

Parents of slain Baylor player set for lawsuit against school

Patrick Dennehy's body was found in Waco, Texas six weeks after being fatally shot by a teammate in June

By Jeff Caplan
Knight Ridder Newspapers (KRT)

FORT WORTH, Texas — The mother and stepfather of slain basketball player Patrick Dennehy said they have hired an attorney and plan to file a lawsuit against Baylor University.

Valorie and Brian Brabazon, who live in Carson City, Nev., have retained Jim Skinner of the Dallas-based law firm Pezzulli Kinser. Skinner said he will visit with the Brabazons in Nevada next week.

"We're evaluating their potential claims at this point, and we do anticipate filing suit against Baylor University," Skinner said Thursday. "Outside of that I wouldn't feel comfortable with any kind of comment with respect to what kind of case it would be or claim or where it would be or anything else at this point."

The civil suit would be the second filed against Baylor in the aftermath of Dennehy's death. On Aug. 22, Pat Dennehy, Sr., Dennehy's biological father, filed a wrongful death suit in Houston. It named Baylor, former coach Dave Bliss, school President Robert

Sloan, former Athletic Director Tom Stanton and members of the Baylor University Board of Regents, including Houston Astros owner Drayton McLane.

Skinner said he could not divulge individuals who might be named in the Brabazons' lawsuit and that it will be separate from Dennehy's civil suit.

Baylor general counsel Noley Bice said Thursday that he was not aware of the possible lawsuit. "Since we have not seen anything, we are not in a position to comment on any alleged lawsuit."

Patrick Dennehy disappeared in mid-June, and his body was found nearly six weeks later near a gravel pit southeast of Waco. An autopsy revealed he had been shot twice in the head. Former teammate Carlton Dotson was arrested on July 21 in his home state, Maryland. Dotson was jailed for three months before being extradited to Waco last week. He has pleaded not guilty to killing Dennehy.

Last week, Daniel Cartwright, an attorney for Dennehy's father, told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram that his investigation shows that Dennehy was killed by someone other than Dotson.

In his lawsuit, Patrick Dennehy, Sr. says that his son became the target of violent threats after saying he

might expose wrongdoing in the Baylor men's basketball program. The suit says Dennehy was "lured to his death" by another player but does not identify the player. The suit claims that Baylor, Bliss, regents and others conspired to cover up information about Dennehy's death and concealed illegal activities in the athletic department.

Brian Brabazon said he, too, believes that Baylor is attempting to cover up information.

"I know there is a cover-up going on," he said. "That's just a gut feeling. I don't have anything to prove it, but there's something going on."

He said he wants the truth exposed.

"The compensation I want is I want Baylor brought down," Brian Brabazon said. "I want the truth to come out. It can't go on like this. There's something behind it, and I just hope the truth comes out. That's all I want."

Baylor officials have declined to comment on the allegations in Patrick Dennehy, Sr.'s lawsuit, referring questions to Bice.

Bice has said that the allegations do not merit a response because they do not include details or named sources.

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CAL

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good year, I'd like to get out in one year," Rodgers told the Copley News Service in a story that ran in Illinois' State Journal-Register. "He was totally approving of me doing that."

"I felt Cal was a great fit. Being able to play for coach Tedford, who is one of the top quarterback coaches in the nation, and playing in a program on the rise, it was a perfect fit."

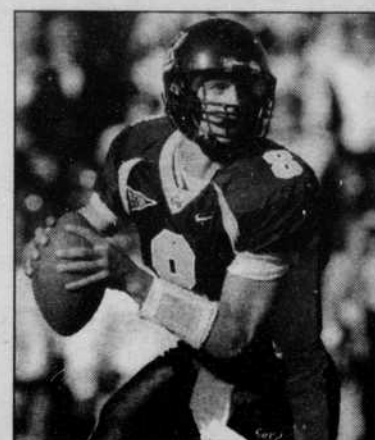
After junior quarterback Reggie Robertson started the first four games for the Golden Bears — leading them to a 1-3 record — Tedford handed the starting role to Rodgers.

With Rodgers under center, California is 4-2. The sophomore has completed 127 of his 217 pass attempts — an impressive 58.5 percent — for 1,614 yards and 10 touchdowns with three interceptions.

"Aaron is settling in and feeling more comfortable," Tedford told the Contra Costa Times. "He made some plays against Arizona State, keeping his eyes down the field when things were breaking down. He made some plays you don't draw up on the board."

Rodgers was named the Pacific-10 Conference's Offensive Player of the Week after the Golden Bears stomped Arizona State, 51-23, at Sun Devil Stadium on Saturday. In the victory, Rodgers completed 17 of 22 passes for 307 yards and three touchdowns.

"Our rushing attack (327 yards the previous week against Arizona) opened up our passing game against Arizona State," Rodgers told the Contra Costa Times. "They had a lot of eight-man fronts trying to stop our run."



California Media Services

Sophomore transfer Aaron Rodgers has started Cal's past six games

Wide receiver Geoff McArthur and tailback Adimchinobe Echemandu have made the impact in Rodgers' smoothly running offense.

Echemandu, Rodgers and McArthur, "in my mind, jump-started their offense and are getting better each week," Bellotti said.

McArthur has 1,037 receiving yards and seven touchdowns this season while Echemandu has run for 1,009 yards and 10 touchdowns.

Rodgers has had three 250-plus-yard passing games in his six starts.

"I'm still looking for that complete game, and I haven't played it yet," Rodgers told the Daily Californian after Saturday's victory.

When reminded of his Player of the Week-worthy performance, Rodgers replied:

"Well, I did have five incompletions. I can get rid of those."

Contact the senior sports reporter at mindirice@dailyemerald.com.

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MEN

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The Ducks won't have the services of Short and freshman Jordan Kent and most likely won't play Jackson, who stubbed his big toe, according to Ernie Kent. Oregon wants to be

careful with the forward's health.

As for the rest of the team, the Ducks will have to focus against an opponent that they don't know much about. It is an opponent that won't factor into the standings, and most likely, the team won't dwell on the results, regardless of what they are.

"I don't know what to expect," Brooks said. "I really don't. It will be a nice gauge to see where our team's at. You get kind of tired playing the same people all the time. It'll feel good to play someone different."

Contact the sports editor at hankhager@dailyemerald.com.

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