

Story Behind NCAA Case No. 94

A Nightmare In Raleigh

By SANDY GRADY

This is the story behind the All-American basketball player who may never play a minute for North Carolina State College.

He is, of course, Jackie Moreland—an 18-year-old youth who Everett Case told The News "is the best white basketball prospect I have ever seen."

Once he was the dream player of Case's 19-year reign at State. Now he is the albatross that may weigh the whole State athletic program with national shame.

When Morehead first visited the State campus in May, 1955, he was an obscure, shy boy from an obscure high school at Minden, La. But basketball men sensed the magic in his

porters and possible last-minute blandishments of other talented scouts. A carefully handled press conference was held Sept. 7 to display Moreland in the flesh.

Meanwhile, someone had lit the dynamite fuse by writing a letter of complaint to the NCAA. (State basketball folks speculate that it was someone at the U. of Kentucky, which had accused State of irregularities in previous years.) Jim Weaver, ACC commissioner, was tipped off that a probe was being made. An Atlanta detective had been hired by Kentucky by the NCAA itself? To find why Moreland picked State.

Eye At The Keyhole

IT IS conjectured that a spy camera named Betty Clara Rhea painted a colorful picture of Moreland's departure.

And the Centenary coach added his partisan details. Who else was interviewed? Case, Bubas, Stewart, Casey and Moreland denied any rule-breaking. (A State assistant points out that Moreland is "such an honest kid" he may have incriminated State by telling the NCAA that he was offered a full five-year scholarship. "Dozens of State athletes such as Terrell, Molodet, Di-Nardo, Dickman, take an extra semester of work to graduate but this is not technically a five-year ridd.")

The director's report shook the NCAA into action. It reportedly painted State's sins as these: a seven-year medical scholarship for Moreland's girl friend, \$1000 a year in cash for Jackie, \$200 clothes gift from the girl, trips to State for the girl. (Texas A&M was accused of offering

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ —THE LETTER JACKIE SIGNED—

hearing in Detroit. (2) To send him the evidence behind the charges. Byers fired off two wires to Friday. One said there would be no postponement because "IT WOULD NECESSITATE FIVE OR SIX MONTHS DELAY." The other refused a release of the evidence because it would be "contrary to established policy" and "our insistence on committee findings and identity of witnesses."

The door had been slammed in State and Greater University faces for the first of many times. What was the NCAA's evidence? It was analogous to being charged with murder, but not knowing who had been killed, what kind of weapon was used, or who did the accusing.

On Nov. 12 Boston, Casey was thunderous. On Nov. 13 came The Wire. It was a 500-word telegram from Byers to Boston and Friday. It charged State with offering excessive aid, iced State on a four-year ban from the NCAA or similar basketball tournaments, and cut State out of the NCAA television football picture. It censured Bubas and Casey for a "high-pressure recruiting trip."

The merry-go-round continued. State again asked to see the NCAA's evidence. Byers wrote on Nov. 14 that Friday and Carmichael could see the evidence in Kansas City if they would keep certain "reports, memoranda . . . sources . . . and identity of persons who helped process Case No. 94" confidential. Since State's purpose in the trip was to obtain evidence to clear up their guilt or punish the guilty with dismissals—any secret data was worthless.

On Nov. 19 Friday wired Byers that the Greater University had the right to question any witnesses in the Moreland case, "confront witnesses directly with persons implicated by witnesses" and openly discuss the case with trustees.

'Keep It Secret'

BYERS SENT back a long, weary-toned letter on Nov. 21 agreeing that Friday had the privilege of questioning all witnesses. Byers said he no longer understood Friday's reasons for a Kansas City trip since State knew (1) names of all key witnesses, (2) specific violations in Case 94, (3) the NCAA's findings.

Said Byers: If you want to investigate, go ahead. Friday made a last desperate telephone call on Nov. 28 but the NCAA would not lower its shroud of secrecy around the evidence.

At a conference of Friday, Boston, Carmichael and the State Athletic Council (students, faculty, alumni) on Nov. 26, it was decided to turn to ACC investigation. The ACC's report would be made public.

If State was innocent, perhaps the NCAA would reconsider the State's appeal. If not, more serious action would be taken.

... A Boy's Future

THE NEXT DAY Boston, Friday and Dr. H. H. Fisher of State met with ACC President Dr. Charles Jordan, to ask for the league probe. On Dec. 6 Boston appeared before the ACC faculty chairman to plead for the investigation. It was State's last hope. Meanwhile, Jim Weaver had refused to sign Moreland's eligibility blank "as I accept no NCAA's findings," said Weaver.

Would Moreland ever play for State? "I'll stay this semester," said a perplexed 18-year-old named Jackie Moreland, who only wants to study and shoot basketballs. "After that, I just don't know."

HOW EXPERTS RATE JACKIE AS A PLAYER

How good a basketball player could Jackie Moreland be? Those who have seen him answer thusly . . .

LEE TERRELL, State freshman coach—"A dream to coach. He's a top-flight boy in every way. Our variety could not stop him. He'd always be good for 30 points a game."

BUCK FREEMAN, UNC assistant—"He does everything. Runs well, shoots from everywhere, plays defense. A possible All-American."

EVERETT CASE, State head coach—"The best prospect we ever had."

BONES MCKINNEY, Wake Forest assistant—"Moreland as a scorer would stay anywhere."

BILL HENSLEY, State publicist—"His touch on shooting is softer and more precise than was Ronnie Shavlik's."

JIM GILEY, Wake Forest center—"I saw him against the State varsity. He has a jumping hook shot that I don't think you could guard."



JACKIE MORELAND "Just a nice kid . . ."

6-8, lean-limbed physique. They knew of the 1900 points he had scored in 65 high school games.

Cupid Plays A Role

SINCE HIS parents were of modest means, Moreland was listening intently to all college offers. He needed a scholarship and help. He liked State, its athletic men, its engineering advantages. On May 11, 1955, he signed a letter of intent to matriculate in September—a mimeographed form with little binding value. Morehead shopped elsewhere.

He also signed forms at Kentucky and Texas A&M. But when August came, Jackie was on the campus of a small Shreveport, La., school named Centenary—a non-NCAA member without strict recruiting rules.

Perhaps youthful emotions played a role. Jackie's hometown girl friend, Betty Clara Rhea, was enrolled with him.

'He Was Kidnaped!'

STATE COULD NOT forget this gangling youth's potentialities. Three ambitious Assistant Basketball Coach Vic Bubas, Wolfpack Club president Harry Stewart, and Assistant Athletic Director Willis Casey—flew to Shreveport to make an 11th hour pitch for State. There was also a plane trip by Ronnie and Beverly Shavlik, Jim Wesley's 1955-56 star who was living testimony to State's advantages.

Moreland, also under sales pressure from Texas A&M, Kentucky and Centenary (where he had been a few days now), was confused. He and his parents decided it would be wise for Jack to return with Bubas to State, ending the recruiting turmoil. Finding Moreland gone, the Centenary coach screamed, "He's been kidnaped," on every sports page coast-to-coast. State's headhaché had begun.

Moreland's enrollment at State left a wake of unhappy people. Ken Landry, Texas A&M coach, and ex-Case enemy, was disappointed. Adolph Rupp, Kentucky coach and bitter rival of State, was highly irked. So was the Centenary coach. And so was a lass named Betty Clara Rhea ("hell hath no fury like, etc. . .").

Did Rupp Complain?

JACKIE WAS bedded down in a State dormitory, but his was not the normal freshman routine. He was guarded from re-

DOES STATE HAVE CHANCE OF REVERSAL?

Does State have any chance of lifting the NCAA's four-year prohibition? The odds are high against it. No school has succeeded in changing an NCAA ruling of this type. As far as Chancellor Cary H. Boston knows, there is no appeal except on the convention floor of the NCAA. And there is no precedent for the convention overruling the infractions committee.

But Boston hopes the ACC will investigate the Moreland case and find the Wolfpack clean. "The conference carries more weight with the NCAA than the individual schools," says Boston. "Our best chance for a new hearing is through the ACC."

What Case Has To Say . . .

How does Everett Case feel about Case No. 94?

"Everybody concerned tells me they are innocent, and that the NCAA could not have any black-and-white evidence," Case told The News. "When we were accused in 1954 we admitted our wrongs and took the penalty. This time we maintain that we have done nothing wrong. The penalty itself is very stiff in comparison with certain Pacific Coast actions. Just guessing, it seems that someone wanted us hurt. It is very complicated."

THREE scholarships, \$400 a month, and two new cars. Signs sufficiently Kentucky's name is unmentioned.)

Who Tells The Fib?

MEANWHILE, Moreland was enjoying his first taste of campus life. State found him a rare gift: an all-A student, a church-goer, an ambitious athlete, a pleasant, easy-going boy. The Signet fraternity wanted Moreland. His basketball skill was obviously tremendous—in practices the State varsity found Jackie unstoppable.

But the wheels of trouble were turning. The NCAA's Intraction Committee (four college officials and Walter Byers, NCAA executive) found the complaint of a student, a church-goer, an ambitious athlete, a pleasant, easy-going boy. The Signet fraternity wanted Moreland. His basketball skill was obviously tremendous—in practices the State varsity found Jackie unstoppable.

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All of the athletic people concerned, including Moreland, signed formal statements denying ALL of the allegations.

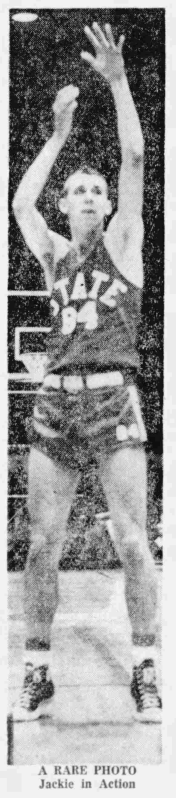
Now the lines were clearly drawn—someone had distorted the truth.

Careers At Stake

STATE officials sensed the situation was loaded with explosives. They remembered the May 7, 1954, edict by the NCAA ruling State out of the basketball tournament because of recruiting shenanigans. Another breach would be disastrous. Heads might roll—the July 4, 1953 memorandum from President Gordon Gray stated that any athletic staff members guilty of ACC or NCAA violations would be dismissed. (There are two important words in the memorandum—the guilt must be "clearly established.")

Boston and Friday flew to Kansas City to deny all guilt. On Oct. 31 Boston got a letter from NCAA's foreman Byers. State, it said, would be cited Nov. 12 in Detroit for breaking the rules in the Moreland situation. For the first time, Boston read the charges: Moreland had been hired, said the NCAA, by (1) cash gifts annually, (2) a seven-year medical scholarship for the girl, (3) a five-year ride for himself, (4) \$80 for transportation.

Friday, shocked by this move, called Byers. He asked Byers (1) to postpone the



A RARE PHOTO Jackie in Action

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