

Why are the Cowboys so bad?

Seriously. Why is the University of Wyoming men's basketball team so bad?

I mean, the former Portland State athletic director who hired the former Portland State men's basketball coach allowed the "Little Dab'll Do Ya" dandy to give scholarships to long and lean (except for Boubacar Sylla) expatriates from Paris and Senegal who had played basketball for years beyond normal high school age and had allowed him, maybe had encouraged him, to sign transfers from junior colleges and other four year universities, not to mention two basketball factories wherein guys can pretend to attend classes but are there only to play basketball. Burman has stood shoulder to shoulder with the Slickster and for all their shenanigans, the team is no better than before.

One of the players who had a multi-school resume before landing in Laramie - high school in Brooklyn, AAU ball in the summer, Genesis One Prep School in Mississippi and Notre Dame Prep School in Massachusetts after high school, Western Iowa University, Garden City Junior College for two years (red shirt one) - then enrolled at UW as a 22 year-old sophomore - has already dropped out of UW.

At the same time, another of the Stoneridge Prep School mercenaries became eligible. There was one who remained ineligible (for amateurism challenges). Boubacar Sylla grew a few inches and gained about six stone during his journey to Stoneridge, then to Auburn and ultimately Laramie. To say the guy is slow is an insult to the word "slow." The Navy ship I served on grew moss at the waterline - **WHILE WE WERE UNDERWAY!** - that's how slow it moved. Brylcream Boy may want to check for evidence of moss growing on this guy's sneakers. During one radio broadcast of a UW game, against some tiny neighboring state's secondary university that was hammering UW, Associate AD and broadcast color analyst Kevin McKinney said, about Sylla, "they need to get him out of there - he just can't keep up." Oh, yes, having a 7 footer (7'2" actually) who can't run the court is a great addition.

UW had a 7 footer last year who couldn't run. He was the "Belgium Statue," Mikhail Linskens. Mikhail could shoot the three a little, though. The 7'2" Sylla can barely dunk. The biggest risk to having Boubacar on the court is that he might run over a teammate returning to the end of the floor Sylla's still returning from.

"Boubacar the Glacier" is a redshirt sophomore and he was 23 last July.

Linskens and the first Stoneridge Prep alum given a scholarship by the Brylcream Boy, Mahmoud Diakite, both left the UW program to "play pro ball." Can't imagine that as neither played that well at UW. Maybe pro donkey ball.

When Stoneridge Prep alum Arthur Bouëdo became eligible for the CSU game on January 6th, he became the seventh prep school player to hit the court for UW in the past two years - all recruited by the Portland State Pair. Two are already gone - Diakite and Thomas Manzano. Five remain. Afam Muojeke (the best player of them all), Djibril Thiam, Amath M'Baye, Sylla and Bouëdo.

The shocking thing is that these guys, who went to a basketball factory called a prep school after they finished high school, usually cannot play the game very well. They can't play defense or shoot. They can't run the floor. And, they're quitters - see Diakite and Manzano.

It looked like the Cowboys had stacked their pre-conference schedule with pat-sies but they found a way to lose home games to South Dakota State, Monmouth and Hampton. Ouch! They have lost every away game they've played at this writing (1/16/2010). Of their first 17 games, they played 12 of them in Laramie and one in Casper. They played only four of those 17 games on the other team's court and lost them all. They are It looks like it's going to be a long season.

The UW men's team played Adams State of the RMAC and it counted on their won/loss record. The women's team played both Adams State and CSU-Pueblo, beat both, but don't get to count those wins. ??

Is there a bias against the southside?

A Specific Purpose Sales Tax election was held on November 4, 2003. Seven years ago. Several propositions were approved, including the new county library and a new viaduct across the train tracks.

Both the viaduct and library have been completed. And are in use.

Another proposition voters approved over seven years ago was toward a new community park in the southside. The location had been informally, but accurately, determined and all that remained after voter approval was land acquisition and completion of a park. A park.

Yet, the park is still unfinished.

The library required a redesign after the one shown voters before the election was scrapped and the library cabal brought Eddie Albert and Eva Gabor in to come up with the revised design that looks like something from *Green Acres*. Complete with a silo. The library group also had to confiscate several houses in the area and that could not begin until approval for the confiscation had been granted by voters. The new library has been open for more than two years and has already garnered some dubious awards.

Yet, the southside park is still unfinished.

The viaduct over the railroad tracks was a project that could have waited but voters were seemingly in the mood to approve any questionable project put before them. And that is their prerogative.

The viaduct project also had to be designed after approval - as did confiscation of almost three dozen houses. All of that was accomplished and the viaduct opened a few months ago.

Yet, the southside park is still unfinished.

Many thought the previous city administration lacked intellect but few thought they lacked cunning. So, on the proposition that was sure to be approved toward a southside park, they slyly added a million dollars for work in Lions Park. That unnecessary spending piggybacked on the public's support for a long overdue community park in the southside.

Land acquisition had already been identified but the mayor wanted to do what he could for the Kiwanis Club that owned the shed on the edge of the property. Instead of threatening condemnation as they did for the private houses - homes, not sheds - for the library and premature viaduct - they bought that shed for an inflated price. Then, instead of knocking it to the ground as the Kiwanis planned to do, the City stripped it bare and rebuilt it from an Appalachian shack.


A much higher percentage of voter support was shown for the southside park than for the Greenway expansion and certainly for the library. Still, the southside park languishes. Why?

The southside (which does not include South Cheyenne) has long had a bias against it. Is that why the park is stalled?

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