

Rampant Rumors Give Way to The Conspiracy Theory

Serge Zwicker is transferring to UCLA. At least that's the latest rumor floating around about the Tar Heel hoops squad.

This dandy of a fairy tale was started by the UNC skipper himself when he was asked by the News & Observer to comment about the latest Jeff McInnis rumor (in case you missed it, the Internet says that McInnis will give up his starting point guard position at UNC to transfer to either South Carolina, Florida or Michigan. McInnis denies it.)

Dean Smith was just trying to make a point when he said the 7-foot-2 Dutchman would leave Tar Heel-land because he is in love with actress Sharon Stone. After all, the McInnis rumor closely followed the story that former-UNC-soph-turned-NBA-draftee Jerry Stackhouse sent a letter to the Los Angeles Clippers telling the execs that he'd return to school if the Clippers picked him (that's real believable — considering he'd lose millions of dollars, and the Clippers would still have the rights to him).

But Smith may have really started something here — call it The Conspiracy Theory.

Stackhouse has left. Rasheed Wallace has left.

And now, the rest of the team wants out.

McInnis is just the beginning of the plan. Not only is he leaving, but he talked Zwicker into leaving, too.

But, as the theory goes, while their big man and point guy settle for the collegiate atmosphere, the rest of the '94-'95 squad is set to follow their sophomore leaders into various professional arenas:

■ The Pro Linguini Chef — Dante Calabria. The would-be Tar Heel senior is set to replace the Love Chef on pay-per-view, as he believes his various ankle injuries will keep him out of the shoe endorsement circle. There was some thought that he'd endorse a "Dante's Inferno" line of hair gel on the infomercial circuit, but Cher



ROBBI PICKERAL OUT OF BOUNDS

personally called him with a warning — Lori Davis (and her beauty products line) is queen!

Some say he'll continue to play a little ball on the side; others believe that pasta will become his life's obsession.

■ The Pro Wanderer — Ryan Sullivan. The media guide says Sullivan wants to be successful at anything he does, and rumor has it he'll try 'anything' by following older brother Pat overseas in an attempt to perfect the 'European' foul.

Eventually, some say, the brothers Sullivan will cut a new version of "One Shining Moment" for CBS.

■ The Pro Rudy — Charlie McNairy. That's right, this Opie look-alike is headed for the big screen. But instead of playing a short guy trying to tackle for the Fighting Irish, he'll play a budding hoops star — like Jimmy Chickwood in "Hoosiers."

■ The Pro Pianist — Ed Geth.

■ The Pro Percussionist — Shammond Williams.

It's a little-known fact (except to avid media guide readers) that Geth took piano lessons for six years, and Williams made all-state band in percussion for five years.

Neither wanted to go pro so early, but rumors that the Geth-o-Meter was at its shattering point and that Williams was actually a 12-year-old in disguise were just too much.

The rumor is that they want to join former teammate Wallace in cutting a rap single called "Chopsticks." Williams will be on the drums, obviously, and Geth will do a little tickling of the ivories. The big draw, however, will be a haunting background chant of "Ed! Ed! Ed!"

■ The Pro Counselor — Clyde Lynn. The sociology major is leaving the team so that he can charge his former teammates big bucks while counseling them about their decisions to give up their hoop dreams.

Many say he's the instigator of The Conspiracy Theory.

■ The Pro Math Teacher — David Neal. Rumor has it Neal is set to be a special consultant to the ACC should the league ever let in Prop 41 athletes. His professional mission? Teach would-be ACC hoops stars how to get a 350 on the math portion of the SAT.

■ The Pro Football Player — Octavus Barnes. Let's face it, he does more on the

McInnis Squelches Transfer Talk

Jeff McInnis isn't going anywhere. North Carolina's starting point guard denied rumors again last weekend that he was leaving the Tar Heel basketball program.

"I've heard the talk, and I have no idea how it all got started," the rising junior told The Chapel Hill News. "I guess some people are just into spreading gossip and causing trouble."

"I'll be here at North Carolina next year. The rumors... don't mean a thing." Triangle newspapers began printing rumors last week that McInnis would transfer to South Carolina, Michigan or Florida, and the Internet and sports talk shows spread the stories even farther.

Some gossip said McInnis would leave because his best friend, Jerry Stackhouse,

was turning pro. Others cited "personal reasons."

UNC coach Dean Smith refused to give credence to the stories, but also came up with a dandy of his own.

"I heard Serge Zwicker is transferring to UCLA because he's in love with (actress) Sharon Stone," he told The News & Observer. "Now that's not true, of course. But something like that could get out as fast as this one."

Zwicker. A dandy of a tale, and quite a rumor.

Question? Comment? E-mail Robbi Pickeral at rpickeral@email.unc.edu.



JEFF MCINNIS denied gossip that he would leave UNC.

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