

Commentary: The NCAA needs to pay for real OFFICIALS!

Written by Yolande Y. Lezine
Wednesday, 03 April 2013 00:00



I guess that congratulations are in order for the Louisville Lady Cardinals for pulling off a stunning upset of the #1 ranked Baylor Lady Bears, 82-81 in the South Regional games that was held in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Yes, Louisville moved on to play the Tennessee Lady Vols, and yes the Cardinals victory marked the end of the fabulous collegiate-career of future WNBA #1 pick Brittney Griner of Baylor. However, that's not the story of this game.

This story isn't about the fact that Louisville defeated the #1 women's basketball team in the country, nor is it about the fact that they held Griner to only 14 points, which included her scoring her first field goal in the second-half of the game.

Yes, I too will give Louisville their props for tying an NCAA record by hitting 16 three-point baskets in the game, but the real story line here is this- "THE NCAA NEEDS TO PAY FOR REAL OFFICIALS TO CALL BASKETBALL GAMES!"

Although, it was evident from the opening tip of the game that Baylor was in for trouble, it was very obvious that the game officials were out to get Griner out of the game. Unfortunately it happened the night before in Stanford's loss to Georgia. In that game players got physically hurt. However, in the Baylor game, no one got physically hurt, but the officials continually allowed Louisville players to taunt Griner, push, hit, slap, and get in her face throughout the game, and they never did nothing about it! In addition they also blew some calls on both ends of the floor, which was ridiculous!

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This issue needs to be addressed immediately by the NCAA! Yes, I know that women's sports always seem to take a back seat to the men's sports, but this issue needs to be dealt with before someone really gets hurt in a life-threatening injury!

We already know that Brittney Griner will be the No. 1 WNBA Draft pick by the Phoenix Mercury on April 15th, but ask yourself the question- Is all of this worth killing her future career? We already know that everyone is not a Brittney Griner fan, and a lot of folks don't want to see her be successful in the future; however, the officials didn't have to try to remake another Jordan Barncastle issue from a former Texas Tech game just to prove that they didn't like Griner either.

I want the NCAA to know this-"THE NCAA HAS MADE ENOUGH MONEY OFF OF ALL OF THE MERCHANDISE AND GAME TICKETS THAT THEY HAVE SOLD TO PEOPLE WHO HAVE COME OUT TO SEE BRITTNEY GRINER PLAY IN PERSON THROUGOUT HER CAREER. SHE HAS HELPED TO CHANGE THE WOMEN'S GAME AND SHE HAS SOLD OUT MANY ARENAS." However, I think that its sad that someone, such as the officials would take time out to do their job, just to make things miserable for not only her, but her teammates. "THE OFFICIALS SHOULD ASK THE QUESTION OF THEMSELVES- WAS ALL THAT YOU DID IN THE GAME VS. LOUISVILLE WORTH IT? AND WAS IT WORTH THE POSSIBILITY OF ENDANGERING HER FUTURE CAREER?"

I look for Baylor University and head coach Kim Mulkey to come after the officials. Those that were involved in not doing their job in the Jordan Barncastle issue no longer officiate college or high school games. You see they were fired after that incident!

Brittney Griner and the Lady Bears, won't have the opportunity to defend their national championship title, but it would have been nice if they were at least given the chance. They didn't have to have someone cheat against them to have this taken away from them. Just let the kids play! That's what should have happened.

Baylor, (34-2), had previously won 32 consecutive games and 74 of 75 behind Griner. She will forever be among the greatest players to have her played the sport; but the best is yet to come on the next level!

Brittney Griner will live to play another day, but hopefully Louisville won't have to cheat it's way

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to win their first NCAA championship title! The referees need to be fired and never allowed to coach another women's collegiate or professional game in their lives!!!!!!

And as far as the NCAA- please don't let this matter be pushed under the rug. Brittney Griner has made you'll too much money to let this just slide. Hopefully you've enjoyed the money while it lasted, because you won't have this type of opportunity to make money like this on the women's side in a long time. Now I understand why RGIII made sure that holds were put on the NCAA ever making money off of him again after he turned pro!