

Cubs' pitcher still haunted by beaming episode

Christensen hopes to move on after off-plate beaming leaves player with damaged eye and possible lawsuit

By Rick Gano
The Associated Press

MESA, Ariz. — Ben Christensen threw one warmup pitch that changed two lives — his own and Anthony Molina's.

Now he's trying to put the ugly incident behind him as he attends his first spring training with the Chicago Cubs.

It won't be easy. "Other than the media, it doesn't get brought up," Christensen, the Cubs' first-round pick, said Tuesday. "It's in the past. But obviously it's not over. ... There is a possible civil litigation, but nothing has happened. I can't control anything. I have nothing to do over what is going to happen. So I don't let it worry me."

While with Wichita State last April, Christensen threw a warmup pitch and struck Molina in the left eye as the Evansville batter was standing near the on-deck circle, an off-the-plate warning apparently made to discourage Molina from timing pitches.

Molina sustained three fractures in surrounding bones, leaving a 1-inch gash above the eye, which swelled shut. His vision in the eye was measured at 20/400 after the injury. He underwent glaucoma surgery in June and lens-replacement surgery in December, and recently his eye tested at 20/60, though retinal damage has left it with two permanent blind spots.

Molina has resumed his career with Evansville and went 1-for-4 in his first game back.

"He's back playing and that's good," Christensen said.

"It's not over for me," Molina told The Daily Herald of Arlington Heights last week, adding he will need surgery every seven or eight years to relieve pressure inside his eyeball. "There will be a lawsuit. We have until April 23 to do it and we will do it."

Christensen wrote Molina a letter and offered a public apology when he signed with the Cubs last summer.

"The only thing I didn't do is, I was told not to go see him or anything like that by his coach and by our coaches," Christensen said.

The Cubs took their share of criticism for selecting Christensen, including some from

then-second baseman Mickey Morandini, who is no longer with the team.

Cubs president Andy MacPhail said Tuesday that extensive background checks convinced the team that Christensen was not a risk and worth taking.

"I don't think we looked at it as exonerating him from the incident," MacPhail said. "There are a lot of people we choose not to take because we were concerned about their personality. Our people were satisfied with other than the incident that he will have to deal with in a variety of ways, that he was worthy of being in the organization."

MacPhail realizes the 22-year-old Christensen, who went 21-1 in three years at Wichita State before he was suspended following the incident, will have to answer

a lot of the same questions.

"I don't for a minute think it's going to be easy for him to overcome the burden of the incident," MacPhail said. "It's hard to become a major league player. This is an added burden. He is going to have to be strong to get through it because he's going to get asked that question everywhere he goes as his season progresses. The degree of difficulty increases."

Cubs manager Don Baylor said Christensen made a mistake but comes to camp with a clean slate as far as he is concerned. He added that the 6-4 right-hander can't hesitate to throw pitches inside because he's worried about hitting someone.

"Ben came here and had some baggage," Baylor said. "I told him to leave the baggage at the door."

Good news for Duncan: muscle strain won't break game streak

What was thought to be a torn abdominal muscle won't keep Spurs' forward from missing a game

By Kelley Shannon
The Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — Tim Duncan's strained abdominal muscle is not torn, meaning the All-Star forward might be able to keep alive his streak of never missing an NBA game.

Duncan, listed as day to day, will travel with the San Antonio Spurs for a three-game road trip and there is a chance he will play Thursday night in Charlotte.

While the Spurs' reserves practiced Tuesday and the rest of the team took the day off, Duncan took a magnetic resonance imag-

ing test on his lower abdomen and began rehab, which includes workouts in a pool.

Duncan has played in 185 consecutive regular-season games during his three years in the league. Shaquille O'Neal of the Los Angeles Lakers had an abdominal strain during the 1997-98 season and missed 21 games.

Duncan left Monday night's game against Phoenix early in the second quarter of the Spurs' 98-89 loss. There did not appear to be any unusual contact that might have caused an injury.

"He just came over and said that I needed to sub for him," Spurs coach Greg Popovich said. "Then I knew right away that something was wrong. I didn't need to question him what was

wrong. I just got him out of there."

If Duncan is sidelined, San Antonio is expected to give additional playing time to Malik Rose, with David Robinson picking up his offensive game. Robinson had 31 points and 18 rebounds, and Rose scored 17 points.

"If we play the way we did last night then we'll be in good shape," Popovich said. "It'd be great to shoot a little bit better. But the effort and the defense and the execution, I'm really proud of."

Guard Antonio Daniels, Duncan's closest friend on the team, sprained his left wrist during Monday night's game and also is listed as day to day. He will make the upcoming road trip and could play Thursday.

New York delivers KO to eight-second count

By Joel Stashenko
The Associated Press

ALBANY, N.Y. — New York plans to follow the lead of other states by proposing the elimination of the standing eight count in all professional bouts.

The Athletic Commission also intends to change rules governing judge selection and payments prompted by the disputed Evander Holyfield-Lennox Lewis draw last year at Madison Square Garden.

The rules in both instances are expected to be approved in April.

The standing eight count was designed to protect boxers by allowing the referee to step in and give an overwhelmed fighter an eight-second respite.

Dr. Barry Jordan, a neurologist and ringside physician during many New York bouts, said thinking has changed among doctors.

"If a boxer is sustaining enough punishment to have to count to eight to assess his condition, then he's probably suffered enough punishment to stop the fight," Jordan said.

Athletic Commission counsel Lawrence Mandelker said boxing officials believe some referees were unfairly using the count to give beleaguered boxers a rest.

New rules will provide for judges at championship bouts in New York to be selected by the Athletic Commission and not boxing's sanctioning organizations.

They also create a sliding scale for what referees and judges at such bouts will be paid, based on the fight's purse.

The state will require a declaration that no one at a bout's sanctioning body received payment from the fight's promoter.

Classifieds

Call (541) 346-4343
or stop by Room 300, Erb Memorial Union
to place your ad today.
P.O. Box 3159, Eugene, OR 97403
E-mail: classads@oregon.uoregon.edu
On-line edition: www.dailyemerald.com

Oregon Daily Emerald

095 PERSONALS

Wesley Night Fellowship
Wednesdays at 7pm
All students welcome!
Rev. Janet Cromwell, Pastor
The Wesley Foundation
1236 Kincaid Street

105 TYPING/RESUME SERVICES

EDITOR
Books, articles & dissertations.
681-9004

Let me assist you! Fast, accurate
word processing & proofreading.
Call Linda at 895-2470.

At 344-0759, ROBIN is GRAD
SCHOOL APPROVED. 20-year
thesis/dissertation background.
Term papers. Full resume service.
Editing. Laser pr. ON CAMPUS!

120 MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

****Give Me Five!****
Run your "FOR SALE" ad (items
under \$1,000) for 5 days. If the
item(s) doesn't sell, call us at
346-4343 and we'll run your ad
again for another 5 days FREE!
Student/Private Party Ads Only • No Refunds

Wednesday is New Comic Day
at Emerald City Comics.
770 E. 13th. 345-2568.

125 FURNITURE/APPLIANCES

Former UO student must sell nice
furniture. CHEAP. Bed set, couch-
es and desks. Please call 949-497-
2886 or 949-280-8830.

130 CARS/TRUCKS

1980 VW Camper Van. Good con-
dition, newly rebuilt engine, \$2500.
Call 242-0819 noon-6.

145 COMPUTERS/ELECTRONICS

PowerMac G3/400 graphic design
system with 21" ColorSync monitor.
\$2300. Epson Stylus 3000 inkjet
printer, \$700. 942-7981.

150 TV & SOUND SYSTEMS

CASH! We Buy, Sell & Service
VHS VCR's & Stereos. Thompson
Electronics, 1122 Oak, 343-9293

155 INSTRUMENTS/MUSIC EQUIP.

TROMBONE FOR SALE
silver, used, prof. model
bach stradti 16 -- 346-8333

180 TRAVEL & LODGING

MEXICO SPRING BREAK 2000.
South Padre Island, Acapulco,
Cancun from \$399. Round trip air
fare. 7 nights hotel, 14 free meals,
night life you won't be able to tell
your mom about! Leisure Tours.
Call now for details 1-800-584-7533.

185 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

BUYER BEWARE
The Oregon Daily Emerald assumes no
liability for ad content or response. Ads are
screened for illegal content and mail order
ads must provide a sample of item for sale.
Otherwise, ads that appear too good to be
true, probably are.
Respond at your own risk.

190 OPPORTUNITIES

Aspiring Writers
Inform, Expose
Provoke, Explain
Tell, Ask, Vent, Change
An online college community
email us: eam@maincampus.com
\$25 per article!

200 WORK STUDY POSITIONS

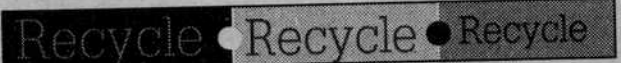
Jobs in Campus Recycling!
Campus Recycling Now hiring work
study/ tech fee funded students for
positions beginning now.

Contact Campus Recycling at 346-
1529. Leave message with a mail-
ing address and phone number to
obtain application.

205 HELP WANTED

UO Summer Enrichment
Program
Counselor & Teacher Positions
Positions available at the most
unique camp in Eugene. Creative and
energetic people needed for life
changing employment. Enrich the
lives of local talented and gifted
youth while gaining valuable experi-
ence. Must be available June 21-
July 22. Camp held on UO campus.
Visit our website at:
interact.uoregon.edu/tag/jobs.html
for online application and informa-
tion, or call Andrew at 346-1405

New Gourmet Pizza Restaurant in
downtown Eugene is hiring a com-
plete staff. If you want a challenging
and exciting job in an excellent
working environment, please call us
at 541-284-6267.



Check Out
**UO Internships/
Participatory Learning
Experiences**
at
<http://uocareer.uoregon.edu/ple/>

Personals
ONLY \$1.00
*One ad per coupon
*5 line maximum
*Student ID required
*Personals only please
Oregon Daily
Emerald
Suite 300 EMU • 346-4343

Winter Work-Study Positions Available
A Programming Assistant position is now available. This position like all positions at The Break, work at the front desk and coordinate another aspect of the operation of our facility. Stop by The Break or call 346-4378 for more info. Application deadline is Fri., Feb. 25th, 4pm.
The Break
POOL HALL • ARCADE ROOM • GAMES