

The Rockies signed 20 free agents, including infielder Mark Sweeney and right-handers Scott Elarton and Steve Reed, who were with the team last year. Colorado also traded for three others: second baseman Aaron Miles, left-hander Joe Kennedy and right-hander Allan Simpson.

But of those new players, 14 signed minor-league contracts and will have to earn their spots on the team. Reed, Elarton, lefty Alex Herrera, third baseman Vinny Castilla, outfielder Jeromy Burnitz and catcher Todd Greene were the only ones signed to big-league deals.

Many of the players, like shortstop Royce Clayton, left-hander Shawn Estes and Jeff Fassero, have struggled in recent seasons and are getting up in age, but the Rockies are hoping they can coax one or two more good years out of them.

Besides, the Rockies tried the big-name approach and it didn't work.

Colorado signed pitchers Denny Neagle and Mike Hampton to contracts totaling \$172 million in 2002, only to see them struggle in the altitude at Coors Field. Hampton lost the break on his sinker ball and his confidence before being shipped out in a trade before last season. Neagle struggled for two seasons before having reconstructive elbow surgery last year.

"We didn't sign Vladimir Guerrero or Greg Maddux or anyone like that, but we've been consistent with what we've been trying to find," O'Dowd said. "We want players who fit what we're trying to do, not what anyone else is trying to do."

Of Colorado's new players, Castilla has created the biggest buzz, particularly from Rockies fans.

He was a main cog during the team's heyday in the mid-1990s, when the Blake Street Bombers overpowered teams and turned Coors Field into the league's best home-field advantage.

Signing Castilla has brought some of that excitement back, but the Rockies aren't interested in nostalgia. They wanted him because he can still play - .277 with 22 home runs and 76 RBIs with Atlanta last season.

"We're bringing him back because I think Vinny, at 36, has kept himself in pretty good shape," owner Charlie Monfort said. "He hit 22 home runs last year, he knows Coors Field and he plays pretty darn good."



NCCU STUDENT-ATHLETES GIVE THE GIFT OF LIFE — On Wednesday, January 21, more than 30 NCCU student-athletes took part in the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Blood Drive at the Student Union.

The student-athletes volunteered their services, were tested for the sickle cell trait, were screened as a potential marrow donor, and/or gave blood. The strong showing by the student-athletes was due to the support of the NCCU Student-Athlete Advisory Council.

Kobe Bryant's Statements to Authorities at Heart of Hearing

By Jon Sarche

EAGLE, Colo. (AP) - When investigators questioned Kobe Bryant about his encounter with a Colorado resort worker last summer, they used a hidden tape recorder and never read him his rights.

What he told them may never be heard by a jury.

The Los Angeles Lakers star's recorded statements and physical evidence obtained by investigators during and after the 75-minute interview are at the heart of a two-day hearing in Eagle County District Court.

There also will be more closed-door legal battles over whether the 19-year-old alleged victim's medical history can be used against her.

CIAA Players of the Week - Men

January 31

PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Jonathan Harris — Elizabeth City State, SR, G/F, 6'4, 185, Charlotte. Harris averaged 22.6 points, 9 rebounds, 2.3 assists and 2 steals to lead the Vikings to a 2-1 record this week. In Elizabeth City's 80-74 upset victory over division leader Bowie State, Harris posted a double-double of 30 points and 10 rebounds to lead the Vikings.

ROOKIE OF THE WEEK

Audly Wehner-Winston-Salem State, FR, F, 6'5 215, Fayetteville. Wehner continues to make his case for conference Rookie of the Year honors, averaging 21 points, 5.5 rebounds and 2.5 assists for the Rams this week. In Winston-Salem's nationally televised (MBC) 75-68 win over Western Division leader North Carolina Central, Wehner led the Rams with 26 points, 5 rebounds, and 3 steals. This marks the fifth time that Wehner has earned ROW honors this season.

COACH OF THE WEEK

Shawn Walker- Elizabeth City State
Coach Walker led the Vikings to a 2-1 record this week. Elizabeth City State opened the week with an 80-74 upset of defending CIAA Champion Bowie State at the Vaughn Center, followed by an 84-54 win over Columbia Union. The Vikings closed the week with a tough 65-62 road loss at Shaw on Saturday, after trailing by as many as 18 points in the game.

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK - Women

January 31

PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Tiona Beatty- North Carolina Central University, SR, G, 5'5, Queens, N.Y.

Beatty, a Preseason All-CIAA selection, averaged 27.5 points a game to lead the Lady Eagles to wins over Virginia State and Western Division leading Winston-Salem State this week.

ROOKIE OF THE WEEK

Shalonda Carter-Winston-Salem State, FR, F, 6'0, Fayetteville. In two games this week Carter averaged a double-double of 19 points and 10 rebounds. In a win over Fayetteville State, Carter scored 20 points and added 12 rebounds to pace the Lady Rams. In Saturday/Es 68-54 loss to North Carolina Central, Carter led WSSU with 18 points and 8 rebounds.

COACH OF THE WEEK

Joli Robinson — North Carolina Central University.
Following Saturday's 68-54 win over division leader Winston-Salem State, Coach Robinson and the Lady Eagles...

IAAF Ready to Move on Jerome Young Case

By Stephen Wilson

LONDON (AP) - Track and field's world governing body is prepared to act swiftly to resolve U.S. sprinter Jerome Young's five-year-old doping case now that the American federation has finally agreed to cooperate.

At stake are the gold medals won by Young and the rest of the U.S. 1,600-meter relay (4x400) team, including Michael Johnson, at the 2000 Sydney Olympics.

Young tested positive for steroids in 1999 but was exonerated on appeal, avoiding a two-year ban which would have kept him out of the Olympics.

After years of refusing to provide details on the case, USA Track & Field officials acknowledged for the first time Sunday that Young was the athlete in question and agreed to hand over key documents.

The move clears the way for the International Association of Athletics Federations to challenge the appeals ruling in arbitration.

"This is great news," IAAF spokesman Nick Davies said. "The Jerome Young affair has been festering for too long and the sooner we end it the better."

International Olympic Committee spokeswoman Giselle Davies said the IOC welcomed the development as "the next step in the process to resolve this issue." She said the case remains in the hands of IAAF and U.S. officials for now.

The IAAF was already planning to take the case to the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne, Switzerland, on grounds that Young did commit a doping offense and should have been banned for two years.

But the IAAF only had the redacted documents in which Young's name was blacked out. Now, with USATF supplying the complete files, the IAAF has all the material it needs to proceed, possibly this week.

"The fact that Young is the athlete is not new to us, but it was vital for us to know the material we have is indeed related to the case and to him," IAAF vice president and anti-doping chief Arne Ljungqvist told The Associated Press. "They have understood - finally - the importance of giving us the necessary information."

Ljungqvist said the case will be examined by the IAAF's doping review board. If the panel determines Young was improperly cleared, the matter will then go to the arbitration court for a final, binding verdict.

If the arbitrators find Young was guilty of a doping offense and should have been ineligible for the Sydney Games, the IAAF and IOC will consider whether to strip Young and his relay teammates of the gold medals.

Ljungqvist said both sides will push to close the case before the Aug. 13-29 Athens Olympics.

Young, the current world 400-meter champion, ran in the opening heat and semifinal round of the Sydney relay. He has said he never committed a doping offense.

Ljungqvist said he wouldn't speculate on whether Young or the whole team could lose the medal, adding the issue needs to be clarified by the IAAF council.

Johnson, who ran the anchor leg for his fifth and final Olympic gold medal, has said he shouldn't have to give his medal back.

According to U.S. documents cited by Ljungqvist, Young tested positive for nandrolone on June 26, 1999. USATF found him guilty of a doping violation in April 2000, but a three-man appeals board cleared him by a 2-1 verdict on July 10, 2000.

Ljungqvist said the exoneration was based, at least in part, on the fact that Young passed drug tests two weeks before and six days after the positive finding. Such a defense has been ridiculed by international officials.