

Sequels just don't work; ask the overrated Dream Team II

How many times have we seen it? *Police Academy II*, *Problem Child II*, *Weekend at Bernie's II*—they all sucked. I mean, how many months can you haul around a dead guy before maggots start oozing from his eye sockets and dried up limbs start snapping off?

Anyway, the issue here is the annoying trend that I affectionately call "sequelitis." There seems to be an unwritten rule these days that what was successful the first time around, will be equally successful the second time around, despite the obvious lack of originality and thought.

The sports world is not immune to "sequelitis," the latest incarnation coming in the form of Dream Team II.

First of all, what the hell are

we playing for? World Championship, Smorld Championship? Why didn't we send the Dream Teamers to the Goodwill Games? At least that has a name.

And what's all this garbage talk from the players, saying that they could probably beat the original Dream Team. Surely this gives new meaning to the name "Dream" Team.

Dream Team II should be retitled Overrated I. Dominique, hey, nice defense, buddy. Coleman, great hustle, didn't you go to the Benoit Benjamin School of conditioning? Reggie Miller, do you ever shut up?

While this all-ego team swears it will throw out the personalities and hangups and come together to capture the all-important World Championship, the question is why?

Are we as a nation so insecure



CHRIS METZ

about ourselves that we need to form another team that will crush every opponent by 40-50 points and bring home the gold or whatever they hand out at this rinky-dinky deal? Personally, I'd rather see middle-of-the-road aging veterans like Tree Rollins and the retired World B. Free go to battle for the good old U.S.A.

For the most part, the original Dream Team was an intriguing idea. It put together three of the

greatest players of all time on the court in a united cause. Michael Jordan, Larry Bird and Magic Johnson were special players and it was a pleasure to watch them play together. The main difference between their team and the latest incantation is that they had class.

The part that I most enjoy about the latest Dream Team is the McDonald's cups that I can collect. There's nothing like a lunch of an aorta-bursting Big Mac, an order of angioplasty fries and an Alonzo Mourning super-sized Sprite to go. Breakfast of champions! I can also add "Thunder" Dan Majerle to my growing collection of greats, led by my Dairy Queen collector's cup of Audie Norris.

Go ahead, see if I care. Win the championship and work the nation into a frenzy. I can see it

now, riots in Chicago, looting in Los Angeles and of course, protests in Eugene. Save a cow butt, no more senseless basketball!

A quick history lesson will remind us that nothing good ever comes in II's with the two exceptions being *Kiss Alive II* and *Rocky II*. Man, that Sylvester Stallone can act, can't he? Hopefully we'll be spared a Dream Team III in two years when the Olympics come around again. This doesn't seem very likely though, as the games will be in our own backyard. I believe the rule is that we are required to kick butt in our own country.

For my entertainment dollar, the Portland Pride is all that I need this summer.

Chris Metz is the Emerald's sports editor.

Ohio State football player charged with theft, suspended indefinitely

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — An Ohio State football player charged with shoplifting \$445 worth of merchandise from a discount store has become the latest university athlete to run into trouble with the law.

Punter Mike Malfatt, 19, was released on his own recognizance Wednesday. He was charged with felony theft. A preliminary hearing was scheduled for Aug. 9 in Franklin County Municipal Court.

Malfatt was picked up Tuesday by security guards at a Meijer store on the city's northwest side, police said.

Police said Malfatt was carrying a cooler full of beer and other alcoholic beverages, a camera and flowers when security guards spotted him trying to leave through the garden department.

Police said he tried to run and scuffled with the guards, one of whom sustained a split lip.

A grand jury will be asked to consider an assault charge.

A theft is a felony in Ohio when the item stolen is worth more than \$300 or the suspect has a prior theft conviction.

Bryan Pohlman, the store manager, said he could not comment.

Ohio State coach John Cooper on Wednesday said he

'Mike will remain a member of this team as long as he follows some very strict guidelines that we have set down for him. If he fails to meet those guidelines, he will give up that privilege.'

— John Cooper,
Ohio State football coach

suspended Malfatt indefinitely, pending the outcome of the case.

"Mike will remain a member of this team as long as he follows some very strict guidelines that we have set down for him. If he fails to meet those guidelines, he will give up that privilege," Cooper said.

"We work constantly with our athletes to stress the importance of being good role models and making sound decisions in all that they do. We will keep on empha-

sizing those points in hopes of eliminating these kinds of incidents in the future," Cooper said.

Malfatt is the fourth football player to get in trouble with the law in recent months.

Timiko Payton and Eric Moss were arrested in June and later indicted on felony charges after they were accused of stealing an automatic teller card in May.

Junior tight end Rickey Dudley was charged in April with driving under the influence. He pleaded no contest and opted to enter an alcohol treatment program. He was not allowed to participate in spring drills.

Malfatt's arrest also comes a week after three Ohio State basketball players were involved in a fight in which one player shot a tire on another's car.

Basketball coach Randy Ayers kicked Gerald Eaker off the team July 20 and put guard Greg Simpson on indefinite suspension.

A Columbus police report said Eaker shot the tire on roommate Antonio Watson's car. Watson told police that Eaker then got into a car driven by Simpson and rode away.

Watson did not file charges and was not disciplined.

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