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Sports

Bonds Says 'My Life Is in Shambles'

San Francisco Giants' Barry Bonds stops to talk before going into the clubhouse after taking batting practice Monday at Scottsdale Stadium in Scottsdale, Ariz. (AP photo)



But appears unfazed at the plate

(AP) --- Seven home runs shy of passing Babe Ruth, this should be a time of unbridled joy and excitement for Barry Bonds. Not so, he says. "My life is in shambles. It is crazy," Bonds said Monday in an interview with The Associated Press. "It couldn't get any crazier. I'm just trying to stay sane."

Then, clearly joking, he went for shock value: "Go to the Empire State Building and jump off, commit suicide and people can say, 'Barry Bonds is finally dead.' Except for in San Francisco," he said. "I'll leave something for them."

Despite those pronouncements, the 41-year-old Bonds has been upbeat and approachable - by his standards - this spring despite the recent release of "Game of Shadows," the book detailing his alleged longtime regimen for taking performance-enhancing drugs.

He appears unfazed at the plate. He's 10-for-16 with four homers in exhibition play despite being held out of San Francisco's lineup for the third straight day because of a tender left elbow.

Bonds starts the season next Monday at San Diego with 708 homers, close to Ruth and 48 from breaking Hank Aaron's mark of 755.

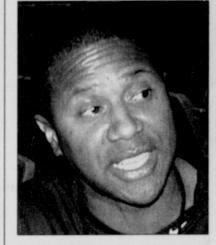
Asked how he blocks out distractions, he says:

"What's my job description? That's what I'm doing at that time," Bonds said. "No, I don't forget (what is said). I will never forget. I forgive you but I don't forget. I forgive everybody.'

Bonds played in only 14 games last season, all in September, following three operations on his troublesome right knee. An exam over the weekend on his elbow revealed inflammation.

"It's fine," Bonds said. "The knee is good. ... I've just got to get my strength back. My legs are fine. I just took a couple weeks off from training."

Pilots Dismiss Michael Holton



Michael Holton

The University of Portland announced Friday the departure of basketball coach Michael Holton.

Holton, who played at UCLA and had a six-year career in the NBA including two years with the Trail Blazers, compiled a 54-91 record as head coach at UP. The Pilots whet 11-18 this season, though they swept the other Oregon schools, Portland State, Oregon and Oregon Sate - for the first time since 1949.

"I'm grateful for the opportunity to coach in the city of Portland where I played professionally and began my Division 1 coaching career," Holton said.

Pilots athletics director Larry Williams said that he had expressed to Holton the university's gratitude for the leadership that Holton brought to the team during the past five seasons.

"Coach Holton is a man of great character and integrity and it has been my pleasure to work with him," Williams said. "He is an extremely talented human being and it is hard for me to see him go. We all offer him our sincere best wishes for the future."

Williams said that a search would begin immediately for the University's new head basketball coach.

Little League Fences Extended

(AP) — Little League is reining in its power hitters. Construction has started to push the fences back 20 feet at the home of the Little League World Series, cutting the chances for homers and creating a more spacious outfield that should lead to more doubles and triples.

The fences at two stadiums in South Williamsport, Penn. will be 225 feet from home plate once construction wraps up in July. The distance to the fences was previously 205 feet at both venues.

The decision to push back the fences is to give outfielders more ground to cover.

"While home run production has remained fairly constant over the last several years, we have noticed there are few doubles and triples," said Joseph W. Losch, senior vice president of Little League Baseball and Softball. "This move, while probably decreasing home run production by a small fraction, will increase the possibilities for other extra-base hits."

LSU Women, Men in Final 4

(AP) Seimone Augustus gave her old neighborhood - and all the rest of Baton Rouge - another reason to celebrate. Two days after her middle-school AAU teammate Glen "Big Baby" Davis and other longtime pals got the Louisiana State University men into the Final Four, Augustus did the same for the Lady Tigers in quite a memorable way.

She scored 17 of her 26 points in the second half, then drew the game-saving charge with 4.8 seconds left, sending LSU past Stanford 62-59 Monday night in the finals of the San Antonio Regional.

While LSU will be the seventh school to have its men's and women's teams playing



Louisiana State University guard Seimone Augustus cuts down the net Monday after beating Stanford 62-59 in their NCAA Women's Regional Final basketball game in San Antonio. (AP photo)

in the Final Four, Augustus' focus is going out on top. The nation's scoring leader and reigning national player of the year got this far the last two years also, but the senior has yet to win it all - or even reach the title game.

"It's just a great opportunity in front of us, to take advantage of it and end on a high note," she said. "That's the key, end with a win at the end of the season."

The LSU men play UCLA Saturday in Indianapolis. The other final 4 match-up, also Saturday has George Mason taking on Florida. The NCAA men's final game is Monday night.

The final four games for the women are Sunday with the finals on Tuesday.



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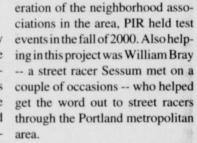
continued A from Metro

Portland area roadways, especially on weekend nights. "Before Late Night Drags, myself and other officers would chase the race groups around town," he said. "They'd be in one part of town, we go over and they'd leave quickly -- kind of dangerously -- when we showed up."

Sessum said the race groups would set up elsewhere, and continue racing.

The 12-year veteran of the Police skills to work. He approached officials at PIR and discussed allowing the street racers to compete in the for \$20 and drive them all night until they break down," said Sessum.

Macias agreed, and with the coop-



"These events were a big success," said Wigginton. "I think we had more than 190 cars the first night, and a lot of spectators."

Now in its sixth season, Late Bureau put his community policing Night Drags, sponsored by Les Schwab Tire Centers, continues to be a huge attraction.

"We have had a consistently safe environment of the raceway. strong showing of 150-190 cars and "This would be where the old and often get a thousand spectators for young alike can take their cars out the events," said Wigginton. "It seems to have given the racers a place to be and short-circuited the PIR's Wigginton and Pete street racing problem, and I've even heard it has taken a big bite out of cruising on Broadway when we are open."

For their efforts, Sessum, Bray, Macias and Wigginton were awarded the Community Policing Problem Solving Award last December by the Portland Police Bureau's Chief's Forum. This award is given to any individual or group that demonstrates creative problem-solving methods and/or techniques used to aid in the betterment of the community.

For more information about Late Night Drags, or for race schedules, call 503-823-7223, or go to the PIR website www.portlandraceway.com.



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