

Ticket theft at T&M draws administration attention

by scott dickensheets

staff writer

Another footnote has been added to the long and twisted saga of UNLV basketball recruit Lloyd Daniels. He may be implicated in a March 25 theft of Runnin' Rebel basketball tickets.

Someone apparently reached through the Thomas and Mack Center ticket window and took

several tickets, some of which were later returned. Possible suspects include one or two of Daniels's acquaintances who accompanied him to the ticket window that day.

Dean of Student Services Dr. Robert Ackerman said this week that an investigation into the incident is underway, but has been delayed because many of the key people were out of town for the NCAA tournament.

"Two of the three (suspects) are known," Ackerman said. "One remains unidentified."

He said the investigation, being conducted by acting campus police chief Eddie Rivas, should be completed by March 10. Also bogging down the investigation was the mysterious illness in the university dorm and the press of the police chief's routine duties.

Initially there were con-

flicting reports about the number of missing tickets. Though Ackerman said it has not yet been determined with absolute certainty, he said that at first 13 tickets were thought to be missing.

It was later determined that eight were simply misplaced inside the ticket office. Of the remaining five, three were returned by Daniels to University Regent, Chris Karamanos.

Ackerman said he requested that officials in New Orleans check the seats that the ticket thief would presumably be sitting in, but added he has heard nothing yet.

He also moved to quash any notion that there will be a superficial and quickly-buried investigation.

"We don't intend to take this lightly," he said, noting that once the culprit is known, "we will take some disciplinary action or some legal action."

UNLV president Dr. Robert Maxson said the same thing Friday morning. "Anybody that steals something from the university I'm always inclined to prosecute."

This episode is the latest to involve Daniels, a former New York City high school basketball star, widely considered to be one of the best young players in recent memory. In early February he was arrested on charges of attempting to purchase rock

cocaine and being under the influence of a controlled substance. The second charge was later dropped.

Daniels later emerged as the center of another controversy when the New York City newspaper *Newsday* reported March 22 that UNLV had violated numerous NCAA rules while recruiting Daniels. Among *Newsday's* charges were claims that Daniels was provided clothes, money, a car, free housing and other restricted privileges from university officials. Coach Jerry Tarkanian has denied the allegations.

Daniels's fate as a UNLV basketball player may have already been sealed, however. In the wake of his cocaine arrest, Tarkanian said Daniels would never play for UNLV. Maxson said Friday, "Coach Tarkanian has already said Daniels will never play for UNLV and I support that decision."

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