

Sports Law Weekly

April 2 – April 8, 2012



A Joint Publication of the Sports Lawyers Association
and the Tulane Sports Law Press



The Front Page

David Stern Interested in Re-Examining Draft Entry Age

NBA Commissioner David Stern has announced that he would like to re-examine the league's draft age requirement that requires that a player be nineteen years old and at least one year removed from high school graduation before entering the draft. Stern said that he believes the NBA would be better served if potential players were given more time to develop and be evaluated. (April 3 - [Reuters](#))

UConn Loses NCAA Appeal

The NCAA recently turned down a third appeal by UConn for a waiver of academic requirements. The school was seeking the waiver in an attempt to set aside punishment arising from below standard academic results. The loss of the appeal means that the school's men's basketball team will not be allowed to play in next year's NCAA tournament. (April 6 - [NY Times](#))

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MLB



Louise Neathway has been indicted again for charges stemming from her February arrest for allegedly stalking New York Yankees general manager Brian Cashman. The new indictment accuses Neathway of calling Cashman and his office with “odd phone calls,” in which she posed as other people and making harassing calls to Cashman’s estranged wife. It also charges Neathway with lying to a grand jury and pressuring Cashman for thousands of dollars, in addition to the initial charges from her arrest in February. (April 2 - [Sports Illustrated](#))

Cincinnati Reds first basemen Joey Votto has agreed to the longest contract extension in MLB history. The 12-year, \$251.5 million contract adds ten years and \$225 million to Votto’s previous contract. The deal also includes a club option for 2024, when the 2010 National League MVP turns 41. (April 2 - [USA Today](#))

Cleveland Indians pitcher Ubaldo Jimenez has been suspended for five games and fined by Major League Baseball for intentionally throwing at Colorado Rockies’ Troy Tulowitzki during a spring training game. Jimenez will appeal the suspension. (April 2 - [Cleveland.com](#))

The San Francisco Giants have worked out a new contract for All-Star Matt Cain that makes him the highest-paid right-handed pitcher in baseball history. Cain's six year, \$127.5 million contract also includes a vesting player option for 2018 that could potentially value the contract at \$141 million over seven years. (April 2 - [SFGate.com](#))

Pepsi and Miccosukee Resort & Gaming have agreed with the Miami Marlins to become sponsors of two of the colored quadrants at Marlins Park. The companies’ logos will be displayed outside on the side of the roof at the new ballpark. The Marlins, who have yet to work out a naming rights deal for the ballpark, are still searching for companies to sponsor the other two quadrants. (April 3 - [Sun Sentinel](#))

The San Francisco Giants have unveiled its \$1.6 billion plan to build a bayside park with rental units, office space, a parking lot, restaurants, and other amenities next to AT&T Stadium. The project is designed to serve both Giants fans and local residents. Construction is tentatively slated to begin in 2015. (April 4 - [SFGate.com](#))



NFL commissioner Roger Goodell hopes to end the New Orleans Saints' Bounty affair after meeting with the NFL Players Association to get the Union's thoughts on possible player punishments for participating in the program. Goodell will also hear appeals from recently suspended Saints officials Sean Payton, Joe Vitt, and Mickey Loomis. (April 2 - [Reuters](#))

The Redskins are once again reducing the size of FedExField and are removing 4,000 seats to "make room for the completion of an upper level 'party deck' standing room area, and to renovate the stadium's fifth-floor suite areas." Prince George's County Department of Environmental Resources said that the suite renovation plans will expand to 62 suites and five lounge areas that will accommodate another 200 people for a total capacity of 1,473 occupants. (April 2 - [Washington Post](#))

Detroit Lions running back Mikel LeShoure is facing felony marijuana possession charges following his second possession arrest within the past four weeks. The second-year running back could face up to two years in prison for the felony charge. (April 2 - [Detroit News](#))

Nike unveiled its line of NFL jerseys after taking over the apparel rights from Reebok. The new designs aren't "as innovative as what Nike has done with some college uniforms." No team will "have a bazillion different helmet and jersey combinations like the University of Oregon does." The changes are more in "fabric composition rather than aesthetics." (April 3 - [Sports Illustrated](#))

AEG President & CEO Tim Leiweke said that Chair Phil Anschutz is "committed to the idea of an NFL stadium in downtown Los Angeles and is willing to buy a team himself in order to make the deal work." The pledge to buy a full stake in a team "marks a new level of commitment for Anschutz, who Leiweke had previously said was willing to buy only 50% of an NFL franchise." AEG is also "exploring backup plans if the NFL deal stalls." (April 3 - [Los Angeles Times](#))

The Washington Redskins' challenge of its recent salary cap penalties raises the interesting legal question as to the scope of the NFL's authority to promote competition among its teams. The league claims that the salary cap reductions were instituted because it believed that the Redskins gained a "competitive advantage" from their contract maneuvering during the 2010 season. (April 5 - [Washington Post](#))

Following a report issued by the Associated Press that former LSU corner back Morris Claiborne scored poorly on the Wonderlic Test, NFL commissioner Roger Goodell warned all NFL teams that "significant discipline" would be used on anyone caught leaking confidential information regarding draft prospects to the public. The Wonderlic Test, whose scores the league rules demand be remained private, is designed to test the measure cognitive ability. (April 6 - [ESPN](#))

NBA

NBA Commissioner David Stern has announced that he would like to re-examine the league's draft age requirement which requires that a player be nineteen years old and at least one year removed from high school graduation before entering the draft. Stern said that he believes the NBA would be better served if potential players were given more time to develop and be evaluated. (April 3 - [Reuters](#))



NHL

The late-game skirmish between the Philadelphia Flyers and Pittsburgh Penguins cost Flyers coach Peter Laviolette more than the final minute on the bench of the Flyers' 6-4 win – it will also cost him \$10,000. Penguins assistant Tony Granato will also have to cough up \$2,500 for his actions amid the chaos on the ice. (April 2 - [CSN Philly.com](#))



Tennis

Maria Sharapova has signed a three-year sponsorship deal with Samsung covering the tennis star's native Russia and the Commonwealth of Independent States. The agreement with Samsung is Sharapova's third mobile phone deal. She has previously endorsed Motorola and Sony Ericsson. (April 3 - [Sports Business Journal](#))



NCAA



Howard University has announced that it is temporarily suspending all of its intercollegiate athletics team and investigating all teams' compliance with NCAA regulations. According to a Howard softball player, the school investigated how many of the school's athletes acquired textbooks. The student claimed that some athletes were pocketing the difference between the cost of their textbooks and their textbook allowance. (April 4 - [Washington City Paper](#))

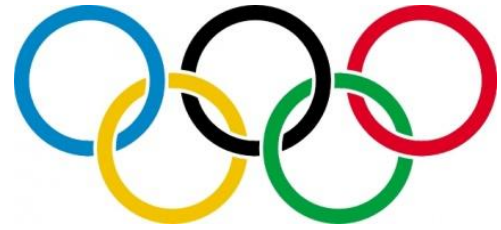
The University of Hawaii will forfeit approximately \$503,000 when it leaves the Western Athletic Conference for the Mountain West Conference in football next year. The amount corresponds to the school's share of the conference TV package, Bowl Championship Series, and NCAA funds that it would have received if it had stayed in the WAC. (April 4 - [StarAdvertiser.com](#))

Former Penn State assistant football coach Jerry Sandusky appeared in court for a pretrial hearing. The hearing, which lasted only about fifteen minutes, comes two months before Sandusky is scheduled to go on trial for the fifty-two counts of sexual abuse involving ten alleged child victims. Sandusky, who still denies the charges, has been on home arrest awaiting trial. (April 5 - [USA Today](#))

The NCAA recently turned down UConn's third appeal to waive its academic requirements. The school is seeking a waiver in an attempt to set aside punishment for failing to meeting NCAA minimum academic standards. Losing the appeal means that the school's men's basketball team will not be allowed to play in next year's NCAA tournament. (April 6 - [NY Times](#))

Arkansas head football coach Bobby Petrino has been placed on paid administrative leave following a recent motorcycle crash in which Petrino failed to inform school officials that he had been riding with a female employee half his age. The female passenger was a former Arkansas volleyball player and current football program employee. Petrino claimed that the lack of disclosure was in an attempt to protect his family and keep the "inappropriate relationship from becoming public." He failed miserably. It is not clear whether Petrino will remain the football coach of Arkansas. (April 6 - [ESPN](#))

Olympic



Cisco Systems, the world's largest manufacturer of networking equipment, has announced its plans to invest over \$500 million in Brazil over the next four years in preparation for the 2014 World Cup and 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro. (April 4 - [Latin American Herald Tribune](#))

Somalia's Olympic athletes returned to practice for the London Games, a day following the bomb blast that killed Somalia's national Olympic committee president and another top sports official. Olympic Committee President Aden Yabarow Wiish and soccer federation head Said Mohamed Nur were among 10 people killed in a bomb attack at an outdoor theater on Wednesday. (April 5 - [Washington Post](#))

The possibility of Saudi Arabia sending women to the Olympics for the first time hit a snag recently when Al-Watan, a Saudi Arabia newspaper, reported that the country's Olympic Committee President did "not approve" of the move. Saudi Arabia, along with Qatar and Brunei, is one of only three countries to have never included women on their Olympic teams. There is still a possibility that the Saudi women could compete in the London Games outside of official delegation. (April 5 - [NY Times](#))

MMA



While forty-five states would welcome the upcoming mixed martial arts title fight between Jon Jones and Rashad Evans, their home state of New York has still not approved of the sport. Both fighters have been personally lobbying the New York legislature to pass a bill that would legalize and regulate the sport in the state. (April 2 - [Associated Press](#))

Sports Television

ESPN will launch its first Spanish-language television advertisement. The ad, known as “Handshakes,” will feature Yankees second-baseman Robinson Cano as he walks around ESPN’s Bristol offices offering high-fives and handshakes while unknowingly spreading a cold. The ad marks the first time ESPN will show a Spanish-language ad on both its Spanish-language channel ESPN Deportes and English-language ESPN2. (April 3 - [Sports Business Daily](#))



The NCAA men’s basketball championship averaged a 12.3 Nielson rating and 20.9 million viewers. Kentucky’s 67-59 win over Kansas marks CBS’s second-best ratings since 2005. The game was a 5.1% increase in ratings and 4.0% increase in viewers from last year. The 2012 tournament as a whole averaged a 6.1 rating, down 5% from last year, the second-best rating since 2007. (April 3 - [Sports Business Daily](#))

Sports & Politics



House negotiators have proposed financing the new Minnesota Vikings stadium through a partial expansion of pro sports gambling in the state. The House believes that professional sports tip boards could bring in another \$16 million in revenue to the state each year, which would alleviate taxpayers’ burden. However, the proposed expansions would likely require a significant change to federal law. PAPSA, passed in 1992, bans sports wagering in all states except Oregon, Nevada, Montana, and Delaware. (April 2 - [Twin Cities Star Tribune](#))

Local Outreach Events

Miami

<p>15TH ANNUAL ENTERTAINMENT & SPORTS LAW SYMPOSIUM</p> <p>Co-hosted by the MIAMI MARLINS</p>  <p>Saturday April 14, 2012</p> <p>If you would like to register for the 15th Annual ESLs Symposium, please visit www.law.miami.edu/esls</p> <p>MIAMILAW ESLs Entertainment & Sports Law Society <small>UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI SCHOOL OF LAW</small></p> <p><small>UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI SCHOOL of LAW</small></p> 	<p>Please join the ESLs Board, Symposium Speakers, and the Sports Lawyers Association for an</p> <p>OPENING RECEPTION & AWARD PRESENTATION</p> <p>Friday, April 13, 2012 6 – 8 PM</p> <p>CALAMARI RESTAURANT 3540 Main Highway Coconut Grove, FL 33133</p> <p>Alumni Achievement Award Recipient SCOTT A. SHAPIRO, JD '96 Praver Shapiro Sports Management, LLC</p> <p>Please RSVP to events@law.miami.edu</p>  <p>WITH SUPPORT FROM </p> <p>SPONSORED BY MIAMILAW <small>UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI SCHOOL OF LAW</small> Law Alumni Association</p>
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Washington, DC

Sports Arbitration: Will Disputes Swamp the Competitions?

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED

http://www.dcbart.org/for_lawyers/events/details.cfm?eventCD=121240IDR

With the Olympic trials coming shortly and the London Summer Olympics soon thereafter, sports and sports disputes will once again become front page news. Join three high-profile sports arbitrators, James H. Carter of Dewey & LeBoeuf LLP, David W. Rivkin of Debevoise & Plimpton LLP, and Richard W. Naimark, Senior Vice President, International Centre for Dispute Resolution (ICDR) / American Arbitration Association (AAA), for a frank and fascinating journey through the world of sports arbitration.

This Luncheon Program is sponsored by the International Dispute Resolution Committee of the International Section and the Arts, Entertainment, Media and Sports Law Section in cosponsorship with the Sports Lawyers Association.

Location

Arnold and Porter
555 12th Street, NW
(Metro Center Metro Station)
Washington DC 20004

Time Wednesday, April 18, 12:30 pm - 2:00 pm

Contact Sections Office 202-626-3463

Speakers

James H. Carter, Dewey & LeBoeuf LLP
Richard W. Naimark, Senior Vice President, International Centre for Dispute Resolution (ICDR) / American Arbitration Association (AAA)
(Moderator)
David W. Rivkin, Debevoise & Plimpton LLP

CLE Credit

No

Cost

Arts, Entertainment, Media and Sports Law Section \$20.00
Government and Non-Profit Employees \$15.00
International Law Section \$20.00
Law Students \$5.00
Non-Section Members \$35.00
Sports Lawyers Association \$20.00

NEW YORK/NEW JERSEY



YOU ARE INVITED



You are cordially invited by Jeff Gewirtz and Jessica Berman of the Sports Lawyers Association to attend a networking event and lecture at Prudential Center.

Co-Sponsored by Entertainment, Arts and Sports Law Section of the New Jersey State Bar Association.

April 23, 2012 at 6:00 PM

Transportation to Prudential Center from NYC is an easy 15 minute commute via NJ Transit or the PATH train to Newark Penn Station.

To RSVP and purchase your ticket, which includes lecture, light appetizers, a halftime networking reception and your game ticket for \$20, please contact Ken Dorsett at 201-635-3414 or kdorsett@njnets.com.

Phoenix, AZ

Arizona Diamondbacks invite you to attend their speaker series at Chase Field, Tuesday, April 24th – Legal Issues in Professional & Collegiate Sports

For more information go to: http://www.sportslaw.org/events/diamondbacks_speakerseries_game.pdf

Los Angeles, CA

Local Meet and Greet

When: Wednesday, April 25th

Time: 6:00 – 9:00 pm

Where: The Culver Hotel
9400 Culver Blvd
Culver City, CA 90232

Free 2 hour parking available in lot next to Trader Joe's. SLA gathering will be in the lobby

Please RSVP to Brandon Leopoldus at : Brandonleopoldus@gmail.com

San Diego, CA

Business and Legal Developments in
San Diego Professional and Collegiate Sports

Sponsored by Seltzer Caplan McMahon Vitek and Fox Sports Grill

When: April 26, 2012 - Noon to 2 p.m.

Where:

Fox Sports Grill
1 Park Boulevard, San Diego, CA 92101

Attendance is free and appetizers will be served. Beverages are available for purchase.

Panelists include:

Padres General Counsel **Erik Greupner**

Director United States Olympic Training Center (Chula Vista) **Tracy Lamb**

Sports/Media attorney **Craig Fenech**

San Diego Sports Commission President **Al Kidd**

Sports/Employment attorney **Tracy Warren**

Register now for the 2012 Sports Lawyers Annual Conference and take advantage of the Early Bird rates before they expire April 16th!

Conference highlights include:

- *College Conferences and Their Own Networks - Will College Sports Be Changed Forever?*
- *Counseling Your Client in a Crisis Situation*
- *Town Hall Debate Collective Bargaining: Winners and Losers*
- *Ethics for Sports Lawyers, The Lawyer's Dilemma: Ethics vs. Reality*
- *Title IX: 40 Years Later*
- *The Olympic Games as a Showcase - Anticipated Issues*
- *Gambling and Corruption in Sports*
- *Workers' Comp Issues Unique to Pro Athletes*
- *Insurance Coverage for Live Sporting Events*
- *Teaching Sports Law*
- *Hot Topics in NCAA Legal Issues: Agents and Amateurism*
- *Professional Sports Team General Counsel - Legal Update*
- *ADR Issues in the Olympics and the Major Sports*
- *Legal Issues Involving Immigration and Sports*
- *General Counsels' Forum*
- *Executive Directors' Forum*
- *An Overview of Recent Legal Developments in Sports*
- *NFLPA Certified Contract Advisor Session*
- *Motor Sports 2012: Current Trends and Issues*
- *Athletes & Philanthropy; Risk and Rewards*
- *Sports Law Analytics*
- *Breaking Into the Sports Law Industry*
- *Important Tax Considerations in Representing Sports Figures*
- *Television, IP, Risk Management, and Legal Perspectives Involved in Emerging Sports*

To learn more about the conference, download the conference brochure and register, please visit <http://www.sportslaw.org/events/index.cfm>

Hotel reservations at the Hilton Bayfront can be made by going to:

http://www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/S/SANCCHH-SLA-20120508/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG
(The special room rate will be available until April 17th)

We look forward to seeing you in San Diego!

Conference Registration Questions? Call: 703.437.4377, Ext. 4085, 4070 or 4071

The Sports Lawyers Association



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