

Against Punishment

Last week both Wake Forest and Virginia Tech lost their first round games--Wake in the NIT and Tech in the NCAA--for the same reason. Their star players were suspended.

Kenny Green of Wake Forest was suspended for the whole game, while Perry Young of Virginia Tech was suspended for part of a game. Both were suspended for the same reason--missing a practice.

It surprises me that neither coach was heavily criticized for his action. In fact, most people, including the presumably intelligent faculty representatives and school administrators seem to nod their silent approval to these actions.

No one that I have heard has come out in a rage against these actions. Are they sleeping?

I respect Carl Tacy as a coach and as a person, and the same is true of Virginia Tech coach Charley Moir. But I don't respect their punishments at all.

Punishments could and should be a lot more intelligent and creative. Don't you suspect that they suspended their players for a game because that's what their coach did when they played, or that's what some other coach did in the past?

Admittedly, it has been something of a tradition in the coaching ranks to suspend players from games for things like missing practices. But if that was ever smart, it certainly doesn't seem like it now.

Let's look at the whole picture. Both teams were in post-season play, that special time of year when a win can mean 100,000 extra dollars going to the athletic department. From a purely financial viewpoint then, it is important to be at full strength for post-season games.

Furthermore, from the standpoint of the coach and the team, the suspension makes no sense. Why hurt everyone just because a guy missed one practice? Do you have any sense of how much practice time goes into each game? When you take into account pre-season practice and off-season workouts and running and weight-lifting programs and film-watching and scouting reports, you figure to put in about an hour of work for each minute of a game. In other words, game time is too precious a commodity to equate it, one for one, with practice time.

But let me go a step further.

I don't think a player should either be thrown off the team



Sponsored By Wade Ford
ACC INSIDE STUFF
Dick DeVenzio

entirely--if his infraction is bad enough--or a more creative punishment should be found for his infraction.

A punishment should be found which hurts only the violator, not the team, the coach, and the university.

In the case of Green or Young, why not make them attend study halls throughout April? Why not make them get up at six in the morning to run miles or lift weights or read books?

If you don't like my suggestions, make up your own. But surely you can see that something more creative, something more carefully directed, would be much more useful than one game or partial-game suspensions.

Where are the faculty reps when we need them? They always seem so quick to put in their two cents when there is an abuse of some sort. But where are they when its time to come up with a creative suggestion so that a kid can be punished, the team can stay together, and the university can pick up another hundred grand?

Doesn't it seem strange to you that Green and Young will be at their respective teams' post-season banquets later this year, full members of their teams, absorbing praise for their efforts, in Green's case looking forward to next year?

I remember a few years back when Dean Smith punished a kid for a curfew violation during the NCAA tournament by keeping him home from a tournament in Hawaii the following Christmas. THAT makes sense.

I just can't understand a one game or partial-game suspension during post-season play. The more I think of it, the more absurd those suspensions become. Seems like a case of misplaced priorities all the way around.

KMHS Golfers Third

Kings Mountain High's Paul Hendricks was golfer finished third in a medalist for the Mountaineers with an 88. Steve Plonk shot 90, Eric Hicks 91 and Brian Wells 94.

Host East Rutherford won the event with a 329 total, followed by Burns with 362 and KM with 373.

The Mounties travel to Mt. Holly Thursday to face East Gaston and North Gaston.

\$300 DOWN PAYMENT YOUR CHOICE \$2495

\$99¹⁴ Per Month

Limited Warranty Available At Small Additional Charge

- 80 PINTO
2-Door, Automatic transmission, power steering, power brakes, white sidewall tires. Nice local car, 40,000 miles.
- 80 DODGE OMNI 4-DOOR
Two tone black and silver, black interior, 4 cylinder, 4 speed.
- 80 MERCURY ZEPHER Z-7
White, red vinyl interior, 4 cylinder, 4 speed transmission, AM/FM radio, road wheels, white sidewall tires, nice car, only 55,000 miles.
- 80 FORD GRANADA
2-Door, Yellow with tan interior, 6 cylinder, automatic transmission, power steering and brakes, real nice car!
- 80 CITATION 2-DOOR
Red with red vinyl interior, 4 cylinder, 4 speed, air condition, power steering, power brakes, AM/FM radio, raised white letter tires, deluxe wheels. Extra nice car.

Based On A Selling Price Of	\$2495
With A Down Payment Of	\$300
30 Monthly Payments Of	\$99.14
Total Of Payments	\$2973.90
Deferred Payment Price	\$3,373.90
APR 21%	

Hurry! Offer Good One Week Only

Phone 739-4743

WADE FORD

Highway 74, Kings Mt., N.C.

Cry-Baby Or Not, Sloan Has A Point

Former N.C. State Coach Norm Sloan may or may not be a cry-baby--depending on your point of view--but his criticism of the NCAA tournament selections is valid. Sloan's Florida Gators did deserve to make the tournament--certainly more than Kentucky, which the Gators beat twice ... I must have been asleep for years not to know that Arnold Palmer is deaf in one ear and that Jack Nicklaus is color-blind. I didn't even know that Tom Kite has hyperhidrosis (sweaty palms).

Some Great Ones Left Off

You've gotta wonder about All-American selections. The A.P. picked 156 on its first three teams or as honorable mention. Omitted were Kenny Smith of UNC, Delaney Rudd and Kenny Green of Wake Forest, Bruce Dalrymple and John Salley of Tech, Adrian Branch of Maryland and Mark Alarie of Duke. Two North Carolina A&T players were selected, but the entire ACC placed only 5. Do you believe that of the 156 best players in America, only 5 play in the ACC? ... **Some doubt** that Jeff Mullins, UNCC's new coach, can "return" to basketball after such a long absence. I don't. He's a class guy who knows how to win.

Football At The Speedway?

If Bruton Smith and Humpy Wheeler can adapt the Charlotte Motor Speedway to seat up to 75,000 for football and other events, they oughtta qualify for sainthood. But if anybody can, they can ... **I'd like to see** the state legislature reduce the authority of Clemson's Board of Trustees and invest it in the new President. Unless this happens, I wonder if Clemson can get its house in order and put athletics in proper perspective ... **After Bobby Knight** was benched for throwing a chair, assistant coach Jim Crews told his club: "It's like someone golfing without his best club".

A Startling Statistic

Of the 13 men in baseball history who've hit 500 or more home runs, nine played all or most of their careers after 1950. Only 3 are "old-timers"--Babe Ruth, Jimmy Foxx and Mel Ott. Ted Williams spanned the two groups and may be the best of the bunch. He hit .406 in 1941, and 16 years later--in 1957--batted .388. What would this man have accomplished had he not missed 3 seasons in WWII and been recalled to duty during Korea? ... **Two things** will "make" my baseball season this year--for Phil Niekro to win his 300th game (he needs 16 victories) and for Pete Rose to break Ty Cobb's all-time hit record (he needs 95 hits).

Sometimes, They Get Away

Xavier McDaniel and Tyrone Corbin played together at Columbia's A.C. Flora High. Both "got away"--McDaniel to Wichita State and Corbin to DePaul. Either Clemson or South Carolina could have used these super young men. Xavier's a first-term All-American ... **N.C. State** won't pull a miracle and win the NCAA title as they did 2 years ago, but with Chris Washburn playing, they'd be capable ... **Great line:** Tommy Heinsohn, after seeing a life-sized statue of Red Auerbach, said: "...it's out of proportion. The head's not big enough".



PAUL CAMERON
WBTV Sports Director

(Editor's note: Paul Cameron can be seen during the 6 pm and 11 pm newscasts on Channel 3.)

KM Cagers Are Third In Tourney

Kings Mountain Boys Club finished fifth in a tough 16-team Blue Bell Invitational Basketball Tournament last weekend in Greensboro.

Some of the top Boys Clubs teams from the Carolinas, Virginia, and West Virginia competed in the event.

Kings Mountain defeated Ridgeway, Va. 48-42, Lewis, N.C. 46-32, and Beckley, W. Va., 36-35, before falling to Fieldvale, Va. 51-39.

Darius Ross scored 22 points, Daren Hager 10 and Ronnie Carroll 8 to lead the opening victory over Ridgeway.

Kings Mountain overcame a 15-point deficit to defeat Lewis. Ross had 22 points and Carroll and Hager added eight each.

Kings Mountain overcame a seven-point deficit with 22 seconds left to defeat Beckley on a last-second shot by Ross, who led all scorers with 24 points. Carroll and Ben Brown added six each.

Ross scored 20 points, Hager eight and Ryan Hollifield six in the loss to Fieldvale, which went on to finish third behind Charlotte and Martinsville, Va. Huntington, Va., finished fourth.

Members of the Kings Mountain team were Darius Ross, Ryan Hollifield, Tony Currence, Ronnie Carroll, Daren Hager, Spencer Brown, Daniel Honeycutt, Shedrick Byrd, Reggie Gamble, Jermain McCluney, Andy Hollifield and Jermain Littlejohn.

Kings Mountain's 14-15 year old AAU team will participate in a tournament at West Charlotte this weekend.

THE BEST FOR LESS

CREDIT TERMS AVAILABLE WITH APPROVED CREDIT

RCA Model FJR423
\$299

RCA 19" diagonal Color TV

RCA

SAVE \$\$\$\$

SALE

SAVE \$\$\$\$

GJR-640P
Electronic Tuning
\$479

RCA Model EJR305
\$249

RCA 13" diagonal

CKC-019
Auto Focus
\$695

Color Video Camera

GJR-655LR
Remote
\$579

RCA Model VJT275
ONLY \$449

Remote Control
14 Day - 4 Event Programmer

RCA Model FJR484R
19" diagonal
\$399

TIMMS furniture

909 GROVER ROAD
KINGS MOUNTAIN, N. C. 28086
PHONE 739-5656

Satellite Antenna Systems
Sales And Installation

BRIDGES ENTERPRISES

Kevin Bridges
(704) 739-3064 After 6 P.M.
Rt. 4 Box 415
Kings Mountain, N.C.