

Three Oregon State athletes face charges in death

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
CORVALLIS — Two Oregon State football players and a former teammate have been charged with providing alcohol to an 18-year-old man who was found dead with more than five times the legal limit of alcohol in his blood.

Michael Marks and Gregory Peat, both 18-year-old offensive linemen, were charged with giving alcohol to Lance Strickland and to another man, Benton County District Attorney Scott Heiser said Monday.

John Ronnfeldt, 21, a former member of the team, was charged with furnishing alcohol to Strickland,

Marks, Peat and another man, Heiser said.

Strickland, from the Eastern Oregon town of Joseph, was found in an unoccupied dorm room over Labor Day weekend with a blood alcohol level of 0.43 percent, officials said. Strickland did not attend Oregon State. He went to high school with Marks and the two were friends. He was visiting campus before the Beavers' football game against Portland State.

Marks and Peat have been redshirted this season, meaning they won't see time on the playing field, but won't lose a year of eligibility, said

Oregon State spokesman Steve Fenk. Ronnfeldt is "not an active member of the team," Fenk said. "He met with coach (Mike) Riley the following week after the incident, and they made a mutual decision that he should concentrate on personal issues."

Ronnfeldt and Marks were arraigned Monday by Benton County Judge Locke Williams. The two are scheduled to return to court on Nov. 3.

The charges carry a maximum possible penalty of one year in jail and a fine of \$6,350 for each count.

Riley said he and his staff thoroughly check into the backgrounds of

prospective recruits.

"It doesn't mean that kids won't make bad decisions and won't make mistakes," he said. "They will, in the blink of an eye, change their life if they make some bad decisions and that's what has happened in this case."

The Athletics Department has proposed punishments for Marks and Peat that include alcohol awareness counseling and community service, Fenk said.

Oregon State football players have faced a rash of trouble over the past year.

Last April, sophomore defensive lineman Joe Rudolph pleaded guilty to

assaulting an Oregon National Guardsman on leave from Iraq. He was sentenced to 10 days in jail.

In March, defensive lineman Ben Siegert was arrested for driving while intoxicated after allegedly speeding with a 200-pound ram sheep in the back of his pickup.

Siegert pleaded no contest, and was ordered to complete alcohol treatment, pay court fees and appear before a victims' impact panel.

And two players — running back Jimtavis Walker and long snapper Star Paddock — were arrested Feb. 11 for assaulting a taxi driver and offering to pay a \$20 fare with marijuana.

IN BRIEF

Community members able to 'Meet the Chief'

People will be able to speak one-on-one with Eugene Police Chief Robert Lehner on Wednesday morning during the Eugene Police Department's monthly "Meet the Chief" conference.

The monthly conference, held for the first time this year near campus, is one of several opportunities community members have to meet with the chief.

The meeting will take place at the West University Public Safety Station, located on the corner of East 13th Avenue and Alder Street from 7-8:30 a.m.

EPD spokeswoman Kerry Delf said people can bring up issues related to the University neighborhood, such as parks or the department's party patrol, at the conference.

What will be discussed with the

chief will depend on "who comes and what's on their minds," she said. "It's a good opportunity for people who live in the neighborhood."

— Katy Gagnon

Annual 'Outlist' supports National Coming Out Day

Compilation of names for the 11th annual "Outlist" is underway to celebrate National Coming Out Day on Oct. 11. The "Outlist" is a list of students, faculty, staff and alumni who wish to publicly acknowledge and celebrate that they are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered or allies of the LGBT community.

The list is planned to appear as an advertisement placed in the Oregon Daily Emerald between Oct. 10-14.

The purpose of "Outlist" is to promote diversity and security for all students, to create a safe and welcoming

campus environment, and to provide an outlet for the LGBT community to celebrate their identity, according to a press release. More than 350 people participate in the project each year.

People interested in should e-mail program@uoregon.edu.

—Brittini McClenahan

Seattle City Council approves stricter strip-club

SEATTLE — The City Council on Monday approved some of the strictest adult-entertainment regulations of any major city in the country.

The council voted 5-to-4 to ban lap dances and restrict patrons from placing dollar bills in a dancer's G-string. Clubs also must have bright lighting, or what one council member likened to "Fred Meyer" lighting, a reference to the brightly lighted grocery and multi-department chain.

Council members feared a rash of new cabarets after a federal judge struck down the city's 17-year moratorium on new strip clubs.

Between 1986 and 1988, the number of cabarets in Seattle jumped from two to seven. Concerned residents persuaded the city to impose a 180-day moratorium to keep the number where it was. Over the next two decades, the City Council repeatedly extended the moratorium as a way of avoiding the politically sensitive issue of deciding in which neighborhoods to allow strip clubs.

Oregon Supreme Court overturns sex show laws

SALEM — The Oregon Supreme Court struck down a state law against live sex shows and a local ordinance regulating nude dancers.

Both restrictions violate the Oregon Constitution's guarantees of free speech and free expression, the court said in a pair of 5-1 decisions.

The court's decisions have given Oregon "one of the most protective approaches to the interests of freedom of expression," of any state, said Steven Green, a Willamette University constitutional law professor.

The state constitution, adopted in 1859 says, "No law shall be passed restraining the free expression of opinion, or restricting the right to speak, write or print freely on any subject whatever."

Justice Michael Gillette, who wrote the majority opinions, said it "appears to us to be beyond reasonable dispute that the protection extends to the kinds of expression that a majority of citizens in many communities would dislike — and even to physical acts, such as nude dancing or other explicit sexual conduct that have an expressive component."

Tribe considers reversing alcohol policy at casino

PENDLETON — The Umatilla Indian Reservation's governing board of trustees will consider this week whether to allow alcohol consumption at the Wildhorse Resort and Casino.

Tribal members are concerned that the dry casino is losing business to

bars and taverns that feature video poker slot machines from the Oregon State Lottery.

Opponents say the casino should remain dry because alcoholism is a leading killer of tribal people. They also say the mixture of alcohol and gambling could prove explosive.

"There are a lot of people who go out there when they are intoxicated anyway," said Carleta Abrahamson, 23, the granddaughter of a Walla Walla tribal chief. "When people gamble, they get all mad and crazy."

In a vote that showed the lack of consensus of the issue, tribal members backed liquor sales 229-218 in an advisory vote last month. The proposal calls for alcohol sales at the casino and nowhere else.

The casino opened in 1994 and has become one of Umatilla County's biggest employers. Three percent of the casino revenue goes to local non-profit agencies, schools, libraries, cultural and environmental groups through the Wildhorse Foundation under an agreement with the state.

Foundation grants totaled more than \$500,000 last year.

"From my position, it is a business decision," said Antone Minthorn, the board chairman.

But Minthorn does acknowledge that alcohol could mean problems. He said tribal police, courts and treatment programs must do their part to limit the fallout.

"I don't think anybody likes alcohol, particularly what it does to a community when there is abuse of alcohol," he said.

Bill Burke, 75, hereditary chief of the Walla Walla Tribe and a recovering alcoholic, said continuing the prohibition is not going to stop people from drinking because alcohol is available in Pendleton.

"I was never stopped by walking seven miles," he said.

He wants money from alcohol sales for treatment programs.

If the board approves lifting the ban on alcohol, the confederated tribes must enter into an agreement with the Oregon Liquor Control Commission. The issue then heads to the U.S. Department of the Interior for final approval.

—The Associated Press

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