

College Football Players Sue For End-Zone Prayer

LYNCHBURG, Va - Four football players at Liberty University, backed by the school's founder, religious leader

Jerry Falwell, sued college sports regulators Thursday over a new policy forbidding prayer after a touchdown.

Liberty football players traditionally celebrate scoring a touchdown by briefly kneeling in the end zone in a silent prayer of

thanks to God.

The four football players bringing the suit were joined by Falwell, head football coach Sam Rutigliano and other school officials in a legal challenge to the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), whose Football Rules Committee instituted the policy.

The NCAA rule was designed to prevent game delays that typically arise after touchdowns, such as spiking the ball, dancing or other rituals.

"There's unanimous agreement nationwide on

cracking down on taunting, extended celebrations, throwing the ball in the stands," said Mark Demoss, Liberty University spokesman. "But on this one issue, dropping to the knee to pray for a second, we're absolutely challenging that."

The lawsuit seeks to declare the policy a violation of the players' civil rights, citing the right to non-discrimination on the basis of religion.

Representatives from the Overland Park, Kansas-based NCAA did not return calls for comment.

A U.S. District Court judge for the Western District of Virginia, where the suit was filed, delayed ruling on the school's request Thursday for a temporary restraining order on

the rule until Friday — one day before the start of the team's first game of the 1995 season; DeMoss said.

According to a video distributed by the NCAA, prayer will result in a 15-yard penalty. A second offence leads to ejection, the plaintiffs said in a statement.

Legal experts say the court's ruling on the issue may hinge on their interpretation of the First Amendment's right to free speech.

"The First Amendment issue that's going to be brought up here is whether or not this improperly, impermissibly interferes with free exercise of religion of Liberty University students," said Joerg Knipprath of California's Southwestern University School.

Tennis Lessons For Children Scheduled

Introduce a youngster to the lifetime sport of tennis through fun, non-competitive lead-up games and related tennis activities. Three, one hour sessions of tennis lessons will be held for children ages 3 to 6 on Sunday, September 17 at the Sunset Park Tennis Courts, 2575 East Sunset Road.

Sessions will be held at 8:30 a.m. for 3 year olds; 10:00 a.m. for 4 & 5 year olds; and 11:30

a.m. for 5 & 6 year olds. Participants must be accompanied by a parent or guardian of at least 16 years of age. Each session will start with a brief introduction followed by group activities. Refreshments will be sold at the conclusion of each clinic.

Pre-registration will be taken from August 22 through September 16 at all Clark County Parks & Recreation Community

Centers or by mail. The cost is \$6 per participant. Early registration is recommended as space is limited. Each child will receive a mini-racquet or visor. Tennis racquets will be provided.

This event is co-sponsored by the Nevada Tennis Association.

For an application or more information call Clark County Parks and Recreation at 455-8200.

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Local League Announcements

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■ Wallyball leagues are forming through Aug. 1 at the Chuck Minek Sports Complex, 275 N. Mojave Road.

The City of Las Vegas-sponsored league, which costs \$40 per team, is open to all teens and adults.

Competition begins Aug. 3 and continues thereafter at 6:30 p.m. on random weekdays.

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■ Coed volleyball teams are being organized for a cost of \$160 at the Minker Complex. Leagues are open teens and adults.

Beginners play Tuesdays and intermediates compete Thursdays, both at starting at 6:30 p.m.

Call 229-6563 for additional information on the ten-week league format.

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■ The City of Las Vegas Dula Gymnasium, 441 E. Bonanza offers a variety of opportunities for the mature population that would enjoy fitness activities.

Specializing in Active Sports For Seniors, Dula offers the game of indoor paddle tennis on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Games and instruction take place from 9-11 a.m. Registration is \$1.

From 9-11 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays, the program changes to table tennis. There is no charge for table tennis.

Dula also offers Yoga classes Wednesday at 3:30 p.m. Suzanne Barnes teaches

the class by introducing a system of exercises for attaining physical and mental control. Classes are \$3 weekly.

All programs are designed for seniors, 55 or older. Call 229-6307 for details.

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■ Local organizations in need of facilities to sponsor sports tournaments, competitions or exhibitions, can now rent the gym at the City of Las Vegas Chuck Minker Sports Complex, 275 N. Mojave Road. Groups may reserve the facility for exclusive use at a cost of \$20/hour during business hours or \$30/hour at other times.

The facility is open weekdays, 7 a.m. - 9:30 p.m.; Saturdays, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; and Sundays, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Possibilities for use may include, but are not limited to, basketball, volleyball, gymnastics, dances, seminars, or workshops. Groups must include ten or more individuals. Call 229-6563 for reservation details.

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■ Please send your announcements to:
Las Vegas Sentinel-Voice League Announcements, 1201 South Eastern Ave. Las Vegas, Nevada 89104. Please include any age requirements for activity, dates for sign-ups as well as dates that activity will begin, phone number and any other pertinent information.

The Las Vegas Sentinel-Voice reserves the right to edit any announcement submitted for print.



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