

# Iowa coach says he made 'poor decisions' at party

**DES MOINES, IOWA (AP)** — Iowa State basketball coach Larry Eustachy said drinking was a factor in his behavior at a student party in Missouri, where he was photographed holding a beer can and kissing female students on the cheek.

"I am certainly aware of the role drinking has played in my behavior. I am addressing this matter," Eustachy said in a statement issued Monday by Des Moines lawyer Jerry Crawford.

Crawford would not comment when asked if that meant Eustachy would seek counseling.

Eustachy was photographed at a party in a Columbia, Mo., apartment during the early morning hours of Jan. 22, after the Cyclones lost at Missouri.

The photos show Eustachy embracing and kissing women on the

cheek or being kissed on the cheek. The Des Moines Register ran the photos to accompany a story that appeared Monday.

The Register also quoted Kansas State students describing Eustachy's actions at a fraternity party in Manhattan, Kan., after the Cyclones lost at Kansas State in January 2002.

Iowa State administrators were looking at possible disciplinary action against Eustachy, who met with athletic director Bruce Van De Velde and university President Gregory Geoffroy after learning the Register had copies of the photos.

Van De Velde refused to say what kind of punishment was being considered.

Eustachy said he regretted his actions.

"I want the people of Iowa and the fans of our program throughout the nation to know how sorry I am to have disappointed them with some poor decisions I have made," Eustachy said in his statement.

"But words are cheap at a time like this and I hope to be measured by my future conduct."

Asked if dismissal was possible, Van De Velde replied: "We're still reviewing the situation. I have to visit with the president. We'll make that decision down the road."

Married since 1987, Eustachy and his wife, Stacy, have two sons — Hayden, 10, and Evan, 8.

"I'm sure that he is very embarrassed, as he should be," Gov. Tom Vilsack said. "I'm sure he feels he has let a lot of people down and he has. He's going to have to

deal with that."

Vilsack said children tend to look up to people in public positions such as Eustachy, who makes \$1 million a year and is Iowa's highest paid public employee.

The photos of Eustachy were taken by Sean Devereaux, who is a junior at Missouri and lives at the apartment where the party took place.

Devereaux told the Register that Eustachy arrived between 1:30 and 2 a.m. with Missouri player Josh Kroenke. Van De Velde said Eustachy is a friend of Kroenke's father, Stan.

The Register quoted Devereaux as saying Eustachy drank beer, became belligerent with a partygoer who objected to his presence, made disparaging remarks about his team and left the party be-

tween 4:30 and 5:30 a.m. after residents of the apartment called a cab for him.

"He was here and acted very uncoachlike," Devereaux told the newspaper. "I didn't think personally he could hang that long, being an old man."

Devereaux said he took the photos because he wanted to show that Eustachy had been at his party. He mailed negatives to the Register in mid-March, telling the newspaper he made them public because he was bothered by Eustachy's behavior.

"Visiting with Coach Eustachy, I think he sincerely regrets his action and the harm he caused the university," Van De Velde said. "I think he understands he has some challenges and some deficiencies that he needs to address."

A Kansas State student, Nicole Wenger, said Eustachy showed up at the Kappa Sigma fraternity house hours after the Cyclones lost to Kansas State on Jan. 19, 2002.

Wenger was quoted as saying Eustachy complimented her on her looks and asked where she was from. She replied she was from Lawrence, Kan.

"He was like, 'What are you doing here? Why aren't you going to KU? The girls down there are much hotter. You belong there,'" Wenger told the Register.

Eustachy does not like to fly and usually drives to games while the team goes by chartered airplane. The team returns home immediately after the game. Eustachy often does not drive back until the next day.

## BRIEFLY

### 8 football players sign as free agents

After the 2003 NFL draft, USC had eight players signed by NFL teams as rookie free agents.

Dennis Quinn and Watts Sanderson were both signed by the Arizona Cardinals, while Shaun Smith and Jonathan Martin signed contracts with the Dallas Cowboys.

Shane Hall signed with Seattle, Rashad Faison signed with the Pittsburgh Steelers, James Adkisson signed with the Bengals and Ryan Brewer agreed to terms with the Baltimore Ravens.

## Seniors

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forts.

"They would go and fund raise, make the money for me to be able to go on the trips and be able to compete at the level I competed at. I think they put in more time than we did," Fittro said.

Troesh said: "My parents have been such influences on me. I can't believe the stuff that my parents did for me. They'll go everywhere we go in the post-season. I wouldn't be where I am if it weren't for them."

While they come from different backgrounds, Quinones,

Troesh and Fittro can all agree on some things, namely that winning the SEC Tournament championship in 2000 was one of their greatest memories at USC. They also wish they could have brought to USC the nice weather Southern California offers.

But even more so, they agree they've met friends at USC and plan to keep in touch with them following graduation. It's been quite an experience for these California natives, who may well go down as some of the best to wear a Carolina softball uniform.

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## Rothenberg

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his first victory as USC head coach. Nothing could be finer at Carolina that night.

**2. JUNE 19 AND 21, 2002** — USC beats Clemson twice at the College World Series. Once is good, but twice is nice, especially when it comes against your archenemy. On the brink of elimination, the Gamecocks sent the Tigers packing with great pitching performances from Matt Campbell and Steven Bondurant. Carolina advanced to its first title game in 15 years.

**1. JUNE 1, 2002** — USC's



Bondurant

first team national championship. The women's track team scores Carolina's first national title at the NCAA Championships in Baton Rouge, La. Why is this No. 1? Well, there can only be one first, and you simply don't forget your first time. **HONORABLE MENTIONS:** USC beating Ohio State in the 2001 Outback Bowl. Travis Kraft's game-winning 3-pointer against Florida in 2001. The volleyball team goes 14-2 in SEC play — its best performance ever — in 2002. McMillin and Megan Matthews each no-hit Georgia State in a 2000 doubleheader. Men's soccer upsets No. 3 Furman in 2001. The Left-Eye Dominators beating the Floagies in a Gamecock staff softball game in 2002.

Rothenberg is a fourth-year sport and entertainment management student.

## Softball

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to make a comeback in the seventh, when Jodi Fittro singled with one out and Troesh drew a walk to put runners on first and second. But the Rebels' Day came in to get the last two outs of inning to record her first save of the season.

Henkes (16-4) took the loss, giving up two runs on one hit in 2 1/3 innings.

Carolina will finish the regular season with a doubleheader today against Coastal Carolina in Conway. The Lady Chanticleers are 31-14 on the season and led by Holly Lee, who has 44 hits, 11 home runs and 33 RBIs. After the doubleheader, the Gamecocks will head to Plant City, Fla., for the SEC Tournament.

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