

Second Wave Of Former Players Join NFL Drug Lawsuit

BY JIM LITKE
AP Sports Writer

Former Pro Bowl defender Marcellus Wiley added his name to a lawsuit accusing NFL teams of illegally dispensing powerful narcotics and other drugs to keep players on the field without regard for their long-term health.

"The first thing people ask is, knowing what happened, would you do it again?" said Wiley, currently an ESPN analyst. "No. No I wouldn't."

The lawsuit was originally filed May 20 in U.S. District Court in northern California and amended Wednesday to add 250 more play-

ers, bringing the total to 750 plaintiffs. Wiley, who played in Buffalo, San Diego, Dallas and Jacksonville from 1997-2006, is the ninth player identified by name, joining former Chicago Bears Jim McMahon, Richard Dent and Keith Van Horne, Jeremy Newberry and others.

The lawsuit, which is seeking class certification, covers the years 1968-2008. It contends team physicians and trainers across the NFL routinely — and often illegally — provided powerful narcotics and other controlled substances on game days to mask the pain.

Among them were the painkillers Percodan, Percocet and Vicodin, anti-inflammatories such as

Toradol, and sleep aids such as Ambien. Lead attorney Steven Silverman said some teams filled out prescriptions in players' names without their knowledge or consent. He said those drugs were then "handed out like candy at Hal-loween" and often combined in "cocktails."

NFL spokesman Brian McCarthy said the league had no comment.

The former players have reported a range of debilitating effects, from chronic muscle and bone ailments to permanent nerve and organ damage to addiction. The players contend those health problems came from drug use but many of the conditions aren't tied to the

use of painkillers.

Six of the plaintiffs in the lawsuit, including McMahon and Van Horne, were also parties to the concussion-related class-action lawsuit filed against the NFL less than a year ago. The NFL agreed to pay \$765 million to settle that case — without acknowledging it concealed the risks of concussions from former players. A federal judge has yet to approve the settlement, expressing concern the amount is too small.

Wiley, 39, was not part of the concussion lawsuit, but decided to join former players in this one after suffering partial renal failure in April, despite no history of kidney

problems. Wiley said he took "multiple injections" of painkillers over the course of a season to cope with an injury that then-San Diego team physician Dr. David Chao diagnosed as severe groin sprain. After the season, an independent doctor diagnosed a torn abdominal wall that required surgery.

"You can't walk into a doctor's office and say, 'Give me this, give me that, just to get through the day.' Somebody would shut the place down," Wiley said in a telephone interview. "But that's what was going on in the NFL. It's easy to get mesmerized. I won't deny that;

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SF East Sweeps Reds

Sioux Falls East won a pair of close games over the Yankton Reds in a VFW Teener baseball doubleheader on Wednesday at Riverside Field.

East won by scores of 10-9 and 8-5.

In game one, Michael Drotzmann had three hits and two RBI for Yankton, while Owen Feser had one hit and one RBI. Levi Wiersma, Mike Frick, Cole Sawatzke, Rex Ryken and Jack Raab all had one hit.

In the second game, Wiersma had two hits including a double, Ryken had two hits, while Feser and Drotzmann both had one hit.

Yankton (3-2) will play in the Milt Simmons Tournament in Sioux Falls, starting on Friday.

VFW Teener

Mitchell 8-11, Lakers 1-1

MITCHELL — The Yankton Lakers dropped a pair of Teener games Wednesday at Mitchell, as the home team won by scores of 8-1 and 11-1.

In game one for Yankton, Nathan Eichacker, Trey Bakke, Oakley Palmer and Jack Schoenfelder all had hits, while Caid Koletzky scored the lone run.

In the second game, Eichacker had a hit and scored a run, while Palmer had a hit.

Yankton will compete in the Milt Simmons Tournament this weekend in Sioux Falls.

Legion Yankton 14-16, Harrisburg 4-6

HARRISBURG — Yankton Post 12 brought its bats north on Interstate 29 on Wednesday to record a doubleheader sweep over Harrisburg in American Legion action.

Yankton won by scores of 14-4 and 16-6.

In the first game, Lane Sawatzke dou-



ABOVE: Ethan Wishon of the Yankton Reds swings at a pitch during Wednesday's VFW Teener baseball game against Sioux Falls East at Riverside Field.



LEFT: Jack Raab of the Yankton Reds swings at a pitch during Wednesday's VFW Teener baseball game against Sioux Falls East at Riverside Field.

PHOTOS BY JORDYNNE HART/P&D

Cubs To Leave WGN Radio After 90 Years

CHICAGO (AP) — The Chicago Cubs are leaving the station that's been their radio home for 90 years.

WGN Radio president Jimmy de Castro confirmed on the air Wednesday media reports that the Cubs are leaving the station after this season.

The Cubs say they'll hold a news conference Thursday at Wrigley Field to announce a long-term broadcast deal with CBS-owned WBBM-AM 780.

De Castro says the parting ways was a difficult decision for the station, which has been synonymous with the Cubs for close to century.

Mount Marty Baseball Adds Sioux Falls Standout; Softball Signs Colorado OF

Ethan Lynn, a recent graduate from Sioux Falls Washington High School, will enroll at Mount Marty College and play baseball for the Lancers, the school announced Wednesday.

The Lancers look for Lynn to join the team this fall as a first baseman.

Lynn is currently rehabilitating an injury and will join his current team, Sioux Falls East, later this summer.

Before the injury Lynn had a solid junior campaign being selected Honorable Mention All-State and 1st Team All-Region for the High School Club spring season. Lynn posted a .394 batting average with 14 hits, 4 doubles, 1 triple and 7 runs batted in. Last summer for Sioux Falls East Post 15 American Legion team he recorded a .300 batting average with 30 hits, 14 runs, 4 doubles and 19 runs batted in.

"I am excited for Ethan join the program," MMC head coach Andy Bernatow said. "He is coming off a strong junior season and Coach (Jason) Nelson and I really liked his swing when he came and worked out for us in the fall. He is going to be a quality addition to the program."

Lynn will be a double major in business and recreation management at Mount Marty College. The son of Bill and Carla Lynn, Ethan is the recipient of a Mount Marty College Honors Scholarship for his academic achievement in addition to his baseball scholarship. During his high school ca-

reer Lynn has been involved with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and was a member of 2011 and 2012 Sioux Falls Washington High School State Championship football teams.

MMC Softball Signs Colorado Outfielder

Mount Marty College announced Wednesday the athletic signing of Hotchkiss (Colorado) High School student athlete, Marissa Cantrell, to the Lancer softball program for the 2014-15 softball season.

Marissa Cantrell is a 5-foot-2 outfielder that was a three year letter winner for Cedaredge High School. She was named team MVP her junior year, All-Conference 1st team her junior and senior year and All-State 1st team her senior year.

Her 2013 hitting statistics were: Avg .388, AB 67, R 15, H 26, 2B 8, 3B 1, HR 0, RBIs 27, BB 3, SO 7, and SB 5.

"I am excited to have Marissa join our softball program next fall," MMC head coach Albert Fernandez said. "She will give us some added depth in the outfield and is a great fit with our team and the Mount Marty College community."

The daughter of Sean and Belinda Cantrell of Hotchkiss, Marissa will be a pre-professional major at MMC. In addition to her softball award Cantrell will be receiving an academic achievement scholarship.



Lynn



Cantrell

Don Zimmer Dies At 83

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) — Don Zimmer, a popular fixture in professional baseball for 66 years as a manager, player, coach and executive, died Wednesday. He was 83.

Zimmer was still working for the Tampa Bay Rays as a senior adviser, and the team confirmed he had died.

Zimmer had been in a rehabilitation center in Florida since having seven hours of heart surgery in mid-April.

After starting as a minor league infielder in 1949, Zimmer went on to have one of the longest-lasting careers in baseball history.

Zimmer played for the only Brooklyn Dodgers team to win the World Series, played for the original New York Mets, nearly managed the Boston Red Sox to a championship in the 1970s and was Joe Torre's right-hand man with the New York Yankees' most recent dynasty.

Zimmer was easily recognizable for the big chaw that always seemed to be in his cheek, and his storytelling was a treat for anyone lucky enough to hear him.

Beloved by many, his No. 66 jersey had been worn recently by longtime Tampa Bay third base coach Tom Foley in tribute. The Rays hosted the Miami Marlins on Wednesday night, and Foley was crying in the dugout.

Along the way, Zimmer played for Hall of Fame manager Casey Stengel and coached Derek Jeter — quite a span, by any major league measure.

Zimmer spent time in a lot of uniforms. He played for the Dodgers, Mets, Chicago Cubs, Cincinnati and Washington. He managed San Diego, Boston, Texas and the Cubs.

NBA Finals

After Thrilling Finish, Heat, Spurs Start Up Again

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — LeBron James and Dwyane Wade can point to statistics showing just how close the 2013 NBA Finals were.

Tim Duncan doesn't need them.

He can't forget the way his San Antonio Spurs lost, especially since every replay brings another painful reminder. The Spurs were on the verge of celebrating a fifth title in Game 6, and just two nights later were congratulating the Miami Heat on their second straight crown.

The Spurs wanted a rematch, and so did basketball fans. It begins Thursday in San Antonio.

"I think it's great that these two franchises have this opportunity in back-to-back years to compete for a championship," Wade said Wednesday. "Last year was an unbelievable series and ... it went down to the very end. We won the series by a total of five points, you know? That's how close it was. But it was a very even series. I think this year it could be another great series."

From Tony Parker's circus shot that stole Game 1 for the Spurs, to Ray Allen's 3-pointer that saved Game 6 for the Heat, to James' jumper that put away Game 7, almost every contest provided a new highlight. It deserved an encore, just like when the Boston Celtics and Los Angeles Lakers seemed to pick up right where they left off in the 1980s.

The NBA hasn't had a finals rematch since 1998, when Michael Jordan's Chicago Bulls beat Utah for

the second straight season. San Antonio is considered a slight favorite this time, perhaps a little deeper, healthier and better than it was last year, and owning the home-court advantage this time.

The Spurs don't need to change much to change the result. They outscored the Heat 684-679 over seven games, and there were 47 ties and 42 lead changes, according to STATS.

"If you look at the numbers, the lead changes, the ties and the points in that series, it's almost even," James said. "So we did our part, they did their part."

"Both teams put themselves in a position to win an NBA championship, and we just happened to make one or two more plays to win it."

Duncan, a three-time NBA Finals MVP who had been 4 for 4 at this stage, wasn't on the floor when the Spurs couldn't come up with a rebound just before Allen's shot. He then missed a shot and follow attempt from right in front of the basket in the final minute of Game 7 with San Antonio trailing by two. Not even getting back to the finals again with the league's best record can make him forget.

"It lasts. I have a very good memory, especially for my misses and losses. You keep those, you learn from them and you hope to change them next time," Duncan said.

"That stuck with me and obviously it's always in the back of my mind, and every time I see anything to do with that, it pops right back in."



HECTOR GABINO/EL NUEVO HERALD/MCT

Miami Heat's LeBron James talk to the media after practice on Tuesday at the American Airlines Arena in Miami.

James had similar regrets in his first finals with Miami in 2011, but it's been all smiles since. The Heat are the first team to play in four straight finals since Boston from 1984-87, and can become the first three-time champion since the Lakers more than a decade ago.

But their focus is only on winning the next title, not reminiscing about the last couple.

"Last year is last year and we're excited about it, but this trophy this year belongs to nobody," James said. "It's up for grabs."

Both teams have reason

to think they will win it. Wade is much healthier than last year, when he needed extensive treatment before Game 7, and the Heat have been able to get him extra rest by losing just three games in the first three rounds.

The Spurs' Manu Ginobili is also in much better shape this year and Patty Mills has emerged as an effective point guard off the bench, giving San Antonio options if Parker is slowed by the sore left ankle that knocked him out of Game 6 of the Western Conference finals.

It's the sixth finals for the

Spurs since 1999 and Miami's fifth in nine years, but both face uncertain futures. Duncan, Parker, Ginobili and coach Gregg Popovich could be near the end of their run together. James, Wade and Bosh can all become free agents this summer.

That's for July. For now, maybe the teams can duplicate last June.

"You hope it's going to be a great series for both teams' sake, for the fans that love our game," James said. "You hope it can be one of the great finals appearances."

Just like last year.