

## NFL players fumbling their image

McCLACHY TRIBUNE

When Miami Dolphins linebacker Joey Porter punched Bengals offensive tackle Levi Jones in the face after the players exchanged trash talk at a blackjack table in Las Vegas, the NFL's off-the-field crisis went from the tragic to the absurd.

As quick as a roll of the dice, the league's reputation further degenerated into an image of wildly out-of-control millionaires who are accountable to no one.

Nothing is off limits: DWIs, guns, fights, steroids, drugs, domestic violence, death.

"For everybody's benefit, if we are going to stay America's game, we have to do things right," Steelers owner Dan Rooney said.

The Porter-Jones heavyweight title fight earlier this month was just the latest in a series of disturbing incidents that have rocked the NFL since Broncos cornerback Darrent Williams was shot to death as he sat in a limo on New Year's Eve on a Denver street, in a still unsolved crime.

The altercation came just one

month after Titans cornerback Pacman Jones was questioned by police after three people were shot at a Las Vegas strip club during the NBA's All-Star weekend, leaving a Long Island man paralyzed.

It came just three days after Bears defensive tackle Tank Johnson was thrown in jail for 120 days for violating probation for a weapons violation by having an arsenal in his house.

And it came just as commissioner Roger Goodell was finalizing plans to slam the players with a stricter personal conduct policy in an attempt to prevent criminal behavior from dragging down his massive \$6 billion-a-year industry.

"I like what he is doing," one GM said. "The commissioner is saying, 'You better stop and think before you drink, before you go to that club.' He's trying to plant the seed. He's saying, 'Hey guys, it's over, we're not tolerating this anymore. We're coming down real hard on you.' You really got to be stupid then to get in trouble."

Punishments may go as far as one-year suspensions requiring ap-

plication for reinstatement.

Penalties could be imposed even before the legal process is complete, especially for repeat offenders.

The longest suspension handed out by Goodell last year for a personal conduct violation was four games.

Jones could shatter the record when Goodell gets through with him.

NFLPA president Troy Vincent acknowledges that the current policy of fining players, put into place in 2000, is not getting the message across: The money players make today is simply "so big, so enormous, it doesn't matter," Vincent said.

Taking away jobs for long stretches is a stronger and more effective deterrent.

According to reports, as many as 40-50 NFL players have been arrested since the beginning of 2006, a figure that would essentially make up the entire roster of one team.

"You would think that 48 out of the 53 guys on the rosters are thugs and menaces to society," Pete Kendall the Jets player rep said from the NFLPA meetings last week in Ha-

waii.

"That is definitely not the case. There is certainly an abundance of negative press about our players. There is recognition there is a problem," Kendall said.

Kendall points out that the proliferation of media and the advent of cell phones with cameras "make it harder for players to have a life out of the public eye" although that doesn't explain criminal behavior.

"Their luck ran out in Vegas," the GM said.

Porter, who just signed a \$32 million contract with the Dolphins (\$20 million of which is guaranteed) allegedly punched Levi Jones in the face after an argument spilled over from a blackjack table a continuation of the bad blood that developed when they faced each other twice a year when Porter played for the Steelers.

Porter was charged with misdemeanor battery.

The fear in the NFL of course is that at some point the public may get so fed up that there will be a backlash that could effect bank accounts.



Peterson



Shaw

## MSU outlasts Savage Storm

JOSH MUJICA  
SPORTS EDITOR

The Midwestern State University softball team traveled to Durant, Okla., to take on Southeastern Oklahoma State University Tuesday afternoon and came away with two wins.

The doubleheader was supposed to be played on Monday but was postponed due to inclement weather.

The Lady Mustangs (25-11) took advantage of four SOSU errors and cruised to a 6-1 game one victory.

MSU outhit SEOSU 10 to 4.

Lindsey Voigt had two hits and scored twice.

Freshman Katie Peterson was the winning pitcher for MSU as she compiled six strikeouts and two walks to improve her season record to 14-9.

Carly Goodnight was the losing pitcher for the Savage Storm as she struck out three and walked one to set her season record at 7-8.

In game two MSU out hit SOSU 15-12 and beat the Savage Storm 9-4.

Ashley Kuchenski was the winning pitcher as she bettered her season record to 11-2.

The Lady Mustangs struck first as they loaded the bases with one out in the first inning.

Shortstop Kelli Shaw brought the first of four hits on the day and Tara Stanten hit a two run single to right field to put the Lady Mustangs up 4-0 at the bottom of the first.

Shaw then added another two-run single in the third to put MSU up 6-1.

Midwestern never looked back as the Savage Storm had trouble keeping up.

The loss was the seventh in a row for the Savage Storm which is the longest losing streak in the program's 13-year existence.

The Lady Mustangs will now take on the Savage Storm today at 2 p.m. in another doubleheader at the Sunrise Optimist Fields.

## Mustangs parlay into fifth place

JOSH MUJICA  
SPORTS EDITOR

The MSU golf team competed in the University of Central Oklahoma's KickingBird Classic in Edmond, Okla., last Monday and Tuesday and placed fifth with 851 total points.

MSU junior Brady Jones shared the lead after two rounds with a stat of five-under.

He finished the course at one-over 71 and placed fourth individually at four-under par 206.

Blake Slaughter of St. Edward's

was named individual champion as he stayed five shots ahead of Jones with a 201 score.

UCO's Mitch Boles was second at 204 while St. Mary's Jamie Amoretti came in third at 205.

Midwestern's Logan Scarlett played well as he posted an even-par 70 to finish at three-over 213 to tie for 16th individually.

Junior hunter Linscombe earned a two-over 72 to finish at five-over 215 and a tie at 24th place.

Gordon Quebodeaux posted the best round of the day for the Mustangs on Tuesday as he fired a three-

under 67 to finish at seven-over 217.

Freshman Eric Thompson added a 76 to finish at 231.

St. Edward's conquered the team competition with an overall score of 836.

Host UCO finished one stroke behind with 837 while Abilene Christian took third with 839.

St. Mary's was fourth at 843.

MSU will be back in action on Monday and Tuesday at the West Texas A&M Subway Invitational at the LaPaloma Country Club in Amarillo.

The Zavala Hispanic Cultural Initiative invites all MSU students and faculty to its Hispanic Leadership Banquet

**When: Saturday**  
**Where: Women's Forum of Wichita Falls**  
**Time: 6 p.m.**

Guest Speaker will be Jimmy Cabreara, author of "What's in your Backpack, Packing for Success in Life"

Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for students

*\*This event is not only for Hispanics*

The Zavala Hispanic Cultural Initiative is a non-profit organization



# Thank you!

The 2006-07 Mustangs would like to thank the MSU students, band, and cheerleaders for their support throughout the season.

Coach Alan Kucera  
Christopher C. Dow #24  
Jimmy Jell  
#4

Eric Dawson #1  
Coach Ray

Blair #44  
Andrew #15

Christopher Furrer #21  
SLIM  
Cobina #5  
#12

Light #22

Arnold #10

Leah #11  
Coach "Daddy" Ray  
Michael Gachua #3

Wright #40  
Rod Jones #33

