

Barkley successfully appeals his suspension

By Jim O'Connell
Associated Press

NEW YORK — St. John's coach Mike Jarvis sees the successful appeal of Erick Barkley's three-game suspension as a start for changing the NCAA's process regarding athletes.

"I'm glad that this means Erick

Barkley is going to be able to compete as the student-athlete he is," Jarvis said Thursday after the school's appeal to the Division I Subcommittee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement was upheld. "I'm glad he's not going to miss any more games and also that this particular ending is a new beginning, a

commitment from myself and our university and a lot of people in the profession to bring about change in the system that oversees our game."

The sophomore guard will be back with St. John's against Villanova on Saturday.

On Tuesday, Barkley, the team's leading scorer at 16.9 points per

game, was suspended by the NCAA for three games for an undisclosed rules violation. St. John's appealed that ruling even though he had already served one game — last Saturday's victory over Boston College — and missed a second that night at Providence, another victory for the Red Storm

(15-6).

"Erick is obviously very happy," Jarvis said. "He appreciates the game more than he did before. He was glad to practice today. Usually it's a chore. ... You get a sense of how relieved he is because he was concerned about his image and perception."

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league title. The win also gives the Cardinal its sixth straight 20-win season, a new school record.

But Oregon did have a few chances.

After being down by as many as 15 in the first half, Oregon forward Bryan Bracey connected on a three-pointer to cut the margin to 37-29 with three seconds left in the half. But just like that, Stanford's Tony Giovacchini drilled a fade-away buzzer-beating three-pointer to push the lead back up to 11 at the break.

And then in the second stanza the Cardinal jumped out to a 13-point lead before the Ducks went

on a 10-3 run. The run was capped by an Alex Scales steal and fast break two-handed dunk to bring Oregon within 45-39 with 14 minutes, 30 seconds left.

But before anybody could blink an eye, Stanford's Ryan Mendez swished home a three from the corner that kick-started a game-clinching 19-6 run, capped six minutes later with another Mendez-three.

"When we played solid we could play with them, but every time we broke down they made you pay," Kent said. "And that was often tonight. We made a great run at them in the second half and then mentally we broke down again."

Mendez showed why he is

considered the league's purest shooter by knocking down all three of his three-point attempts en route to a 14-point performance. And Madsen — in front of many NBA onlookers such as Chicago's Jerry Krause — dominated the inside game with 19 points.

He was matched by Stanford's mature freshman Casey Jacobsen whose 19 came on three three-pointers and an array of athletic jumpers.

Everybody knew something had to give when Oregon — the Pac-10 leader in field goal shooting percentage — went up against the nation's best field goal percentage defense in Stanford.

And it was the Ducks that

gave. They were held to just 36 percent from the field, while connecting on only four of 19 three-point attempts.

The reason Oregon was forced to hang around the perimeter was the Cardinal's imposing front line. Whenever the Ducks penetrated they were often greeted with a blocked shot by 6-11 Jason Collins, who had four of his team's eight swats.

Although Scales (14) and Smith (11) led Oregon in scoring, it was the play of little-used center Chris Christoffense and guard David Jackson that were the highlights in the loss. Jackson scored a season-high 10 points in 18 minutes, while Christoffense contributed three blocked shots

in his nine minutes of action.

"Both Chris and David did a good job," Kent said. "They increase our depth. It was encouraging to see them play the way that they did."

Now the Ducks must regroup and prepare for a young California team on Saturday which has won three straight and five of seven. With a win, the Ducks can come home no worse than third in the Pac-10.

"We're playing a Cal team that is much improved in the area of confidence and continuity," Kent said. "It's a huge game for them and we have to be ready to put this game behind us and respond to the challenge."

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Horoscope by Linda C. Black

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 11). This is your year to put down roots. Sort through your money in March and spend some on educational materials. What you learn in April could lead to domestic bliss in May. Be inspired in June and commit in August. Travel beckons in October, but home looks better. Support a friend's changes in December and put an old fear to rest next January.

To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Today is a 7 — Your ruling planet, Mars, is coming into your sign soon. You've been pensive for the past few weeks, but you're starting to feel assertive again. It's almost time to start something new, so do the homework. Use your brains, as well as your enthusiasm, this time.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Today is a 6 — You are strong, but you're also up against more opposition. Just shift into four-wheel drive and get tough. Allow yourself plenty of time to reach your destination. You may not get there until tomorrow or the next day, but that's OK. Better late than never.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21) — Today is a 5 — Carefully figure out what needs to be done before proceeding further. Sometimes it's important to move quickly. Today, you'll do better if you check everything two or three times before taking action. Let friends go on ahead; that could happen soon!

CANCER (June 22-July 22) — Today is a 7 — The pace has slowed down a bit, much to your relief. You may also be able to find a few people who understand what you've been going through. Get them to help with whatever's not done yet so you can relax.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Today is a 6 — It's quite possible that one who outranks you has come on the scene. This individual isn't saying much but has a lot of power. You won't charm him or her with fancy promises. Prove you know what you're talking about, and you'll have a strong ally.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Today is a 7 —

You may be able to make a good deal now. Look around for what you want, and when you find it, move quickly. Get out there and shop for bargains, in big things and in little items, too. Never pay retail!

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Today is a 4 — Hold onto your checkbook today. Don't let anybody else talk you into buying something you don't really need. If the other person's so hot to have the most expensive model, have him or her write a personal check. If it's coming out of the general fund, get the no-frills.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21) — Today is a 7 — Although it's important to think carefully, there's also a sense of urgency. A co-worker's nerves may be shot. You're good at planning, so do that now. The more you can figure out ahead of time, the more successful your whole team will be.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Today is a 6 — Your workload is increasing. That's good. Your income could be increasing, too. Do as many errands as you can over the phone to cut down on the frantic racing around. Hide out with a loved one tonight, instead.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Today is an 8 — You've been considering changes to your home for quite some time. Well, wrap up your considerations because the time for action is almost here. You'll know when you can't stand the way it is one minute longer. That could happen soon!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Today is a 6 — You've been going through the data a mile a minute. Now, it's time to mull over what you've recently learned. It's like you've been on a field trip, collecting specimens. Now, you're back at the lab, and you need to figure out what you've got.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) — Today is an 8 — You're quick, and you may be in the mood to take decisive action. You may be tempted to overspend, too. You're generous, but think about it first. You'll have more money for your favorite charity if you buy something you need on sale.

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