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February 18, 2010

Below is the overview and decision from the National Club Baseball Association front office in regards to the situation that was presented to the NCBA regarding the University of California Berkeley Club Baseball Team.

Situation:

On February 13th and 14th the University of California-Berkeley Club Baseball Team had 3 scheduled games against a non conference opponent, California Lutheran. California Lutheran won the first two games and UC-Berkeley won the final game.

On February 15th at 12:31 am, President of the UC-Berkeley Club Baseball Team, Lee Psuateri, submitted his Weekly Team Submission, in which it included the scores of all 3 games as well as had nominations for Player and Pitchers of the Week. Will Habeeb was chosen as one of the Pitchers of the week. However, Mr. Habeeb was ineligible to compete in NCBA sanctioned baseball games. Christian Smith, the Southern Pacific Regional Director, had not looked over in detail the Weekly Team Submission that was submitted by Mr. Psuateri.

Then on February 15th at 1:06 pm, Mr. Psuateri, sent Mr. Smith another email stating that the first Weekly Team Submission submitted had a mistake on it. Below are the contents of the email that Mr. Psuateri submitted to Christian Smith:

"I messed up on the pitchers of the week. Alex Rowan was the pitcher in place of Will Habeeb. Will Habeeb did not come down this weekend because he is academically ineligible. I just mixed up the names last night when I was filling out the form. Also, we are almost certain that we will be playing down in LA against USC March 6th and 7th. So if you could put that up on the website that would be great. And we will not be playing USD in two weeks because we have the Stanford games to play. Sorry for the inconvenience."

In the aforementioned email, it had an attachment with an updated Weekly Team Submission showing that Alex Rowan was actually a pitcher in the third game and replaced Mr. Habeeb's name in the Pitcher of the Week section. Mr. Smith took Mr. Psuateri's word and discarded the first Weekly Team Submission which included the ineligible player's statistic line.

Then on the morning of February 16th, Mr. Smith selected the Southern Pacific North Conference Pitcher of the Week. Mr. Smith selected Mr. Rowan as the North Conference Pitcher of the week, and it was uploaded to the NCBA website on the Southern Pacific North Conference Page for everyone to view.

A few hours later, Mr. Smith was notified in an email from a UC-Berkeley parent who attended the games between UC-Berkeley and California Lutheran that Mr. Rowan had not pitched at all during the games, and that the stat line that was used for the Southern Pacific North Conference Pitcher of the Week was actually that of Will Habeeb.

Mr. Smith was then aware that Mr. Psuateri had lied to him and that Mr. Habeeb had actually played in game(s) over the weekend against California Lutheran, even though Mr. Smith notified Mr. Psuateri that Mr. Habeeb was ineligible and was not to participate in any NCBA sanctioned games.

The NCBA front office opened an investigation at which point Mr. Psuateri became completely cooperative. During this investigation, Mr. Psuateri confessed that Will Habeeb and Edward Forscher (both ineligible) competed in all three games against California Lutheran in addition to having lied and providing the NCBA with false



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information. The NCBA took this situation very seriously and on February 18th had come to a decision on what should be done.

Decision and Consequences:

In regards to NCBA rule Number 6.01.0, which states, "Players are not deemed eligible to participate in any NCBA Sanctioned Baseball Game until their paperwork has been processed with the league. When the player appears on the team's roster, which available on the Official NCBA website (www.clubbaseball.org), then that player is then eligible to compete in NCBA Sanctioned Baseball Games."

1) Mr. Habeeb's and Mr. Forscher's paperwork was submitted to the NCBA but both were deemed ineligible to compete in NCBA Sanctioned Baseball Games. Mr. Habeeb's specific ineligibility status will not allow him to participate for the remainder of the 2010 NCBA season.

In regards to NCBA rule Number 6.02.0, which states, "Any team found playing an ineligible player will be penalized by forfeiting all games that, that ineligible player participated in while holding ineligible status."

2) Mr. Habeeb and Mr. Forscher were ineligible and it was later found out that they did participate in all three games. Therefore the league mandated that all games played are forfeited to California Lutheran and all stats produced from those games do not count.

3) The NCBA front office will also mandate that the University of California-Berkeley Club Baseball Team will be placed on probation for the remainder of the 2010 NCBA season. The UC-Berkeley team WILL BE ELIGIBLE to compete in post-season play should they win their conference. At the end of the 2010 NCBA season, the NCBA front office will re-evaluate if UC-Berkeley should be taken off probation.

4) The NCBA front office will also mandate that Lee Psuateri, President of UC-Berkeley, be banned from holding any administrative officer position or coach with any NCBA member Club Baseball Team for the remainder of the 2010 season. Mr. Psuateri, WILL BE ELIGIBLE to participate as a player provided that he meets the specified eligibility requirements listed in the NCBA rules, which he does.

Notes:

The NCBA does want to stress that they did take this situation very seriously and should the UC-Berkeley Club Baseball Team have any future problems with the NCBA, much more serious consequences will arise for the team, possibly including expulsion from the league. The NCBA also wants to stress, that there is a very definitive line between a player and Administrative Officers. Since Mr. Psuateri deceived the NCBA from an administrative perspective rather than a Player perspective, he will be disciplined as an administrator not as a player and thus will not be suspended from playing in any games.

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