

Shackleford Denies He Shaved Points

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Charles Shackleford denied ever shaving points at North Carolina State, but admitted on Saturday that he made a major mistake accepting a loan from an agent while in school.

The statements were the first directly from Shackleford since an ABC News report earlier this week implicated the current New Jersey Nets forward and three other players in the scheme to fix Wolfpack games in the 1987-88 season.

However, Shackleford shed no light on the controversy, other than denying the report, and he had already done that earlier this week through his agent, Sal DiFazio. He answered no questions after reading his brief statement and did not discuss his arrest in Orange, N.J. Thursday for possession of a small amount of Marijuana.

DiFazio, of Bridgewater, N.J., also refused to answer questions relating to the investigation, saying Shackleford has hired another attorney to represent him in that matter, Matthew Boylan of Roseland, New Jersey.

Boylan was not in his office Saturday.

Shackleford, who played three seasons at North Carolina State, said he asked for the news conference so he would have a chance to comment on reports. He also apologized to N.C. State Coach Jim Valvano, who has come under fire during a state investigation of the point-shaving allegations.

The news conference lasted 15 minutes and Shackleford said very little about the investigation.

"I never shaved points at North Carolina State," Shackleford, hunched over a microphone and staring directly at his statement, said. "I did take money from an agent. I was young and poor. I was offered money and I took it. I borrowed the money from another person because I thought that was my only way out. What I did was wrong. I know that now."

Shackleford accepted about \$65,000 from two men and paid both of them back in 1988, DiFazio said.

One of the men was Robert Kramer of Denville, N.J., reportedly the mastermind of the point shaving scheme. He loaned Shackleford \$5,000 to \$6,000 when he was at North Carolina State and an additional \$14,000 to \$15,000 after the player left school after his junior year in 1988.

DiFazio said he was introduced to Shackleford by Kramer, but added that happened only a week or two after he himself had met Kramer.

Shackleford paid back the loan on Nov. 29, 1988. He also paid \$40,000 to Larry Gillman, a Connecticut sports agent



Charles Shackleford

and former East Carolina basketball coach, who accepted the money in exchange for releasing Shackleford from a player-agent agreement.

"I don't say that being young and poor is an excuse for what I did," Shackleford said. "It's not, but it is the reason why I took the money."

Nets General Manager Harry Weltman said the organization will support Shackleford during the investigation.

"Not knowing all the facts surrounding the allegations made against him, we stand by his side and will not make any judgement until all the facts are presented and judged accordingly," Weltman said in a statement he read. "We believe he is entitled to due process."

Shackleford, who has not played since Feb. 23 because of an elbow infection, was examined on Saturday morning by team physicians, who decided to have him sit out the team's game against Atlanta later that night.

Shackleford has played in 47 games this season, starting 32. He has averaged 9.6 points and 7.4 rebounds.

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CSA-DOOLITTLE CHAMPIONS CROWNED

Three tournament champions were crowned Friday during the half-time festivities of the First Annual CSA Coaches Show-Down Game and Awards Banquet.

Coaches and officials from all eighteen teams participated in the "Braggin' Rights" game which was won by Sixers-Victory-Hoyas squad over the Spurs-Hawks-All Stars by a score of 69-66. Tournament play began on Monday, with championship games on Thursday in the three grade divisions, 2nd and 3rd grades, 4th and 5th grades and the 6th, 7th and 8th grades.

The Las Vegas 76ers battled back in the 2nd and 3rd grade division to take the lead with less than a minute to go in their game with the Las Vegas Spurs and hung on to win by a score of 19-18. Dustin Gibson sank the winning free throw for the 76ers. In the 4th and 5th grade division the Las Vegas Spurs coached by Ronnie Jones, looked for their second straight upset after defeating the Doolittle Hoyas in a previous tournament game. However, the Alcon-

Steele Hawks, coached by Willie Washington and Bruce Soares had other ideas. In an exciting and thrilling game, which has come to exemplify the style of this division, the Hawks defeated the determined Spurs by a score of 27 to 25.

Game scoring honors went to Kendal 'Special K' Soares with 13 points and numerous rebounds. Manuel 'Magic' Terry contributed 9 points and an excellent floor game for the Hawks. Tournament MVP Ronnie Jones, Jr. led the Spurs with 12 points on assorted 3 point shots as well as spinning moves to the basket.

Finley tossed in 7 points while also dazzling the crowd with his outstanding floor play.

In the 6th, 7th and 8th grade division, T. Blash and Wade Perkins sparked the Las Vegas 76ers to an upset win over Victory Baptist Fastbreakers with 16 points apiece. Jerome Riley scored 18 points and Eric Washington contributed 12 for the Fastbreakers as they went down to defeat by the final score of 51-41.



2nd & 3rd Grade Winners - The Las Vegas 76ers



4th & 5th Grade Winners - The Las Vegas Spurs



6th, 7th & 8th Grade Winners - The Las Vegas 76ers

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For more information about AIDS, call 1-800-842-AIDS. Nevada AIDS Hotline



This is a message from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control.