

Yankees' Strawberry arrested for cocaine, soliciting a prostitute

Fred Goodall

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TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Darryl Strawberry's turbulent baseball career took a downward turn when he was charged with possession of cocaine and soliciting a prostitute.

The New York Yankees outfielder, in a gold-colored 1999 Ford Explorer, solicited an undercover officer for sex for \$50, Sgt. M. Hamlin of the Tampa Police Department said after Wednesday night's arrest about three miles from the team's training complex.

Upon being searched by officers K. Daniel and B. Holder at 10:10 p.m. EDT, 0.3 grams of powder cocaine wrapped in a \$20 bill was found inside of Strawberry's wallet, the police said.

The powder was tested and proved positive for cocaine, according to the police report.

Strawberry was booked at 12:22 a.m. today at the Hillsborough County Jail.

After he had his fingerprints taken and was photographed for a mug shot, he was released on \$6,000 bond shortly after 1 a.m.

The 37-year-old outfielder, an eight-time All-Star, has been in Tampa at the Yankees' extended spring training camp while he works back into shape following colon cancer surgery last Oct. 3.

After the Yankees won the World Series without him, New York City Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani praised Strawberry "for the comeback he's made as a baseball player and the comeback he's making in life."

He was in New York last weekend to receive his World Series ring, then returned to Tampa. He was not expected to rejoin the Yankees until next month, until after a stint with Columbus of the Triple-A International League. The Yankees did not want him to



DARRYL STRAWBERRY

join Columbus until after he completed chemotherapy.

Strawberry's list of substance abuse problems is lengthy.

Major league baseball suspended him for 60 days in 1995 after he tested positive for cocaine. The previous year, he entered the Betty Ford Center in Rancho Mirage, Calif., and spent four weeks undergoing treatment for a substance abuse problem.

In 1990, while with the

New York Mets, he entered the Smithers Center in New York for alcohol rehabilitation.

In addition to substance abuse, Strawberry also ran afoul of tax laws. In April 1995, a federal court ordered him to repay \$350,000 in back taxes and sentenced him to six months of home confinement.

But the order allowed him to leave home for practice and games, and to travel to road games.

Strawberry, who came to prominence with the Mets in the early 1980s and won the NL Rookie of the Year award in 1983, also has had off-

and-on problems in Los Angeles, where he was accused of failing to make timely payments to his ex-wife Lisa.

He rebounded after signing with the Yankees in June 1995 and had remained drug free, with regular testing by major league baseball. Strawberry had his best season in seven years in 1998, hitting .247 with 24 home runs and 57 RBIs in 295 at-bats.

The Yankees, because of complicated rules involving baseball's luxury tax, shifted him to a minor league roster during the offseason, fearing he would not be healthy

enough to play by opening day.

Strawberry, the No. 1 pick in baseball's June 1980 amateur draft, joined with Dwight Gooden to help lead the Mets to the 1986 World Series title. Gooden also has had cocaine problems and currently is with the Cleveland Indians.

Strawberry has a .250 career average with 332 homers and 994 RBIs in 16 major league seasons with the Mets, Los Angeles Dodgers, San Francisco Giants and Yankees. He led the NL with 39 homers in 1988 and topped 100 RBIs three times with the Mets from 1987-90.

Jordan argues over price for Hornets

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Michael Jordan and Charlotte Hornets owner George Shinn don't agree on how much the retired Chicago Bulls star should pay for a half interest in Shinn's team, *The Charlotte Observer* reported Tuesday.

Sources told the newspaper that Shinn values the team at \$160 million, and wants Jordan to pay \$80 million.

Jordan wants to pay less, in part because his presence is likely to raise the team's value almost immediately.

Jordan's prestige also could add a key element in local lobbying for a new basketball arena in downtown, the newspaper said.

Jordan and Shinn have been unavailable

for comment during negotiations. However, Jordan confirmed Saturday, while at a hockey game, that he's interested.

A source familiar with negotiations said there wasn't a conflict between Shinn and Jordan about the price. The number is negotiable and talks have been friendly.

Sources also said both would have veto power on major team decisions, and both would be consulted on every major issue.

Jordan has made hundreds of millions of dollars from NBA and endorsement contracts. Last season he made \$33 million for playing for the Chicago Bulls. It has been estimated endorsement deals pay about \$40 million annually.

Visiting

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born out of wedlock. Reasons ranged from not wanting to support children living with another man if the mother had married, to opposition from wives.

Among women, the contradiction goes: "As a mother, I want maintenance paid for my daughter's illegitimate child but, as a wife, I don't want my husband to pay for a child he fathered elsewhere."

Rather than pay child support, men argued for their right to custody of the child, said the study. When the courts separated the issues of custody and support, men objected.

South African lawyer Lorraine Wolhuter has argued that "paradoxically, both the award of an untrammelled right of access and its blanket denial facilitate the

perpetuation of substantive gender equality."

To place all the burden of child rearing on the mother is unfair. A father should have access when he can prove a commitment to and the existence of a social relationship with that child, argued Wolhuter.

This would take into

account the welfare of the child without perpetuating stereotypes about mothers and inequalities among children.

"It is worth debating with the Zimbabwean public the linkage of access with maintenance and what is in the best interest of the child," concluded Zigomo.

Kosovo

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those gathered that indifference "is not a response ... not a beginning, it is an end ... indifference is always the friend of the enemy, for it benefits the aggressor — never this victim..."

This is why individuals around the world are offering help to the refugees of terror in central Europe.

They understand that the way to contain and beat back these periodic eruptions of the tide of violence and cruelty is with a tide of compassion and support for the afflicted.

They understand that the courage to feel compassion for the suffering of others and the discipline to act to relieve that suffering is the only way to affirm that we human beings have a future worth living for.

Holyfield-Lewis II a hot fight

LONDON (AP) — The site and purse for the Lennox Lewis-Evander Holyfield rematch might be decided next month.

Lewis promoter Panos Eliades said Monday that Holyfield's promoter, Don King, Lewis' representatives and the HBO cable network officials were expected to meet, possibly in London, in mid-May.

"That's when the crunch will come," Eliades said.

New York and Las Vegas are in contention for the bout, which will be held Nov. 6 or 13. Britain has been ruled out.

Eliades said Madison Square Garden,

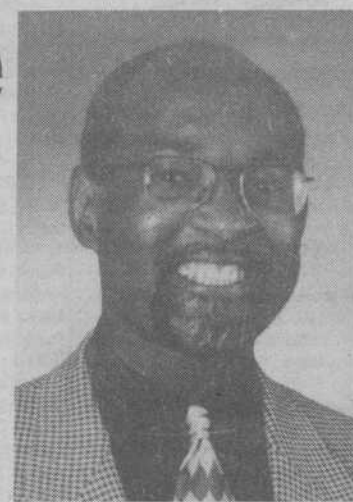
the site of the disputed heavyweight title draw on March 13, wants the rematch and is trying to make a bid of more than \$10 million. Mandalay Bay Hotel in Las Vegas reportedly has offered \$10 million.

"This time Lennox will probably step into the ring as favorite," Lewis manager Frank Maloney said. "Boxing needs this fight ... They had to have this fight to put the record straight."

The outcome in New York prompted boxing's governing bodies to demand a rematch while the judging sparked several investigations.

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