

Swoopes opens up on being a lesbian

NEW YORK (AP)—Houston Comets forward Sheryl Swoopes is opening up about being a lesbian, telling a magazine that she's "tired of having to hide my feelings about the person I care about."

Swoopes, honored last month as the WNBA's Most Valuable Player, told *ESPN The Magazine* for a story on newsstands Wednesday that she didn't always know she was gay and fears that coming out could jeopardize her status as a role model.

"Do I think I was born this way? No," Swoopes said. "And that's probably confusing to some, because I know a lot of people believe that you are."

Swoopes, who was married and has an 8-year-old son, said her 1999 divorce "wasn't because I'm gay."

She said her reason for coming out now is merely because she wants to be honest.

"It's not something that I want to throw in people's faces. I'm just at a point in my life where I'm tired of having to pretend to be somebody I'm not," the 34-year-old Swoopes said. "I'm tired of having to hide my feelings about the person I care about. About the person I love."

A release from the magazine about the story did not disclose the identity of Swoopes' partner.

A five-time All-Star and three-time Olympic gold medalist, Swoopes is the WNBA's only three-time MVP.

She played for the Comets during their run of four championships from 1997-2000, but missed the 2001 season with a knee injury.

She said her biggest worry about her revelation is that people will be afraid to look up to her.

"I don't want that to happen," she said. "Being gay has nothing to do with the three gold medals or the three MVPs or the four championships I've won. I'm still the same person. I'm Sheryl."

Sudan

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and Southern Sudan to Darfur," the group writes to Rice. "As the focus of the Sudanese government's war policy shifted two years ago from Southern Sudan to Darfur, it continued to provide support for the militia that enslave Black women and children."

Sudan is a Muslim nation with a long history of ethnic strife. The most recent bloodbaths date back to early 2003 when two non-Muslim rebel groups, the Sudan Liberation Movement/Army and the Justice and Equality Movement, attacked government military installations in protest of raids by the government-backed Janjaweed (armed men on horses). An army of 20,000, Janjaweed is known for its attacking, raping and killing non-Muslim civilians in the Darfur region.

Madison said the American public must be made aware of the suffering in Sudan and, he said, Black leaders are guilty of not talking enough about it. "I'm not saying it's not on the page. But it's in the margin. It's not essential focus."

The State Department memo states that it will be monitoring the situation in Sudan closely, and will reassess the government's performance for the February 2006 report to the Congress on the Special Watch List countries.

But activists say the placement of Sudan alongside nations such as Israel and Switzerland is unjustified.

"We have a great many complaints from official sources that the situation continues to get worse," said former Congressman Walter Fauntroy (D-D.C.), honorary chairman of the Sudan Campaign. "We feel that the decision to elevate Sudan from Tier 3 to Tier 2 is just grotesque in light of reports of continuing widespread murder and rape and slavery and displacement of people in Darfur right now."

The Sudan Campaign was formed in 2001 by Madison, Fauntroy and a group called the Christian Solidarity International, which was so outraged after a visit to Sudan they chained themselves to the Sudanese embassy in Washington and were arrested.

The group has since led a number of campaigns, including last year's string of arrests of approximately 70 high profile activists, including Madison, Fauntroy, Congressmen Charles Rangel of

New York, Bobby Rush of Illinois, and actor Danny Glover.

Campaigns to divest the \$91 billion of U.S. pension funds from Sudanese government interests are also underway, said Fauntroy.

Globalsecurity.org reports that more than 2 million people have died either by violence, disease or other war-related impacts over the past decade.

Amnesty International, which estimated that at least 1.2 million persons had been displaced and more than 170,000 had taken refuge across the border in the summer of last year, reports continued atrocities. In April, Amnesty reported that civilians in Darfur were still being targeted by militias supported or condoned by the government and "Notwithstanding all the pressure, the government of Sudan has still not stopped carrying out serious and sometimes flagrant human rights violations in many parts of the country."

Early this month, Amnesty reported that the Sudanese Government has launched legal proceedings against one of Sudan's leading human rights groups, Sudan Organization Against Torture. The proceedings are

an apparent attempt to silence the organization, Amnesty reports.

A Sudanese Peace Accord, signed Jan. 9 this year has given the false impression that the situation is better, activists say. But Fauntroy disagrees.

"Nothing is like what is allowed to happen in Black

Africa," he said. "Nowhere in the world, in Sweden or Israel or anything else are people being openly massacred and raped and killed and driven off of land than in Sudan today. There's no comparison."

African-Americans can continue to influence change, said Madison.

"When African-Americans, in particular, were involved in direct action and protests against Sudan, that really changed the momentum to get the Peace Accord signed. It kept the pressure on," said Madison. "Black people have a tremendous amount of influence, more than they realize."

Chisox

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backhanded the ball by the grass and threw hard to first, beating Vizcaino by half a step.

After Chicago wasted a leadoff double by Pierzynski in the ninth, Jason Lane lofted a 3-2 pitch off Bobby Jenks into short center for a single leading off the bottom half.

Brad Ausmus sacrificed and pinch-hitter Chris Burke fouled out to Uribe, who fell into the left-field seats as he leaned in to make the grab. Uribe ran to the mound with the ball and gave Jenks a slap.

Orlando Palmeiro then pinch hit, and grounded to Uribe at shortstop for the final out, with Paul Konerko gloving the ball a half-step before Palmeiro landed on the bag. A postseason filled with umpires making questionable calls ended with them getting it right.

"It means a lot not only to us in the clubhouse but to the organization, the fans, the city. It's a great feeling," Dye said. "We're just happy to be able to bring a championship to the city of Chicago. It's really special."

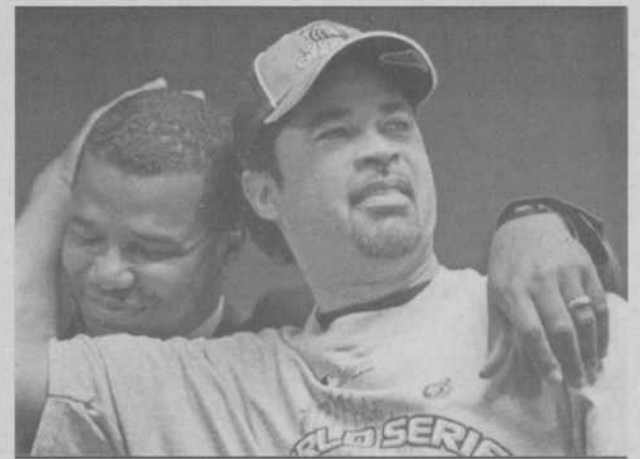
Chicago players poured out of their dugout and jumped around on the mound. Astros players were stone-faced, then came out to wave to their fans and throw caps into the seats.

Houston was 0-for-11 with runners in scoring position on the night and 10-for-48 (.208) in the Series, and the Astros were shutout for the final 15 innings, stranding 18 runners.

Jenks got his second save, while Lidge fell to 0-2 in the Series and 0-3 in the postseason.

After Chicago's 14-inning, 7-5 win that lasted a Series-record 5 hours, 41 minutes and ended at 1:20 a.m. Wednesday, the crowd was more subdued at Minute Maid Park. The fans had to know that no team has ever overcome a 3-0 Series deficit.

Chicago stranded runners in three of the first four innings, including Podsednik after a two-out triple in the third, but Backe's changeup got stronger, and he struck out five



Chicago White Sox manager Ozzie Guillen, right, hugs general manager Ken Williams in the team's locker room after the White Sox swept the Houston Astros to win baseball's fall classic in Houston.

straight — one short of the Series record — following Dye's leadoff single in the fourth.

He retired 11 batters in a row before Aaron Rowand's two-out single in the seventh, and Joe Crede followed with a drive high off the out-of-town scoreboard in the left-field fence, missing a home run by a few feet. Rowand, who had slowed slightly just before getting to second, was held up at third.

After a conference at the mound, and with Everett on deck as a potential pinch-hitter, Houston elected to pitch to Uribe, the No. 8 hitter, instead of intentionally walking him and forcing Chicago to decide whether to bat for Garcia. Backe fanned him on his final pitch and skipped off the mound before high-fiving teammates.

Houston, meanwhile, went 0-for-7 with runners in scoring position in the first six innings. The Astros stranded runners on second base in the first two innings. With two on and one out in the sixth, Ensberg struck out and after Mike Lamb was intentionally walked to load the bases, Garcia struck out Jason Lane.



NOTICE: PUBLIC MEETING I-515 CORRIDOR STUDY



The Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) is hosting a public information meeting to provide updated study information and collect input on traffic improvements proposed through the I-515 Corridor Study. This study includes the I-515 (U.S. 93/95) and its surrounding transportation network in the southeastern region of the Las Vegas Valley, along I-515 from I-15 to the Beltway Interchange in Henderson.

Wednesday, November 9, 2005

4:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m.

Las Vegas Senior Center, Main Ballroom
451 East Bonanza Road, Las Vegas, NV 89101
(Las Vegas Blvd & Bonanza Rd)

Members of the public are invited to stop by the meeting (which will be an open house with no formal presentation) anytime between the posted meeting times to view various displays of proposed project plans and to submit comments in writing or in person to a stenographer.

Written comments will also be accepted until 5 p.m., Monday, November 28, 2005. Please submit comments to Scott Rawlins, c/o Susan Berkley, 420 N. 8th St., Las Vegas, NV, 89101, or e-mail the project Web site at i515study@pbsj.com to submit comments online.

If you are unable to attend this meeting, general information about the I-515 Corridor Study can be found by visiting the Web site at www.i515study.com, calling the project hotline at (702) 598-4636, or visiting the public information office located at 420 N. 8th Street, open Monday - Friday, 8:00a.m. - 5:00p.m.