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Indians' mascot incites fiery protest

By John Affleck
The Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Demonstrators at Jacobs Field on Monday burned a wooden sculpture of Chief Wahoo in a coffin, demanding the Cleveland Indians get rid of their mascot.

About 40 people protested before the home opener against Kansas City to denounce the mascot as a racist caricature of American Indians.

"Say goodbye to this big-toothed Wahoo," protester Michael Haney said as flames consumed the carving.

The demonstrators were buoyed by a new lawsuit against the city of

Cleveland and several police officers and by a federal ruling against the Washington Redskins.

A trademark panel revoked the Redskins' federal trademark protection, saying the NFL team's name may disparage American Indians.

As fans strolled into Jacobs Field, some protesters pounded a drum and chanted, "Hey! Ho! Racist symbol's got to go," as the sculpture burned.

Others held signs, including one that read, "These honor who?" and showed versions of Chief Wahoo with the faces of highly stereotyped black, Asian and Hispanic men.

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Pyle

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But I would come to appreciate his wondrous play in the years to come.

In collegiate athletics, Fab-Five member Chris Webber's ill-advised timeout in the national title game against North Carolina sticks out, as do the annual early-season showdowns between Notre Dame and Michigan.

My numerous visits to Yankee Stadium during summer trips to the east coast convinced me that there is a heaven on earth. Don Mattingly's intensity and hitting prowess captivated me, and I felt his pain when his back gave out to end his career prematurely.

Alas, the Yankees recaptured their glory days of yesteryear the season after Mattingly retired, beating the vaunted Atlanta

Braves by winning four straight after falling behind 2-0 in the World Series.

Then, the Yanks pulled off the most impressive professional sports season I have seen — sorry, Bulls — going 125-50 with a series sweep last season.

Now, the Yanks and even the Blazers are helping me live out my suppressed athletic dreams of glory again this year.

No, despite my parents' attempts to get me more interested in my homework than baseball boxscores, I am still a sports nut — and I don't think I can ever change.

Thanks for listening.

Tim Pyle is the sports editor for the Emerald. He can be reached via e-mail at tpyle@gladstone.uoregon.edu.

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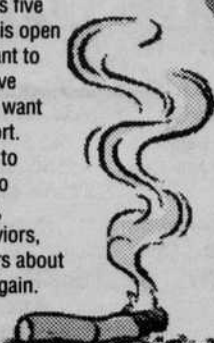
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