

Micheli for governor?

Cheyenne's daily newspaper is right on top of things.

What's next? "Lindbergh baby kidnapped."

"Amelia Earhart missing?"

"Hannibal crosses the Alps?"

Ron Micheli made his intention to run for governor known several months back. He made a public announcement in the western part of the State, where he lives.

The Cheyenne Herald didn't mention it because it's not newsworthy just yet.

Who can forget Joe Meyer's similar announcement back in 2002? He proclaimed - loudly and proudly - that he was leaving his safe Secretary of State office to run for governor. Jersey Joe, like so many politicians, have much more courage when an office is vacant (no incumbent running) than when challenging an incumbent.

Jim Geringer was term-limited and Joe, Golly Gee Willikers, wanted so very much to become governor that he announced early, first, that he was the man. He was going to be the Republican candidate, come heck or high water.

Or, come the Republican Party itself in Joe's case. Joe quickly received word that the Party thought he had reached

- had achieved his personal Peter Principle. That Joe Meyer had reached his level of incompetence - and that, thank you for the offer, Jersey, but we will back a Democrat turned Republican, Eli Bebout, for governor.

Joe then softly and meekly announced that, discretion being the better part of valor, he would seek re-election as Secretary of State. In 2006, still unwilling to find a job in the private sector, Meyer stepped downward from SOS and ran for State Treasurer. And won, of course.

So, when Ron Miceli publicly announced his plans to establish an "exploratory committee" months ago, nothing was put forward on these pages.

Is he a good candidate? Well, first of all, he is not really a candidate yet. No one is until the filing window has begun. We will hear and read a dozen names before that date. The advantage always goes to a candidate who has run and won statewide. Based on merit, Cynthia Lummis should have finished far behind Bill Winney in the last contest for the US House. Voters are indifferent, ambiguous and lazy. A familiar name trumps qualifications every time.

Micheli does not have that familiar name. Running and losing statewide is not the equivalent of running and winning. Only Rita Meyer, of the viable candidates, has run and won. Will she run? We'll see.

UW men's basketball schedule

For those who only care about whether the UW men's basketball team wins more games than they lose and then can buy into some make believe post-season tournament, you must be giddy with delight about the 2009-2010 schedule.

For those who have pride in the State of Wyoming and would like to see the men's team win more games than it loses and make the NCAA or even the NIT post-season tournament, you must be terribly embarrassed at what the Cowboys program has become.

Since the second-rate athletic director was hired from Portland State and he then hired a basketball coach from Portland State, the team has become a group of basketball factory alumni and the schedule would make a Big 10 team blush.

For those not keeping up with this subject: Four members of this year's UW team are products of the infamous basketball factory, Stoneridge Prep of Simi Valley, California. A fifth player is from another such outfit, Genesis One of Mississippi. A sixth player, from Stoneridge, would have been on the roster but transferred out to play overseas. These "prep schools" are basically post-high school places to refine basketball talents.

Two of the products of Stoneridge turned 23 in July. Djibril Thiam will be a junior and Boubacar Sylla will be redshirt sophomore. Should Sylla stay in school and graduate, he will be nearly 26 at

graduation in 2012.

Of the 12-man roster, only three are products of traditional high school graduation.

As bad as the construction of this team is, and they *will* win games because these guys are pretty good basketball players, the schedule will allow this team to pile up wins without much achievement.

Of the first 17 games on UW men's schedule, 13 will be played in Laramie (including their first two conference games), one in Casper and only three away from Wyoming. The first game (against Regis University) is an "exhibition" and doesn't count toward the won/loss record. Included in the rugged opponents are Peru State (Neb.), Monmouth (N.J.), and Hampton (Va.).

How are they allowed to rig such a schedule?

The first road games are against DU in Denver, Tennessee at Knoxville and Northern Iowa at Cedar Falls.

The rest of the conference schedule has six home games and eight away games. For the season, 19 games will be played in Laramie, one in Casper and 11 on the road. Are there no rules about equity of schedule? It's no wonder the NCAA doesn't want UW and even the NIT won't take them. The home court advantage with even marginal players is in your favor. A 23-7 record won't make the NCAA.

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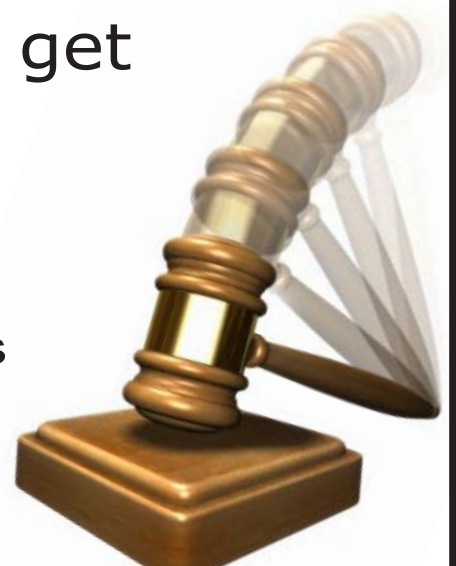
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