

Was the sale of land in the West Industrial Park an inside deal?

Is the Pope Catholic?

Of course it was an inside deal.

LEADS, which has no oversight even though it receives public money, is a group wherein the "head" selects board members who are too weak or too compliant to demand better from him. His is a kingdom in which only he can rule. There is no chance he will be replaced, regardless of his level of failure. It has been extreme.

When the Wyoming Tribune-Eagle, as has the Cheyenne Herald before them, exposes their conduct as it is, they will lose advertising revenue. Perhaps the head of LEADS will try to convince talk radio programs to ban Reed Eckhardt as they successfully did the publisher of the Cheyenne Herald. LEADS makes one announcement of a major employer (NCAR is not a major employer) every five years. Hardly success.

Next to leave UW men's basketball program?

In addition to driving away fans, the BS Leadership Team in Laramie is steadily driving away players.

Apologists for the S (Heath Schroyer) member of the BS Team may say, "good riddance," but they weren't singing that tune when all the dearly departed were signed to athletic scholarships.

Had the B (Tom Burman) member of the tandem made a quick call to the Cheyenne Herald, he could have been saved the embarrassment of tendering a scholarship offer to Thomas Manzano. Manzano wore more uniforms before entering a D-1 college than most NBA players do in a career. Yet, UW thought he was D-1 college material.

Manzano came to Laramie to play basketball. Evidently, no coach told him he had to attend class and maintain passing grades. Before the first grades came out, Manzano was on his way again. He will surface at another community college where he will again be a star.

I had been telling friends that A.J. Davis was about to leave the team but didn't get the prediction published before he scatted. I need to put my predictions in print sooner. Early in the season, he started and played appreciable minutes. He still leads the team in steals and, with the right coach, will be a very good college basketball player. Instead of working through their differences, Schroyer began to start Davis, then sit him on the bench for all but about 8 minutes each game. His scoring average had dropped from 14 ppg to about 10 ppg before he left the team. Having played a lot of basketball, I can tell when a player is disgusted with himself and when they're losing it with the coach. It was obvious to

me a week or two before he quit the team that Davis had lost respect for his coach. And he saw no reason to stick with the team because it was going nowhere and he had been exiled to the end of the bench.

Quitting a D-1 program is a drastic step. Players either have to down scale to a lower division or community college so they can play the following year or sit out a year if they transfer to another D-1 team.

You don't lead a team, and be one of the conference leaders, in steals if you're dogging it on the court. Davis had an instinct for the ball that few have. But he fell out of favor and he is now gone.

So, who does my flawless crystal ball tell me will be the next to leave the UW men's program? Not counting Boubacar Sylla (another BS), the 7'2" statue who should admit to himself that he cannot play D-1 basketball and leave the team but remain in school for the free education that attracted him to Laramie, Wyoming.

Not Adam Waddell, for certain. He is a Cody kid and loves to play college basketball in front of his home state fans. He will stay until he graduates.

The next loss, and the biggest one possible in the program, will be Desmar Jackson. A true freshman, he has proven to himself and D-1 coaches across the country that he can play the game and could become one of the best players in a region under a good coach. His face now speaks a thousand words. He realizes that UW has not surrounded him with players who can win at this level. Burman will not make the change to bring in a decent coach. Desmar Jackson will not play another season in Laramie. That is my prediction. He will be a huge loss.

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The Jessica Venable Compassion Fund
 Several readers of the Cheyenne Herald have asked me to let them know when they could contribute funds to help Jessica Venable buy the necessities she otherwise would have to do without while she's confined. To provide money for her personal account in the Lusk Women's Center, one has to be on her approved visitor's list. I have been approved and have three times forwarded money donated by Cheyenne Herald readers and my wife and myself to her. If you want to help, please send a check to the Cheyenne Herald at the address below. I will convert donations to the necessary money order to send up there in her name. She is assured of having adequate money to at least buy the basic things she's had to do without - through the generosity and concern of Herald readers to date - but if you also want to be involved, you can now do so. You can also send her a card or note. Contact me for her mailing address. And, on behalf of Jessica, I thank you.

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