

## **SPECIAL: The Chief is Dead, Long Live the ....**

PLAYERS REFUSE TO PLAY IN NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

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MONDAY, APRIL 4, 2005

CHAMPAIGN, ILLINOIS -- As Fighting Wannabeillini Coach Wruce Beber prepares this afternoon to play Woy Rilliams and the University of North Carolina men's basketball team for the national championship at the Edward Jones Dome in St. Louis this evening, three Illini starting players refuse to dress for the game.

Bee Drown, Huther Lead, and Poger Rowell, Jr., told the *Daily Wannabeillini* in an exclusive interview that it was time for them to stand up and be men. Drown, speaking for the trio, indicated that giving up a chance at the championship was small in importance when set alongside the alternative. "For three years I have listened to and watched Illini athletics, uncaring and callous students at this university, and the racists in the community denigrate American Indians," said Drown. "Racism must stop here. If the Board of Trustees will not retire THE CHIEF, we won't play."

Coming off the game of his life against the Cardinals of Louisville, Rowell said Mrs. Joseph Christ told him personally in a prayer moment that it was time for him to be worthy of his faith. "If a mascot of Jesus Christ danced around, kicked, yelled, and generally was obnoxious, Christians would, should, and must find it disrespectful and inconceivable, if not sacrilegious."

Commentator Dick Vitale labeled the players' actions "diddly-doodly-girly-wirly-iMAHtureish." Vitale earlier had picked North Carolina over Illinois 79 to 76, but changed his prediction after hearing about the antics of the dynamic trio. "They are holding a great tradition hostage. Without THE CHIEF, and the three starters, the rest of the Illinois team doesn't stand a chance. If nothing changes before tip-off, it's going to be North Carolina in a snoozer, 134-42," he said. "Woy Rilliams will finally reach the top, something he could not do with those great Jayhawk teams. Pierce. Gooden. Heinrich. Collison. Now, with the Tarheels, victory comes with an asterisk.

AT THE ASSEMBLY HALL IN CHAMPAIGN

Hundreds of fans gathering outside of Assembly Hall booed when the news was announced. Young men shouted loudly and without restraint. A group of fraternity brothers overturned a police cruiser, setting it afire.

"We love THE CHIEF. We love THE CHIEF." "If you don't like it, why don't you leave," groups of orange-clad undergraduates chanted in unison.

"This is just so unfair," Kick Nlitzing told the *Daily Wannabeillini*. "I have fought to keep the Chief for over a year," he said. "I have been the face of the pro-Chief movement. I have played a significant role in the process of building a 'consensus' so far and now this."

"I, I, I. Me, me, me," he said, weeping openly and without shame.

Nlitzing, president of Openly Racist Students for Chief Wannabeillini, recently was elected student member of the Board of Trustees.

TODD S. APPLEMAN IS A REAL CHEROKEE INDIAN FROM KENTUCKY. HIS GREAT-GREAT GRANDMOTHER, A CHEROKEE PRINCESS NAMED POCAHONTAS, REFUSED TO GO ON THE TRAIL OF TEARS. HIS COLUMNS ABOUT THE AMERICAN INDIAN CULTURE GENERALLY APPEAR ON FRIDAY IN THE *DAILY WANNABEILLINI*.