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OKLAHOMA SAMPSON SHOWS NO FEAR

Greg Hansen column /Sports



'PRETTY POISON'

Botox softens wrinkles by blocking nerve signals /Accent



Leo Mills, who had a tough time with classroom while playing football for the UA, left without a degree and is now pinning his hopes on an NFL career.

Regents push academics for athletes

By Inger Sandell
ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Football player Leo Mills has left the University of Arizona after nearly four years with no diploma, but an education — in the realities of big-time college sports.

"It's a business," says Mills, who has stopped attending classes because he's gambling on a pro career over a degree he was never likely to get after struggling with college classes.

Student athletes will be on the minds of Arizona's regents Thursday, when they are expected to urge the NCAA to impose tougher academic standards for them and to ask the state's universities for much more data about classroom performance.

"Every student athlete is important, and it's important we focus on improvements that will allow every student athlete to get a degree," said Tucson Regent Jack Jewett, who is pushing for more balance between athletics and academics.

He ranks athletes' academic struggles among his highest concerns about college sports, along with increasing overreliance on corporate sponsorships and escalating pay for coaches.

Every athlete must make his or her own choice, Jewett said, but he hopes one day there is "a greater recognition that only a few are ever going to make it to the NFL or NBA."

The regents, who will meet Thursday on the Yuma campus of Northern Arizona University, used the Knight Foundation Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics as a springboard last fall when they started examining college athletics. That report includes strong recommendations that would significantly change college sports. For example, reducing time for practice and play to give students a reasonable shot at graduation; bringing coaching salaries in line with others on campus; and excluding teams

Deal saves state raises

Governor agrees to \$1,450 annual pay boost for all

By Howard Fischer
SPORTS SECTION EDITOR

PHOENIX — Arizona lawmakers worked out a last-minute budget deal with the governor Monday to govern raises — although smaller than promised — for state employees.

Under the plan, set for a vote as soon as today, all state workers would get a \$1,450-per-year across-the-board raise in June. That translates to a 4 percent for the average employee, said House Speaker Jim Weiers, R-Phoenix.

The increase would replace a 5 percent raise — including a minimum of \$1,500 per worker — now due state employees on April 1. That raise, approved by the Legislature last year, would have cost state taxpayers \$66 million. The new plan will cost between \$60 mil-

lion and \$68 million, Weiers said. A second 6 percent raise, due in April 2003, has been eliminated. The deal averts a legal fight over how the Republican Gov. Jane Hull can go in using her power of line-item veto to reduce the legislative-approved pay raise. She had threatened last week to veto any raise over 2.5 percent. It also puts the finishing touches on fixing a \$20 million deficit in this year's budget, allowing lawmakers to finally start dealing with a \$1 billion revenue shortfall for the fiscal year that begins July 1. "It is clearly in everybody's best interest to settle it now and not go to court," said Francis Noyes, the governor's press aide. The budget deal leaves intact a plan to take another 0.25 percent this year out of the budgets of most state agencies — including the University of Arizona — on top of a 4.5 percent cut they endured in December.

SEE BARRIS /A7

Hospitals facing cuts in 2003 /D1

Cease-fire with Palestinians may be near

Israeli troops leave Bethlehem



In Jerusalem Israeli soldiers unband an armored personnel carrier moments after it left the West Bank town of Bethlehem. Israelis and Palestinians appeared to be edging toward a cease-fire.

Their pullback occurs after Cheney arrives to pursue peace

By Steve Weinman
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JERUSALEM — Spurred on by a U.S. peace mission, Israeli troops pulled out of Bethlehem early today, edging closer to a cease-fire with the Palestinians in the 18-month-old Mideast conflict.

The pullback came after Vice President Dick Cheney arrived to bolster the efforts of U.S. mediator Anthony Zinni, and the pair held talks Monday with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

In the most promising sign since Zinni arrived last week, Israel pulled back after midnight from the West Bank town of Bethlehem, a traditional birthplace of Jesus — and neighboring Beit Jala, El Khader and the Alda refugee camp.

The Palestinians demanded at security talks Monday afternoon that Israel pull out of all their territory before a cease-fire could be declared.

Palestinian West Bank security chief Jibril Rajoub said the pullback from Bethlehem was not enough. He said Israel must complete its withdrawal from two other towns, Tulkarim and Qalqilya. Israel said it had pulled out of the two towns last week.

Also, Rajoub told The Associated Press that the Israelis must declare an "immediate end to their aggression in all its forms, including house demolition, closures and assassinations," and promise political negotiations as well as military talks.

SEE MIDWEST /A7



In Jerusalem Ariel Sharon welcomed Vice President Dick Cheney.



In Kuwait Vice President Cheney meets with Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister Sheik Sabah, far right.

Age-bias case costs TNI \$655,000

By Jonathan J. Higgins
ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Tucson Newspapers will pay six former production workers a total of \$655,000 to settle allegations that their firings in June 2000 amounted to age discrimination.

Arizona Attorney General Janet Napolitano's office, which brought the complaints, called it the biggest settlement ever in a civil rights case in the state.

The settlement, approved Monday by Pima County Superior Court Judge Jane Eldersberry, requires the company to train its human resources personnel and supervisors on its anti-discrimination policies and keep records on all employees fired from its press department for the next three years.

It also calls for the company to pay \$5,000 to the Attorney General's Office so it can monitor the terms of the agreement. TNI Partners, the agency that prints, distributes and sells advertising for the Arizona Daily

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Weather
TODAY'S FORECAST
Mostly sunny and warmer.
High 72 / Low 41
Monday: High 62 / Low 37

For complete weather information, see the Weather Report page on back of Star.

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Coming Thursday

SWEET SIXTEEN

The Star takes an in-depth look at the Wildcats and the other teams vying for the Final Four.