

Washington athletes sentenced

Rebecca Merritt
Oregon Daily Emerald

Three former University of Washington athletes were sentenced Thursday for sexually abusing a University student at the University Inn last year.

Charles Douglas Barnes, 21, Prentiss Lavell Perkins, 22, and Jason Paul Shelley, 20, were each sentenced to 120 days in prison, 100 days suspended, and 24 months probation by Lane County Circuit Judge David Brewer.

The three were convicted on two counts of third-degree sexual abuse, a class A misdemeanor, according to court documents. They were found not guilty of a first-degree burglary charge and another count of sexual abuse.

The charges stem from an Oct. 31, 1993, incident, when the three men entered a University Inn room belonging to two 18-year-old female students. The women accused the men of exposing themselves, touching their breasts and making unwelcome sexual remarks.

The men stood trial for three counts of first-degree sexual abuse and one count of burglary before a 12-person jury last March. At the week-long trial, Barnes admitted he stole a gold necklace from the women and that he and his two friends were looking for marijuana at the residence. However, Barnes and defense attorneys for Perkins and Shelley denied any sexual misconduct.

The jury convicted the men of the lesser, third-degree sexual abuse charge but claimed a mistrial on the remaining counts. Brewer announced his verdict on the remaining charges Thursday.

A female victim, who testified in March that she thought the men would rape her, was in Eugene for the sentencing. She quit attending the University following the incident.

"No, I don't think the sentence was fair," she said. "It doesn't reflect the nature of the crime."

The victim faced grueling hours of questioning, sometimes breaking down in tears, at the March trial.

"The defense attorneys made us out to be the bad ones. It was as if the athletes were being protected and we weren't," she said.

Barnes and Shelley were members of the Washington football team at the time of the incident and Perkins was the starting point of the Husky basketball team.

Perkins is now a member of the men's basketball team at Concordia University in St. Paul, Minnesota.

The men received credit for jail time served before their sentencing. Shelley completed his sentence, Perkins reports to Lane County Jail in July to serve 14 days, and Barnes will serve four days beginning in June.

FEE

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does not consider the technology fee an instructional fee, believing instead that the technology fee should be compared to building and medical fees.

Buckles also said he believes the argument that the computer services are included under the appropriate tools clause of the agreement is "a broad interpretation of the issue."

Once the grievance has been filed, the next step would be for the University and the union to discuss the issue and the grievance, Rau said. The University would then be required to respond in writing as to whether they agree or disagree.

If the University does not agree to waive the technology fee for GTFs, the two groups may eventually submit the

issue to binding arbitration, in which an arbitrator would hear both sides and make a decision. Both sides would be required by law to follow the decision made by the arbitrator.

A written explanation of the technology fee, available to students in Oregon Hall, said the fee is in response to the University Academic Productivity Plan, which calls for "increased use of technology in instructional activities."

The fee, according to the explanation, allows all students to use the computer lab, have Internet access accounts, provide expanded computer access in the Knight Library and equip a "high-technology classroom."

While the union is protesting the assessment of the fee for GTFs, the union is not "taking a position for or against the fee in general," Rau said.

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