

Penn State To Release Review Of Scandal

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. (AP) — An internal investigation into whether football coach Joe Paterno and other Penn State officials helped cover up reports that Jerry Sandusky was molesting children in the school's locker rooms will be released Thursday, officials said Tuesday.

The report, commissioned by school trustees following the former assistant football coach's arrest last year, is expected to reveal how the university treated Sandusky after fielding complaints about his encounters with young boys in 1998 and 2001. It is also expected to cast additional light on how Paterno exerted control over the football program while Sandusky worked under him and after Sandusky retired from coaching.

Not only could the report shape how Paterno is remembered, but it also could affect an ongoing NCAA probe into the school's conduct and criminal cases against two Penn State administrators.

The report is being issued by former FBI director Louis Freeh, who was hired by the university to find out what school officials, including Paterno, knew about the child molester in their midst. It will be published online at 9 a.m. Thursday. Investigators will hold a news conference at 10 a.m. in Philadelphia to discuss the findings and recommendations in the report.

The announcement came the same day that ex-Penn State president Graham Spanier's lawyers said he told Freeh's investigators last week that he was never informed that Sandusky was spotted molesting a boy in a school shower. The lawyers were rebutting reports that indicate Spanier could have tried to cover up the abuse that ultimately led to Paterno's firing.

Cards Found In Attic May Be Worth Millions

DEFIANCE, Ohio (AP) — Karl Kissner picked up a soot-covered cardboard box that had been under a wooden dollhouse in his grandfather's attic. Taking a look inside, he saw hundreds of baseball cards bundled with twine. They were smaller than the ones he was used to seeing.

But some of the names were familiar: Hall of Famers Ty Cobb, Cy Young and Honus Wagner.

Then he put the box on a dresser and went back to digging through the attic.

It wasn't until two weeks later that he learned that his family had come across what experts say is one of the biggest, most exciting finds in the history of sports card collecting, a discovery worth perhaps millions.

The cards are from an extremely rare series issued around 1910. Up to now, the few known to exist were in so-so condition at best, with faded images and worn edges. But the ones from the attic in the town of Defiance are nearly pristine, untouched for more than a century. The colors are vibrant, the borders crisp and white.

UN Envoy Annan Presses Peace Plan For Syria

BAGHDAD (AP) — The U.N.'s special envoy on the Syrian crisis sought to build support for his peace efforts Tuesday with the leaders of Iran and Iraq, saying President Bashar Assad has agreed to a plan to quell the bloodshed in the most violent areas of Syria and then expand the operation to the whole country.

Top diplomat Kofi Annan said at a news conference in Iran that the plan still must be presented to the Syrian opposition. But he said his talks with Assad a day earlier focused on a new approach to ending the violence, which activists say has killed more than 17,000 people since March 2011.

"(Assad) made a suggestion of building an approach from the ground up in some of the districts where we have extreme violence — to try and contain the violence in those districts and, step by step, build up and end the violence across the country," Annan told reporters in Tehran, his first step on a tour of Syria's allies. He did not elaborate on the plan.

Annan later visited Iraq and met Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki to discuss ways to end the fighting.

"I think we've all watched the tragic situation in Syria, the killings, the suffering of the people," Annan said in Baghdad. "And everyone I've spoken to shares the concerns and the needs for us to stop the killing."

Olmert's Acquittal In Israel Sets Off Debate

JERUSALEM (AP) — Former Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's acquittal of the most serious charges in a high-profile corruption case on Tuesday set off a fierce debate about how the peace process might have proceeded differently had the former leader not been driven from office three years ago.

Olmert has claimed he was on the brink of a historic agreement with the Palestinians when he was forced to resign in early 2009. His departure cleared the way for hard-liner Benjamin Netanyahu's election, and peace efforts have been at a standstill ever since.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas called Olmert on Tuesday afternoon to congratulate him on the acquittal, said Nimr Hamad, an Abbas adviser.

"There is no doubt that a great opportunity was wasted with the absence of Olmert. There had been huge progress on all core issues ... and the Palestinian and Israeli positions were getting very close on all issues. Unfortunately, that's all gone now," Hamad said.

Olmert, who headed the centrist Kadima Party, stepped down after he was charged with a series of crimes that included accepting cash-stuffed envelopes from an American supporter and double billing Jewish organizations to cover overseas travel. The alleged crimes took place while Olmert was mayor of Jerusalem and a Cabinet minister, before he became prime minister.

Egypt's President Cautiously Flexes Power

BY HAMZA HENDAWI
 Associated Press

CAIRO — The faceoff between Egypt's new Islamist president and the old guard military sharpened Tuesday, with parliament defying orders to disband and the highest court slapping back at Mohammed Morsi in what has become an early glimpse into how he may flex his power.

Morsi's rapid-fire moves against Egypt's entrenched institutions show he is willing to push back against the establishment left over from the era of deposed President Hosni Mubarak. But — so far at least — he and his Muslim Brotherhood allies have also displayed restraint and appear intent on avoiding a collision course during a sensitive transition period.

It could point to a complicated and protracted shake-out between Morsi and Egypt's security and judicial power centers, as all sides test the limits of their powers while the country awaits its post-Arab Spring constitution — not expected before the end of the year.

In place of an all-out confrontation, Egypt may be witnessing the new rules of political engagement being defined in a time of highly unclear guidelines: tough statements, conflicting orders and attempts to push the envelope but not tear it up.

"One of them came through the ballot box

and the other is trying to monopolize power," Gamal Eid, a prominent rights lawyer said of Morsi and the generals.

Already, Morsi has shown the ability to multi-task his political messages and end up somewhere in the middle.

During the campaign, he catered to hard-line Islamists with calls to strengthen Shariah law and celebrated his deep allegiance to the Brotherhood, long banned under Mubarak's Western-backed regime. But he also portrayed himself as a son of the Arab Spring, appearing with women without head coverings.

The brief session by the Morsi-backed parliament — lasting just five minutes — appeared to show the same tactics of both defiance and caution.

Lawmakers convened despite the house being ordered dissolved by the military after the Supreme Constitutional Court ruled on apparent election irregularities. But the speaker, Saad el-Katatni, sought to fend off charges that the Islamist-led chamber was contemptuous of the judiciary.

He told lawmakers the session was held only to find a way to examine the court's June 14 ruling and won backing to seek an appellate "second opinion."

Later, the high court struck back against Morsi, saying his decision to recall parliament lacked any legal basis.

The president carefully avoided criticism of

the court's ruling in his order Sunday to reconvene parliament. Instead, he restricted himself to revoking the military order that disbanded the chamber — in effect picking the easier target because of widespread public frustration with the military's lingering influence over the country since Mubarak's fall.

But in taking on the military, Morsi has also picked a still formidable foe with massive resources and powerful allies in the media.

The military brass has been Egypt's de facto ruler since army officers seized power in a 1952 coup. With conscription of males in force since the 1960s and four wars against Israel between 1948 and 1973, there is hardly an Egyptian family without at least one member in active service or with military experience.

"The best strategy for Morsi now might be to avoid confrontational policies and begin to slowly create a power base for himself in the higher circles of the country's body politic," said Azzedine Layachi, a Middle East expert from St. John's University in New York. "For now, a confrontation may not only stall political transition in Egypt, but could also lead to Morsi's removal from office."

Morsi can depend on the backing of a disciplined and efficient machine in the Muslim Brotherhood, Egypt's most powerful political group that won just under half of parliament's seats in the country's freest election in decades.

Obama Targets Romney's Private Finances

BY JULIE PACE
 Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Obama election campaign has a politically loaded question it wants voters to think about: What is Mitt Romney hiding?

Not a thing, Romney says. The Democrats are just trying to change the subject from the weak economy.

It's a newly intense back-and-forth as President Barack Obama's campaign team tries to cast his Republican opponent as a secretive rich guy who keeps his money in offshore accounts and refuses to release more of his tax returns.

The coordinated push, which includes stinging criticism from Obama and Vice President Joe Biden, web videos and television advertisements, comes as the Democrats grasp for ways to gain an advantage in a closely contested election and overcome a steady stream of lackluster economic news.

Getting personal, Biden declared Tuesday that Romney was "making a lie of the old adage, like father, like son" by not meeting the standards his father, George Romney, set when he released 12 years of tax returns during his 1968 presidential bid.

In a speech to Hispanic leaders in Las Vegas, Biden said of Romney: "He wants you to show your papers, but he won't show us his." It was a criticism that hit both Romney's financial reticence and his support for an Arizona immigration law that allows police to check the immigration status of people they stop.

The Obama campaign also posted a video on YouTube Tuesday that asked: "How long can Romney keep information on his investments in overseas tax havens secret? And why did he do it in the first place?"

Romney aides have called the barrage of attacks an "unfounded character assault" by a campaign desperate to distract attention from a sluggish economy that threatens the president's re-election prospects. And Romney insists his private financial records



MARK REIS/COLORADO SPRINGS GAZETTE/MCT
 Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney attends a round-table conversation with fire victims during a visit to Colorado Springs, Colorado, Tuesday, July 10, 2012.

contain nothing illegal. "All the taxes are paid, as appropriate," Romney has said. "All of them have been reported to the government. There's nothing hidden there."

Still, Romney has released only a single year's federal return — for

2010 — along with an estimate for 2011. Other returns could contain information about accounts he has held in Switzerland, the Cayman Islands and Bermuda, and that has created an opening for Democrats to accuse him of being secretive and taking advantage of tax loopholes that aren't available to average Americans.

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"I think what's important if you're running for president is that the American people know who you are, what you've done and that you're an open book," Obama said Monday in a television interview.

With less than four months until Election Day, Obama aides say they may run new television ads targeting Romney's close hold on his financial records. The campaign spent more than \$2 million in May on an ad titled "Swiss Bank Account" that ran in politically important Iowa, Ohio and Virginia.

Democrats say the sustained criticism of Romney's financial secrecy is solidifying for voters the notion that the Republican challenger is out of touch with middle class economics. A Washington Post-ABC News poll out Tuesday showed Obama with an 11 point advantage over Romney as the one who "better understands the economic problems people in this country are having." Among registered voters, 51 percent said Obama better understands versus 40 percent who said Romney does.

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