

Recent suspensions give NCAA black eye

BRYAN JOHNSTON SCRUM DOWN

Black Eye

Wednesday, Boston College suspended 13 players for their involvement in gambling on college and pro football games, as well as the World Series.

Two were suspended for betting on their game against nationally ranked Syracuse.

Think anyone on the team will take the Eagles against 19-ranked Notre Dame?

Black Eye II

Virginia Tech announced Wednesday that seven football players are being indicted for their involvement in beating up a track player in front of their student union.

The Hokies are new to the Big East in football, so they must have thought

the Big East's slogan "Beast of the East" was to be taken literally.

Let's hope Carolina does not run into any of these problems anytime soon.

Be Like Wilt?

Chicago Bull superstar Michael Jordan lit Miami Wednesday night for 50 points.

It was the 29th time M. J. scored at least 50 points.

But that's not the record. Wilt Chamberlain scored 50-plus an amazing 133 times.

Ironic

A Clemson football player has a name that just has Clemson football written all over it.

His name? Kenya Crooks.

Talk about consistency

The Virginia Cavaliers have been ranked in the top 25 college football poll

for 38 straight weeks.

The Gamecocks would be thankful to be listed under the Also Receiving Votes just once.

Who?

The Clemson Tigers lost to Marathon Oil, 87-81, in an exhibition game.

Do they really think they have a chance against defending national champion Kentucky in their opening game?

Tyson/Holyfield

Mark my words: The Tyson/Holyfield fight Saturday, which would've been a great fight five years ago, will go more than five rounds.

Yeah right, you say?

With the new, pay-per-view package, which costs \$9.95 per round with a maximum of \$49.95, set up by Don King. If the fight goes less than five rounds, King loses a lot of money.

Hmmmm!

A Very Important Game

That's what this year's USC/Clemson football game will be if USC enters at 5-5, and the Tigers come in at 6-4.

A team needs six Division-A victories to be eligible for a bowl.

Clemson will only have five wins because the Furman victory doesn't count. Basically, its winner goes to a bowl; its loser goes home just like the 1994 game the Gamecocks won.

Take That Bowl Alliance

If Florida State beats Florida, then more than likely, two 10-1 teams (FSU and Nebraska) will meet for the "National Championship" in the Sugar Bowl.

But who claims the title if undefeated Arizona State and Ohio State play in the Rose Bowl that isn't in the Bowl Alliance?

Hypothetically, if Nebraska beats the Seminoles finishing 12-1 and claim the title, an undefeated team could finish

number two.

Can you say playoff system?

Thanks Peyton

Carolina owes Tennessee QB Peyton Manning a big "thank you."

You see, Manning only needs 74 yards to break UT's all-time, passing record.

That record could easily have been broken last week, and USC would've been linked to the record books for a long time.

Prediction Time

With USC having the week off, I've had time to look at other games. Here are my predictions:

USC 47 Bye week 3: Carolina gets a chance to play all of their players.

Florida 57 Vandy 7: Gators run up the score in covering the spread.

LSU 14 Alabama 11: Low-scoring game with the winner likely SEC West champion.

Virginia 24 Clemson 16: Cavs stymie

Tigers' bowl hopes.

North Carolina 29 Louisville 6: Great basketball match up, but this is football.

Did You Know...

The heaviest wrestler, ever, weighed 802 pounds and wrestled professionally as Happy Humphrey.

And Finally...

A humongous congratulation goes out to two USC, female athletes.

Dawn Ellerbe was named a finalist for the Jesse Owens Award, presented annually by the USTFA to the nation's outstanding athletics performers of the year.

Senior, soccer player Debbie Smith ended her career at USC on a high note when she was named to the first-team All-SEC team. She is the first Lady Gamecocks ever to make the squad. Way to go, ladies!

USC BRIEFS From Staff and Wire Reports

Women's soccer

Senior Debbie Smith was named to the first-team, All-SEC soccer team Wednesday.

The team, chosen by the 12 coaches in the league, was announced at the kick-off banquet for the 1996 SEC Women's Soccer Tournament.

The Benfleet, England native finished the 1996 season second on the team scoring 25 points on nine goals and seven assists.

Smith ends her career as Carolina's all-time leader in points scored (49), goals scored (19) and assists (11).

Academic Honors

USC placed eight players on the SEC Academic Honor Roll as announced by Commissioner Roy Kramer Wednesday.

The eight players named were sophomores Pam Abrams, Sarah Brown, Emily Crair, Nikki Garzon, Linda Greene (academically), Perry Moniuszko and seniors Kim Doiron and Amy Lindner.

Football

South Carolina's football game at No. 1 ranked Florida Nov. 16 in

Gainesville will be televised by Jefferson Pilot-Sports and carried across the SEC network.

Also, the game will be televised on ESPN2 outside the nine-state SEC viewing area.

Kickoff will be 12:30 p.m. instead of the original 1 p.m. time at Florida Field.

Track Honors

Senior Dawn Ellerbe was named Wednesday to as a finalist for the Jesse Owens Award, presented annually by the USTFA to the nation's outstanding athletics performers of the year.

Ellerbe, a two-time NCAA champion

this year, won two USATF nation titles with the 20-pound weight and the hammer.

She has the unofficial world record in the 20-pound weight and the American record in the hammer at 209'-8".

As a finalist, Ellerbe is included in an elite group - Gail Devers, Jackie Joyner-Kersey, Anne Marie Lauck, Gwen Torrence and Kim Batten. Ellerbe is the only collegiate on the list and the youngest finalist (22).

Team Gamecocks

"Team Gamecocks," the USC student-athlete public service program, will

participate in a community service project today called "The Exxon Kids & College Program."

The objectives of the program are to provide middle school students with a college campus experience and help motivate these young people to set goals and begin preparation for college. For further information, contact Kris Kordonowy at 777-9332.

Basketball Honors

The Basketball Hall of Fame announced Tuesday its 15 nominees for election. Among them are former Carolina stand-out Alex English.

The leading scorer in the NBA in the 1980's (19,682), English established himself as one of the league's most respected and well-rounded players during a sensational, 15-year professional career.

Before his NBA career, English set all-time scoring records at Dreher High School and at the University of South Carolina (1,972 points).

Under the guidance of legendary coach Frank McGuire, English flourished at USC. He remains the only player in school history to start every game and is only one of five players to score 1,000 points and grab 1,000 rebounds.

Tiger Woods starts pro career with two tour victories

COLLEGE PRESS EXCHANGE

Tiger Woods is not shy about his image as a pioneer.

The 20-year-old, who left Stanford University for the Pro Golfers Association Tour earlier this fall, not only has opened the golfing door for African-Americans and other minorities, but he has brought a new sense of "cool" to the game.

Woods' mother is Thai and his father is African-American, making him one of only a handful of pro golfers to break the color barrier. It is a distinction from which he has not hidden.

"There are still courses in the United States that I am not allowed to play

because of the color of my skin," read the first print ad Woods did for Nike. "I've heard I'm not ready for you. Are you ready for me?"

Already, many black scholars are heralding Woods as an agent of change for the game.

"To see a young, black man competing and winning on the very golf courses black men aren't allowed to play on will provide a necessary awakening for blacks and whites alike," said Dr. Roland White, a history professor at the University of Georgia. "It will shock a lot of golfers and viewers into a new perception of reality of the black athlete."

Merle Marting, spokesperson for

Nike's golf division, said Woods is committed to bringing more minorities to the game. "The ads are a way of documenting Woods as a pioneer," Marting said. "That's what he is, and he refuses to shy away from it."

Woods turned pro Aug. 27 after winning his third consecutive U.S. Amateur Championship. Since that time, Woods has played in eight PGA Tour events. He won two, finished third twice and fifth twice, raking in \$734,794.

Woods' impact on his sport already is being felt on golf courses, especially those on or near college campuses.

"All of a sudden, there is a ton of people out there golfing," said Alan

Mitchell, a junior at Illinois State University. "You would think people just discovered it on TV or something."

Mitchell and other college golfers say Woods may have brought people back to the course, but that doesn't mean there weren't more than enough golfers there already.

"If you think about it, college is probably the best time to play golf because of your schedule, so there are already a lot of students who golf," Mitchell said. "People catch on their freshman year that it's a good time and a good game. Mitchell said the university-run course at ISU has always been crowded. It's just that now "people are out there who

have no idea what they're doing."

That's exactly what's happening at North Carolina State University, says Terry Lindberg, a graduate student who works at one of the many surrounding golf courses.

"People see Tiger Woods and they think, 'Hey, that's a cool game,'" says Lindberg. "Then they hear about the money he's making and they think, 'Hey, that's good money. I bet I could do that.' It's doubtful.

Woods signed a \$40 million deal with Nike the day he turned pro. Add that to other advertising deals and his money from the tour, and few golfers—and professional athletes—will be making

Woods' kind of money.

But it could help you make money in other ways, says Brian DesBiens, a sales representative for Simmons Company.

"The golf course is where you build business relationships," says DesBiens, a 10 handicap. "It's where you solidify and strengthen them."

Whether or not people follow Woods' lead to help them make more money remains to be seen. But at the very least, it is nice to have a new role model, says Lindberg.

"Tiger is fun to watch," he says. "He does things I thought no one could do. He's like the Michael Jordan of golf."

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