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It ain't the unis, DC. It ain't the unis.

Wouldn't it be refreshing to hear a new coach at the University of Wyoming state the obvious about the football or men's basketball program?.

"I am lucky to get this job. No other D-1 program would even give me an interview - even if I paid my own way to their campus. I am well aware that this may be a career-ending move for me and my family. At least as a head coach. I am also fully cognizant of the reality that really good athletes seldom enroll at the University of Wyoming. When students at Chadron State make jokes about how remote Laramie is, you know going in that recruiting is going to be tough. You can't even cheat and get blue chippers to come here. I mean, come on, this isn't USC or 'The' Ohio State University. Hell, it isn't even Boise State. I know earlier former assistant coaches didn't bring the success of someone else's program with them to Laramie. But, that's all we have to trade on. They also hadn't done anything on their own - one's only choice was to ride Gary Pinkel's coattails for years after leaving the Mizzou program. My wife and I are prepared to move on in three years when this first contract expires. We'll just rent. I'll try stunts like my predecessor - new uniforms that will require legislative action to correct - things like that. Let me be brutally honest with you - a change from what some former UW football and basketball coaches were. You cannot win consistently in Laramie. There aren't enough D-1 stiffs to schedule in basketball to give UW a winning record and the football team has to play too many of the other Mountain West teams. Once every few decades UW will land

recruit like Fennis Dembo or get a former NFL coach like Paul Roach to take the helm. More often, you get coaches like Benny Dees, Heath Schroyer and Dave Christensen. Many here remember Joe Tiller fondly and forget that he had but one good season. But that one season got him a nice contract in the Big 10 and he proved what a good coach can do with good players. When your most successful athletic program is women's basketball, you're not going to pay the bills with ticket sales."

"You can redesign the football team's uniforms until the cows come home. You can call yellow prairie gold. It doesn't matter. You can have flashing Steamboat insignia on the sides of the helmets. The guys could play in thongs and bras or bustiers. Uniforms and helmets don't beat Boise State. Hell, they don't even beat New Mexico who can beat no one but Wyoming. No, what the guys wear isn't the problem. The first and biggest problem is that seldom will really talented players matriculate to the University of Wyoming in Laramie, Wyoming. Then, when you have coaches that can't hold on to the marginally talented players who do come, problems escalate. When players like Austin Carta Samuels and Desmar Jackson slip out of the program, someone needs to look into the mirror and ask 'why?'"

"So, here I am, Cowboys fans. Like it or not, I'm here. Not a lot of guys would work for \$35,000 a year - hell, the Boise State football coach gets more in a week. All I have to offer is desire. I'll do the best I can for three years, then they'll parade another unproven assistant in front of you."

Interesting ruling

It's never good to read that a guy in possession of a bunch of pot (nine pounds) beats the rap because law enforcement didn't abide by the rules. But it happens.

And, law enforcement must abide by the same laws they enforce.

In a recent Wyoming Supreme Court decision (State v. Juarez, WY 2011 110), the High Court upheld a Carbon County District Court ruling that evidence found in an illegal traffic stop would be suppressed.

In a nutshell, the issue was whether a motorist has to signal entry onto an interstate. Once again, Wyoming state statutes are lacking in whether that is a requirement. Some states do require such signalling, others are vague. Cases have been decided in multiple ways because words like "move" or "merge" are inadequate to determine a Legislature's intent.

In Juarez, the State sought a Writ or Review on the District Court's decision to suppress evidence found (drugs) because of an illegal stop. Waiting for Juarez to enter the interstate at Rawlins, he was pulled over when he did not signal his movement into the traffic lane. Whether Juarez was a target or not is unclear in this Supreme Court ruling. **W.S. § 31-5-217** covers

Wyoming law on "Turning movements and required signals."

(a) "No person shall turn a vehicle or move right or left upon a roadway unless and until the movement can be made with reasonable safety nor without giving an appropriate signal in the manner provided by this section." (Italics and bold mine)

In the Petition for Writ of Review, it read: **"On appeal, the State contends that the district court erred in ruling that Juarez was not required to signal his merge from an entrance ramp onto an interstate highway."**

The Defendant's successful argument was that the driver was not "moving right or left" but taking the only course available to him, onto the interstate. Basically straight ahead of him. Some states require motorists leaving a parking space to signal their entry into traffic, others do not. Some specifically require signaling entry onto an interstate. Wyoming does not.

As the Wyoming Supreme Court has often written, if the Wyoming Legislature had intended something be the case, it "could have easily and clearly done so." The same applied here. Juarez did not have to signal.

Locals can drink (costly) and ride (free) during CFD

Conflicted about whether this message will encourage people to drink even more during Cheyenne Frontier Days or convince them to accept an offer for a free cab ride home if they do, I decided to publish this:

A national liquor brand, in conjunction with the Laramie County Liquor Association, is making available vouchers which can be used for, or toward, a cab ride home during the dates of CFD and for a month after.

(The brand isn't paying for an ad so they will not be mentioned by name.)

It is the second year for this voucher program and the effort is dubbed "Safe Rides Home." The vouchers will be available at several bars and restaurants in Laramie County and at the Visitor and Convention Center in the former UP depot.

One thousand vouchers were available last year and 3,500 will be available this year. During the Championship Bull Riding events on July 25 and 26, the vouchers will be distributed by, presumably, pretty, young women in scant attire. It is alleged in a press release that DUI arrests in Cheyenne were 50% lower in 2010 compared to the previous year.

Each voucher is worth \$7.00 toward

or for a free cab ride within the Cheyenne city limits. Drinkers who live in "the county" are apparently out of luck. Capital City Cab, Cowboy Shuttle, and T I Shuttle will accept the vouchers. Riders are reminded that the \$7.00 does not include a gratuity. And drunks must be 21+.

The press release does not specify that the voucher user MUST be drunk or will be subjected to a Breathalyzer. So, it seems anyone who can get their hands on a voucher during the time period should be able to use the voucher for a cab ride to the movies, grocery store, or TO a bar.

The press release also does not state how many of the vouchers were used in 2010 nor who in the "city of Cheyenne" said DUI arrests dropped by 50% last year from 2009.

But, if the liquor brand's voucher offer takes even one drunk driver off the road (and it would be better if the offer applied to non-city drunks who drive at faster speeds and longer distances), it is a worthy program.

Note: I requested a copy of the voucher to see what restrictions applied. I could not get one. Will a drinker be allowed to use the voucher to be driven to another bar? How many vouchers per person? Daily?