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TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDED INTERVIEW

Case No. 00843 - University of Louisville

SUBJECT: Rick Pitino, former head men's basketball coach, University of Louisville; current head men's basketball coach, Iona College.

DATE: July 29, 2021.

LOCATION: Hynes Athletics Center, Iona College, New Rochelle, New York.

PRESENT: Amy Chisholm (AEC), AlixPartners, external investigator for the complex case unit.
Matthew Dolan (MD), director, AlixPartners (Wilmington), external investigator for the complex case unit.
Sean Moynihan (SM), consultant to Iona College.
Anne Ogden (AO), director, AlixPartners (Wilmington), external investigator for the complex case unit.
Rick Pitino (RP), former head men's basketball coach, University of Louisville; current head men's basketball coach, Iona College.
Steve Stapleton (SS), counsel for coach Pinion.

MD: Let me know when you get the recorder going.

AC: Yeah, hang on one second.

MD: Do you want me to start this one?

AC: I think I did.

MD: Sorry.

AO: Alright, good, and Amy's on so we're good to go.

MD: All right, sounds good. All right, it is July 29, 2021. It is 09:48 Eastern Daylight Savings times. And we are located in Hynes Athletics Center in the AD's conference room. For the purpose of voice identification, I'd just like to ask each person in the room to state his or her name and title and we'll start with the remote access. Amy, do you mind identifying yourself?

AC: Amy Chisholm, external investigator, complex case unit.

MD: Anne?

AO: Anne Ogden, external investigator, complex case unit.

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SS: Steve Stapleton, attorney for coach Pitino.

SM: Sean Moynihan, consultant to Iona College.

RP: Rick Pitino, head basketball coach, Iona College.

MD: All right. And my name is Matt Dolan. I'm the external investigator for the complex case unit. All right. Coach, do I have your permission today to record this interview?

RP: Yes.

MD: Okay. And I will note for the record that we have a confidentiality agreement signed with all parties present in the room that both the recording and the transcription that we will maintain from this interview will be held confidential, pursuant to division bylaw -- division bylaws, is that understood?

SS: Yes, understand.

MD: Okay. And today -- coach, you're represented today by Steve Stapleton?

RP: Yes.

MD: Okay. And what role -- are you just a consultant --

SM: Yeah.

MD: -- to Iona College?

SM: Throughout the process, yeah.

MD: Got it, all right. And -- but you feel, today, comfortable proceeding with counsel here?

RP: I do.

MD: Okay. And prior to going on the record, you were provided a interview notice form. Did you have a chance to review this?

RP: Not really, no. I was over in Greece and just got back.

MD: Okay. Do you want some more time to review that interview notice form?

RP: I don't need to. If I need to look at it I will.

MD: Okay, all right. But I'll go through some of the things that it says, the highlights. Do you understand that the purpose of this interview is to determine whether you have any knowledge of or involvement of any violations of NCAA legislation?

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RP: Yes.

MD: Do you understand that NCAA Bylaw 10.1 obligates you to provide truthful and complete information in this interview?

RP: Yes.

MD: Do you understand that you have a affirmative obligation to cooperate fully and assist the complex case unit and that a failure to cooperate may result in an independent allegation, immediate penalties and/or considered an aggravating factor for the purposes of determining a penalty?

RP: Yes.

MD: All right. I'll note for the record that the notice of allegations has already been issued by the NCAA enforcement team. Thus, if it is determined that you provided false or misleading information or withheld information in this interview, then this could constitute a violation of the NCAA Principles of Ethical Conduct and could impact your eligibility as an athletically related staff member at an NCAA institution and a subsequent allegation may be added. Do you understand?

RP: Yes.

MD: Do you understand that information provided this interview may be shared with other NCAA departments?

RP: Yes.

MD: Do you have any questions regarding any part of this interview notice form?

RP: No.

MD: Okay. And I will note that you have signed and dated this form. Are you comfortable proceeding with the interview?

RP: Yes.

MD: Okay. Coach, for purpose of just contacting you, and we will contact you through your counsel, but for the record, could you just give us the best phone number in which to reach you?

RP: [REDACTED].

MD: And what's the best email in order to reach you?

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RP: Rick -- you know, I'll give you my Iona email.

MD: Okay.

RP: I'll get that, yup.

MD: All right, we'll get that after --

SM: No, I'll get it from Jess.

MD: All right. Do you use email a lot?

RP: Not really.

MD: Okay, all right.

RP: I'm a little old school.

MD: Got it. I am, too, so that's okay. All right. And I'm not going to -- we -- let me just kind of give you the ground rules with regards to what we're doing. You know, as you know, the CCU takes all of the information that's already been developed by NCAA enforcement. We review it and then we investigate further. So I already have a lot of information that I -- and I've read your prior interviews. So as we go through, I'm going to try and be a little bit more focused and really, you know, you have the ability to add or clarify anything you would like to and I'm just going to kind of focus on some of the questions I have as I run -- read through the file. So it'll be a little bit different. I'm not going to go in the typical, you know, chronology through the whole situation. It'll be more of just kind of me asking clarifications on certain things that appear in the record.

SM: This is email. That's his email.

[00:05:00] AO: Oh, perfect. Thank you.

SM: Rpitino.

SS: And Matt, any documents that you're going to provide to him?

MD: I don't plan on --

SS: Okay.

MD: -- and if we do -- if we need clarification, I can ask Anne to pull it up on the computer and we just, you know, take a -- but for the most part, I'm just kind of, you know, looking at topics that he's mentioned in previous interviews or just sit -- as situation, as they developed, so.

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SS: Okay.

MD: If I need to -- I don't plan on giving any documents but --

SS: Okay.

MD: -- if I do, we can even take a break and make sure that you have a copy of that.

SS: All right, sounds good.

MD: Yeah, there's no -- not looking to, you know, ambush anybody with documents. I'm not a big documents guy. With regards to -- going back to Louisville, in your interview with NCAA enforcement, you talked about kind of the environment of what it was like after Andre McGee -- the Andre McGee incident and kind of the culture of compliance and a little bit of paranoia. Can you kind of give me some insight what -- you know, how that kind of impacted the program?

RP: Well, I totally disagreed when they came in and said -- in the first initial interview -- and remember, this is three or four years ago, so -- we met at a breakfast and I was taken back. They said well, you didn't look for any red flags. I said Andre McGee [REDACTED] Today probably still the biggest shock of my life in coaching 40-plus years that he did what he did. That being said, in the interview, they kept saying you didn't look for any red flags. I said, we did everything the right way. In four different conferences, the Big East, the ACC and the AAC and ACC, we led the conference in academic performance, the highest GPA. I said we did everything the right way according to the rules and so did our AD and so did our compliance department. This young man did something that was appalling. And I said but because we did everything the right way, I said -- at that time I said there's no way I could -- when we sat down for breakfast they kept prodding me, did you ask the parents what did they do last night, to the kids, what did they do. I said of course we did. We said how did you like the campus visit, what did you think of my practice, was I too tough on the players, could you take that. And I said things like that. I said, okay, the campus is not beautiful but we did all these facilities over with, here's where we're going to play, what did you think of our style of play, what did you think of the professor you met on campus, is this your endeavor of study, what did you do last night, which players did you go out with. All questions like that. And they kept saying -- I said -- at the time, obviously you know what happened. I said no, I didn't ask them did you see any strippers last night because that would be the furthest thing in a million years that any coach would come to mind. So they kept saying the red flags. And there was never any red flag. And I just want to say for background again, this dormitory I built. I raised the money to build this dormitory. We're going on the 20th anniversary of 9/11. It doesn't go -- a day go by where my best friend and brother-in-law in life who was killed at Kenneth Fitzgerald, that building was to honor him. It was built to honor him. If a chair was broken in that place, I would have gone ballistic. I

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was in the place all the time. It meant the world to me because his name was on that building. I raised it. His family moved from New York City. [REDACTED] That Billy Minardi dormitory meant the world to me. The fact that that went on, I don't know what I would have done if I would have ever found out that. I would probably be out of coaching today because of what I would have done. So I tried to explain that to them, how much that meant to me. Looking for red flags of anything, if I considered anything going wrong in that place, I would have been on top of it. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The first thing I did was call them in. They interviewed five managers, interviewed security, and nobody -- individual players, nobody knew that -- the assistant coaches didn't know of it. And I didn't believe anything at this point because paranoia was setting in with me, so. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I said did you ever -- one was on the same floor with Andre McGee, I think two doors down as I recall. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I would have told you right away. So I tried to explain all of this and it still didn't sink in and that's what still to this day bothers me how much that dormitory meant to me and how appalled I am still to this day that that went on.

[00:10:12] MD: So, but looking forward, it kind of changed the culture of Louisville basketball. You were emotionally --

RP: Well, paranoia set it, yeah.

MD: Yeah.

RP: So every single day, at every meeting, I basically threatened my assistant coaches that look, my job is on the line, my reputation has already been wronged and you guys are going to do this thing -- it almost like -- because they kept saying red flags, red flags, red flags. It bothered me. But they interviewed 60 people and nobody could find a red flag, no one. The same security guy was there five years. He didn't notice. I immediately went to him. I said how could you not notice these women in this building. He said, coach, there's women in this building all the time. They looked like college students. So I was paranoid about this and I told them every day in the meeting, I said I don't care the slightest little thing I want to know. The slightest little thing. And I told them every single day that. And I had mentioned this to one guy, this guy John Schnatter is his name. He was the head of Papa -- founder of Papa John Pizza. I said this guy's out to get me. The AD told me that he's out to get me. And I said he's a trustee and you guys got to do things the right way every single day.

MD: So with regards to -- I mean, when you say paranoia, were the younger -- you know, your assistant coaches or the -- I mean, were they paranoid about -- do I have the right word -- you have a (unintelligible).

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RP: I'll call you back, thank you. So go ahead, I'm sorry.

MD: With regards to paranoia, like your coach -- your assistants, they're kind of -- I mean, are they scared straight? I mean, is that your sense that the culture is --

RP: Well, which ones was it at the time. We have -- do you have their names which ones -
- Jordan.

MD: Well --

SS: Jordan.

MD: Jordan Fair, coach Padgett and Kenny Johnson, right?

RP: Yeah. Now, here's the problem with this discussion today. So from the last interview I had, Nate Leffler told me things that Kenny Johnson did that I had no knowledge of. So my opinion of him today is I would never speak to him again, you know, basically because of what he told me but back then I did not know that. David Padgett is a quality human being. Jordan Fair got caught up I think in Kenny Johnson, I think. I'm surmising this.

MD: Yeah.

RP: But they all came with good references. Kenny Johnson was a molecular biologist background, well educated, worked for -- he told me a pharmaceutical company. And the other young man was a high school coach, who I watched coached in high school. And the reason I hired him was he was older, had players living with him. I think he was 25-26. Head high school coach because the NCAA told me that Andre McGee was too close in age to the people as a graduate assistant, that the people he was living with, which didn't make sense because most graduate assistants are just college, becoming a GA.

MD: Yeah.

RP: So that didn't make sense to me either.

MD: With regards to Jordan Fair, he gets elevated as an assistant coach on your program pretty quickly. He goes from graduate assistant to assistant coach. Do you think -- do you feel like he had enough background and training to step into that role?

RP: I did. I think he -- I don't know his exact age at the time, but he was a head high school coach for 25-26 years. And I did tell him, I said, look -- I'm trying to think of who left that he replaced now.

SS: It's what happens when it's four years.

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MD: Yeah, I know. Sorry.

RP: Yeah. So I had --

SS: Somebody went to Creighton.

AO: B.

MD: Yeah, they went to someplace in the ACC, Arkansas?

RP: Okay, Mike Balado left, okay.

MD: Yeah.

RP: So he was on the staff and it was late in the year. I felt he was -- I watched him coach in high school. I was very impressed with the job he did in high school as a coach and as a teacher. And I said to him, look, it's late in the process. You did a good job for me this year. I'm going to hire you for a year. I want you to do everything the right way. I want you to work your butt off and so on and at the end of the year we'll talk.

SM: Rick, I want to clarify something, Jordan wasn't the head coach for 24 or 25 years.

RP: No. No, four or five years. He was 20- --

SM: I think -- yeah, just for clarification.

RP: Oh, I'm sorry.

SM: You might have said --

[00:15:00] RP: No, he was 25 years of age.

SS: You think.

SM: Yeah, okay.

RP: But he was a head high school coach at Oldsmar Christian Academy and people lived with him and he was responsible for the welfare of those young people for their parents.

MD: So with regards to NCAA, I mean, being an assistant coach and now you've got to go on the road recruiting, do you feel that he was adequately -- having, you know, only been in it now one year as a graduate assistant, did he have the tools to get on the road recruiting?

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RP: He did because he was a head high school coach and he -- at his school, they were heavily recruited. He had very good players. So he knew the rules from high school and his players were heavily recruited so he was involved in the recruitment process at the high school level when colleges came in. In the gym almost daily you would see eight to 10 college coaches in that gym watching.

MD: All right. With -- when you decide to make him, you know, go from graduate assistant to assistant coach, what process does he go through to learn -- which are very elaborate and difficult rules on recruiting --

RP: Yeah.

MD: -- what -- how do you transition into --

RP: Well, compliance -- obviously, you talk about it every day the rules, the new rules. Compliance comes in once a week, tells you the new rules. You go over it. You have to pass the compliance test. But more important, you talk about having integrity in life, you know -- and this is all going to sound worthless to you -- but I've been coaching 45 years and I've never knowingly as a head coach broken a rule. I don't believe in it. I believe in hard work. I believe in out working with people, out scouting people. I don't believe in cheating in any form or fashion. And they know that. When you look at Jordan Fair, I took another young man, I happened to coach him, and he's today the head coach of the Chicago Bulls. His name is Billy Donovan. He won back-to-back championships. He was my GA for one year and I elevated him to full-time assistant. So it's been done. I've had over -- I've had probably four times more assistant coaches become head coaches than Roy Williams and Mike Krzyzewski. So I've done that through the feeder systems. David Padgett, they all move up that way. They start as assistant strength coach and they move up the ladder that way. I felt he was ready because he was a head high school coach and I was -- if he wasn't a head high school coach, I didn't know him long enough, I would probably say he didn't know enough about it but because he was the leader of -- and he had players living with him.

MD: Yeah. Well, I mean, would it be a surprise to you if he -- you know, like his impression with us is that he felt like he was deer -- I mean, trust me, he was honored that he's been your assistant coach, but he did feel like he was thrown into the middle of a very complicated world that he felt like it (unintelligible).

RP: Well, people when they do the wrong thing make excuses.

MD: Yeah.

RP: And excuses are a sign of character weakness and that's what he did. You know, I -- to this day, I think he had a character weakness, he showed it and there's two ways you can do it. You can do it the right way or the wrong way. He did it -- he chose the wrong

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way. I don't -- I'm not saying he's a bad person, I'm, but. I had a conversation with him on the way to the airport, a long conversation because he had to drop me off. And he said coach, I want to be like Billy Donovan. Now, Billy Donovan is the head coach of the Chicago Bulls today. He won back-to-back championships at Florida, just the finest human being I've ever coached in my life. He's like a son to me. He said I want to be just like Billy Donovan to you and he went on and on. I said, well, if you want to be like Billy Donovan, let me tell you forget the basketball end of it. Let's talk about humility, let's talk about hard work, let's talk about caring for the student-athlete. That's what Billy Donovan's all about. So if you want to be Billy Donovan, don't try to be Billy Donovan the coach, don't try to be Billy Donovan the recruiter. Start out with be Billy Donovan the person. I gave him a long lecture about this. I'll never forget it as long as I live. And he said thank you, coach, that meant a lot to me. So I mentored him and I never forget the conversation. So when this broke and I found out he did things the wrong way, I remember that conversation as if it was yesterday.

MD: Do you think he felt -- and most of your staff, did they felt that they could come to you and report, you know, things that troublesome or, like you said, red flags that they may see?

RP: I think that they do know that if they did, you know, something wrong knowingly I would fire them on the spot. If it was -- not a secondary violation where they -- we would report it. If they did something that was in violation of my code of ethics, I would have fired them on the spot. I think they know that. Is that what you're alluding to?

MD: Yeah, is that -- do you think that would kind of --

RP: Stop them from telling me.

MD: -- stop them from coming to you?

RP: I think I was pretty severe with all of them but going back 30-something years, I was the same with everybody. Jeff Van Gundy, Stu Jackson, Mick Cronin at UCLA was hold the ball. I said you will be fired immediately if you do the wrong things.

MD: With regards to your coaching philosophy and like, you know, I've heard, you know, different coaches are -- like they know everything about their program. They're down in the weeds. And then there are some coaches that are kind of the strategic ones. They're trying to manage it. Where would you put yourself? Are you in the weeds or are you trusting people --

[00:20:20] RP: Well, that's --

MD: -- to come to you?

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RP: -- what some media me that BS because you know every little thing in scouting. You know if that guy puts his hand up on his left side of his head and brushes his hair back. That's how detailed you are in scouting. Yeah, they're right about that. In scouting and in preparation and in organization of practice, yes. But in terms of knowing that they're bringing women through a fire escape a 1:00 o'clock in the morning four times a year, no, I don't know that. And I would never know that, along with all the managers, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] No I wouldn't know those things. And I would not know -- you know, I -- like I said earlier, whether it's Tubby Smith, whether it's Mick Cronin, whether it's Jeff Van Gundy, whether it's Billy Donovan and 25 -- whether it's Bernadette Locke, the first female assistant to sit on the bench in the history of basketball, I trusted and believed in them but they all knew the rules. They were all mentored on the rules. They were all taught the rules. And then yes, trust. Like one of the people on the committee who really insulted me, and I let him know at lunchtime, he was the person that had -- that was involved with the Lance Armstrong case. During the committee hearing, he said to me did you happen to look at Andre McGee's computer. And I said, well, why would I look at his computer. To look at gambling sites or important sites. And I said why would I ever do that. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] He did -- why would I ever -- and then I grabbed the lawyer at lunchtime, my school lawyer said that's a federal offense in the state of Kentucky if you did that. It's a felony. Then I grabbed him at lunchtime. I said, you know, you try to create a felony that if I did that I would have had a felony. Well, you'd have to ask permission. So I said, you're asking -- tried to humiliate me and you're asking me a question that did -- Andre McGee, can I look at your computer to see if there's any porn or gambling sites and Andre McGee yeah, sure, coach, go look at that. I said so what, you were just trying to humiliate me and embarrass me. And I told him that at this hearing. And every one of my assistants, I've had 31 become head coaches, 28 of them did it the right way, three did not unfortunately to me and I was fired and lost my reputation because of it.

MD: Yeah. Yeah, you assumed some risk with Jordan Fair, bringing him up that quick and kind of throwing him on the road. I mean, looking back, do you feel like that --

RP: No, because he was more qualified than Billy Donovan because he was a head high school coach. He sat in a room, like we are now, with a bunch of college coaches recruiting his kids, listening to their speeches, knowing who did it the right way, knowing -- probably coach K and coach Williams and the greatest coaches in the game sat across from him. He knew much more than any graduate assistant. That's why I hired him because of his experience and the lack of experience they told me about Andre McGee. And what they didn't know is you hire -- you don't hire graduate assistants who make no money, all they do is they work on their master's degree, they get room and board. So it's not like you're going to hire a 35-year-old who has a family. That's how you start -- I started out in business that way. I gave up playing to be a

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graduate assistant. I wanted to coach and teach. So he was much more qualified to go on the road than another GA who you moved up ladder.

MD: Okay. With regards to --

RP: Like Kevin Willard, the head coach at Seton Hall, same way, same thing.

MD: All right. A little bit of change of subject. When you talked about before, you identified that the shoe companies kind of posed a risk and you talked to your coaches about the, you know, risk associated with the shoe companies. So, I mean, let's first start out as what is the risk that you see with the shoe companies?

RP: Are you aware of the press conference I had about shoe companies?

MD: If you want to recreate it, it would help.

RP: Okay. I don't know the exact timing of it but a year or two prior to this incident, I went on a tirade in a press conference that we've got to get shoe companies out of the recruiting business. Well documented. So what do you -- the media would ask questions. I said this has to stop. It has to stop. They're influencing -- okay, I can't recruit a Nike kid because I'm an Adidas school. I can't recruit an Under Armour, they all have their own circuits, they all hire their own coaches. I said it's absurd what's going on. These shoe companies are -- they have runners involved, they're runners for agents. I said this is awful for the game of basketball. I went on a tirade about it. And I had a lot of phone calls from coaches agreeing with that and so on. And just two years later, this happens to me. And now, if you look at what happened just recently, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] So this was going on behind closed doors with runners and agents and shoe companies and I was having a major problem with it because I was striking out a lot because Nike has probably the most players in basketball and I couldn't recruit them because the AAU coaches were getting paid by Nike to coach their program and Nike wanted them to sway them to go to Nike schools rather than an Adidas school or an Under Armour school. And I thought this was all wrong and I went on a dissertation at a press conference about that.

[00:26:12] MD: So what could you do and what did you do like in your program to kind of safeguard your program from --

RP: Well, I had -- what people didn't realize over this whole incident, I had very little -- the shoe company people for years -- 30 something years, I had very little contact with these people. They weren't friends of mine. I had one guy I was very friendly with who I thought was a nice guy. His name was Jeff Robbins of Adidas. He was a good person, good guy. And he -- I probably spoke to him maybe once a month. Outside of that, these people -- I wanted nothing to do with them. I had very little in common with them

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except for ordering -- I did order -- I kept bugging -- I wanted Yeezy's. I went on a recruiting -- I do tweet but I send it to my son because I don't want to read what they say about me, so he sends it out. So I wore these Yeezy's apparently and it got so much on social media. I didn't know what they were. It was a brand of shoe and then I find out that Kanye West is behind it. So all these young kids are thinking I'm cool because I've got -- here's this old man wearing Yeezy's.

MD: But you're supposed to be wearing Adidas, right?

RP: Yeah, no, Yeezy's are Adidas.

MD: Oh, they are, okay.

RP: Yes.

SS: (Unintelligible).

SM: You're kind of cool.

RP: So I'm wearing these Yeezy's and everybody's noticing. So the only time I kept badgering them was to send me more Yeezy's. All right, not to get off.

SM: I'm going to see if that's a violation.

MD: With regards to -- yeah, there was -- what was your relationship with John Carns and Matt Banker, who were compliance?

RP: I had a great relationship with them. It turned out to be a bad relationship at the end because Matt Banker went against me in my lawsuit, but prior to that I had a great relationship with both of them.

MD: Yeah. And what do you mean he went against you in the lawsuit?

RP: Well, I'm fighting Louisville for my contract.

MD: Yeah.

RP: And he's the other side right now and we're talking about a lot of money and I lost it all.

MD: Okay. With regards to -- at one point you're -- something occurs in the dorm and there's a text that you're sending to Kenny Johnson and you're basically saying I'm fed up with this. I'm going to get with John and Matt and I'm going to basically rip their heart out tomorrow. Do you recall --

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RP: That doesn't --

MD: -- do you recall what would have happened in the dorm or?

RP: I would have ripped John's heart?

MD: Yeah, John and Matt.

RP: The compliance people?

MD: Yeah.

RP: I said that in here?

MD: In a text between you and Kenny Johnson. Kenny Johnson, it says basically Kenny Johnson sends you something, but we don't have that text but you sent back you are 100% in the right. I'm getting together with Matt and John Monday and rip their hearts out. I'm sick of all this shit. If it doesn't change we all move to our next destination together. It was in July of 2017.

RP: I don't recall that at all.

MD: Was it a constructive relationship those between you and Matt and John?

RP: Yeah, they were very nice -- very nice people, very professional about their jobs. They were excellent. I had nothing negative to say about either one.

MD: And your perception, would they have said the same thing?

RP: In terms of?

MD: Saying it was a good working relationship.

RP: I don't know what that was in reference to.

MD: No, but what I'm saying Matt and John say it was great working with coach Pitino, I mean, from your perception --

RP: They wouldn't say it today. They would have said it back then when they worked for me. Right now they have to take Louisville's side and their AD is so vindictive he would fire them because he's fired every one of Tom Jurich's guy with the exception of one or two.

[00:30:02]

MD: Yeah. All right. With regards to some of the shoe company involvement, you basically had said that you kind of -- they didn't have a lot of access to you or your players. Did

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- you -- would you have -- did you know whether, you know, they were getting complimentary tickets, were they coming to practices, were they --
- RP: They've been to -- late in my career -- I was at Louisville I think 17 years -- late in the career, they attended a North Carolina walk through -- we were getting ready to play North Carolina and they asked if they could stop by for five minutes to say hello and they did. They came to maybe less than five practices, I would imagine, I don't know - - I don't remember ever seeing them until late. For some reason -- and I think it was my athletic director saying you've ignored Rick Pitino for years. And the only reason I say that is we sat at a table, they were getting ready to do a new deal, and said -- Tom Jurich, the AD at the time, said you know, coach K is on commercials for Nike, why don't you use coach Pitino in commercials, how come you don't use him at all and get him involved and their response was he really ignores us. He doesn't come on any of our trips. They have these trips. He doesn't come on any of his trips. He's never wanted our help. And he said well -- I said I'd love to do a commercial for you and -- when we sat down there. That was very late. They were getting ready to do a new deal with the school. I think this was maybe my 15th year. Prior to that my involvement was very limited.
- MD: Okay. And when you say -- so I've already seen in your prior interview kind of the -- your relationship and -- or limited relationship with the four, you know, Gatto, Code. With regards to Chris Rivers, was he the most active of the three or?
- RP: No, I didn't even -- I thought Chris Rivers up until last couple of years, I thought he worked for Nike.
- MD: Okay. And Gassnola, what was Gassnola's relationship?
- RP: I didn't know Gassnola worked for Adidas until very late. I thought he was an AAU coach New England. Gassnola was best friends with -- I don't know this would be true -- was best friends with Bill Self, John Calipari, the kid Kellogg. He was an AAU coach I think in New England. I didn't even know he worked for Adidas until late. Gatto, I knew his dad, Jim Gatto, he was the head coach at Mater Christi High School in Queens, great guy. But Gatto was more into professional basketball with Adidas, really for like maybe 90% wasn't involved with college basketball. Rivers I thought for years worked for Nike and then I did see him late, late in the last couple of years, I did see him at some Adidas events but I didn't spend any time with him.
- MD: And with regards to Gassnola or any of those four -- Rivers, Code or Gatto -- would they reach out to you in regards to --
- RP: I don't know Code at all.

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MD: Okay, so no to Code, okay. But let's say what would their normal interactions be with you? Would it be in regards to kind of identifying players?

RP: You know, the only thing the last -- and again, it's off-the-cuff a little bit as far as my recall is concerned -- the only thing I found -- was paying attention to me and I thought it was from the interview, Gassnola, who I finally found out is working -- I don't know what capacity with Adidas, but he would text me out of the clear blue. Hey, Hall of Famer, how are things. If you need anything, just call us. Something like that. Everything's good, thanks. Thanks for texting. That's it.

MD: I don't want to hurt your feelings, but I think he called a lot of people Hall of Famers.

RP: Did he?

MD: I'm just joking.

RP: But that's what he said in the text message though. He really did say that.

MD: Yeah. But with regards to recruiting, would he have helped you identify players, would you have --

RP: No.

MD: -- would you have reached out to them on any Adidas players, Adidas camps?

RP: No, the only conversation I ever had was there were -- I forgot the kid's name, now he plays [REDACTED]

MD: I know who you're talking.

SM: (Unintelligible).

RP: No. No.

SS: [REDACTED]

RP: No, he was a guy that was thinking of switching from Adidas to Nike and I asked him -- I think I asked the question are you guys keeping him in your circuit or is he -- I heard he may switch to Nike, something like that. I forgot the kid's name. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] I can only try my best.

MD: I'll remember in a second. But -- oh, explain to me that like when you're -- so you're reaching out to Adidas, are you almost getting -- were you reaching out to find out if this is going to be permissible? So --

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[00:35:04] RP: No, they were at practice.

MD: Yeah.

RP: And I don't remember -- recall the exact conversation but I think they said to me that Chris Rivers handles that end of it. I don't think Chris Rivers was there. I think it was Gatto and Gassnola. And they said Chris Rivers handles that end of the business. I said I heard you guys were losing --

MD: [REDACTED]

RP: Yes.

AO: [REDACTED]

RP: [REDACTED]

MD: Yeah.

RP: And I said I heard he's going to Nike. And they said well, Chris Rivers is handling that. I don't know if he ever did go to Nike or not, I'm not sure.

MD: But what did it mean to you when he says Chris Rivers is handling that?

RP: It must be his department that he handles the contracts for whether the AAU team goes with Nike or Adidas.

MD: Oh, so it's actually not the player but it's the AAU program --

RP: Program.

MD: -- that's going to shift over to Adidas or --

RP: Right.

MD: -- Nike. So what you're saying is once that program shifts over to Adidas, it's a little bit easier to recruit a kid from the program?

RP: If it goes to Nike --

MD: Yeah, it's going to be harder.

RP: It switches, that's why I went on that tirade at the time. If he goes to Nike, Nike will then push their AAU coaches to try and -- that's somewhat legit, some is sway, go with the Nike school.

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MD: Okay. All right. With regards to -- anything else with regards to just the compliance environment of what you did -- I mean, I know you said you've spoken to your assistant coaches about, you know, the sports company, the sports apparel companies, AAU problems, you know, just anybody kind of third party interference, what kind of things would you do within your program to kind of try to prevent --

RP: We talked about the rules, we talked about call me when you're on the road, call me and let me know what you're doing, make sure you get back to me, what are you doing, how do we stand; those type of things. We talked about it all -- we met every single day when we were not on the road. We met every single day at like 7:00 o'clock/7:30 every day.

MD: And would -- how many times would somebody from compliance be involved in those meetings?

RP: Well, most of these meetings are like this type of room. Their basketball strategy meetings. What are we going to do today. Player development sessions, what are we going to do about practice, any new things come up, we talk recruiting, we talk scouting, we talk rules, we talk everything. Compliance would meet with us at their direction. They would say we're going to meet on Tuesday at such-and-such a time. They would dictate that.

MD: And they would meet with your whole staff?

RP: Yes, we'd meet together.

MD: And would they meet with the support staff, as well as the coaching staff or just?

RP: The whole staff.

MD: Okay. And how many times a week, a month?

RP: I'd be guessing right now. I'm sure they would have a record of it. But they determined that. But we were in constant dialogue with them and the coaches if we needed on interpretation of the rules. We would call them.

MD: With regards to kind of in light of Andre McGee's situation and now having that behind you, did you do any kind of increased monitoring or enhancements to compliance based on --

RP: We -- I just thought that the meetings were tripled --

MD: Okay.

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RP: -- tripled and we were, like I said, paranoia set in, we were on top of every little thing and as it turns out --

MD: When you say on top of everything, explain to me kind of -- give me an example.

RP: We knew all the rules, we knew what should be done, we knew exactly that if you were going to an AAU event, you could not speak to an AAU coach but you could greet them, say hello, those type of things. Everything that you -- when you go to an event, you know what you can do and what you can't do.

MD: Okay.

RP: It was explicit.

MD: All right. Let's -- can -- I'm going to shift over and talk a little bit about [REDACTED] [REDACTED] What do you recall with regards to how that originated? Like where do you all of a sudden know he's within your radar?

RP: When I went to see [REDACTED], and the team he was playing, I think he may have been [REDACTED]. I think he was. I'm not sure. But anyway went to the game [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Anyway, this team [REDACTED] [REDACTED] -- I forgot the name of it, [REDACTED] just killed them. I really didn't focus on [REDACTED] but during the conversation with the coaches, they said guy's [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Quite frankly, I didn't even notice him that well. I think my assistant coaches, which ones I'm not sure, were in contact, looking at him at one time but we were there [REDACTED] When it did come up and we weren't getting -- we lost some recruit, [REDACTED], is still available. Coach, you remember him. I said I really don't remember him that well. And we watch -- I believe we watched film on him, what it may be, and that's -- we started recruiting him.

[00:40:50] MD: All right. Had Kenny Johnson ever come to you like back -- as far back as summer 2016 saying he was interested in him?

RP: I think he did. He was on the rad -- like remember now, there's 30 guys on your radar back then. There's 30. And you don't know them that well. You haven't seen them play yet. So these are just guys on your radar.

MD: Okay. Did Kenny Johnson ever tell you, hey, I met with him in Vegas or I met with him -- I met with the family, they're a good family? Did he ever reference any kind of meeting back in 2016?

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RP: No.

MD: Okay, all right. So this -- it comes -- [REDACTED] comes on your radar quick and within -- [REDACTED] he signed a letter of intent, is that -- I mean, maybe even a little bit more than that. Well, how long --

RP: Yeah.

MD: -- was it?

RP: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] And I remember because I posted him up at lunchtime. I didn't suspect anything. But he said he was down [REDACTED] I thought it was legitimate because Izzo's a legitimate guy so I didn't think there was anything wrong in this situation. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I'm trying to think of why we couldn't at the time -- we may have been out of visits, maybe over the limit. I forgot what it was. [REDACTED] We sat down at a table. And I'll never forget this, and why I thought everything was kosher was we went to lunch -- we went to Darrell Griffith, the ex-player, he had a place called Griff's on campus and it's a burger/fry type place and the bill was like \$20-some dollars and they chipped in 13 and we chipped in \$12, whatever it may be. So they paid for their portion. So right away, you would think a cheap burger, you know, you'll get this, right. And we know the rules, we got this. So there was never any suspicion of that they were looking for anything at all. The mom was a delightful lady. I liked her a lot. I told them exactly what I was like. I told them I'm going to give your son a lot of love but I'm going to give him a lot of discipline. Practices are going to be tough. I told them about our player development where we sat. And great conversations. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] And then I did ask the question why are you waiting this long, you're such a great player. Why are you waiting this long. And I believe, if I can recall, that he said [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] decided to pull their name out of the draft and come back. I forgot their names. And why not [REDACTED] I said. And he said they got some other player. So now he seems to be left without a school and we needed a [REDACTED]

MD: Okay. With regards to their visit -- well, after the visit, at some point you -- you know, somebody texts you that DePaul is offering this family \$200,000.

RP: That's total bullshit, that whole thing.

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MD: Well, no, I know that. But somebody tells you that.

[00:44:53]

RP: Yeah, but I'm saying the person -- this is what really upset me about this Nate Leffler. So do you know how many times in my life in a span of a week I get told that coach K's cheating and John Calipari's cheating and they're doing this and they're doing that. And I said -- my response is I know Mike Krzyzewski. I know what he's all about, it's total bullshit. The guy who texted me this, the reason he was texting that is he had a friend named Sellers, assistant coach, who got fired from DePaul and this coach was hired and he's upset. He's from Chicago, he's upset at DePaul. DePaul is a Catholic school, \$200,000, when I hear these types of things I think it's total BS. I texted my assistant and I said can you believe this -- that DePaul would give \$200,000, this type of thing is going on. Total BS. I know the guy. Total BS in any estimation. But this happens all the time. But they're looking at my text messages so they think that this is something I should report, from a guy who knows nothing about the game, he's not involved in the game, he's not involved in anything and he has a cross to bear against DePaul. And I'm not going to turn in a school over an idiot saying something that I should have turned in coach K 100 times then or coach Calipari 100 times and they probably should have turned in me 100 times from what this gossip net on the internet is. So that -- and out of everything that's gone on, the whole NCAA and all these reports, that's the biggest BS that ever gone on that this guy is sending me that text message because DePaul (a) didn't do that, (b) this guy had a cross to bear against DePaul and (c) DePaul -- I said to Kenny Johnson, can you believe that they would say something like this.

MD: All right. But could -- you know, at this point, you've got -- you understand the sports apparel company's kind of working behind the scenes. Did you ever, you know, confront Kenny Johnson and say --

RP: Behind what scenes?

MD: Well, you said that they kind of like are hiring [REDACTED] --

RP: No, I knew that. This just came out six months ago.

MD: Yeah.

RP: I didn't know that back then.

MD: Well, what I'm wondering is do you directly kind of confront either the family with regards to kind of this danger zone or this, as you described it --

RP: I told them --

MD: -- a red flag?

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RP: -- I told that family there, in front of everybody, we do everything the right way here. You're not going to -- and again, the fact that they drove six hours, the fact that they paid for lunch, I would have no suspicion other than that they were looking for anything. They were looking for a place for their son to land. And the mother was a delightful lady. They never asked a single thing. They never asked could I give them gas money home, nothing. No -- nothing that would make me think that everything wasn't in line. The shoe companies weren't involved in any of this.

MD: Yeah. With regards to -- but Kenny Johnson, do you say -- do you grill him with regards to how does this come about, do you have any reason to believe there's anything funny going on here because in his -- and just like you said, it's kind of strange that he also pops on to your radar. You're saying there's an explanation.

RP: Well, he explained it. He explained it to me. And I know today that Kenny Johnson lied, obviously, from what Nate Leffler told me at the meeting. He lied. But he didn't - - there was nothing that seemed out of the ordinary. And I told him at the time, he says coach, [REDACTED] where are we going to go to lunch, make sure they pay. So I went over every little thing: make sure they pay for their \$12 lunch or \$13 lunch, whatever it may be; make sure that --

MD: So wait, you said make sure they pay or they offer to pay?

RP: Before -- no, before we came I told everybody we're going to lunch here, make sure -- we can't pick up their tab. It's an unofficial. I don't know if they changed that rule today but back then it was not legal.

MD: All right. Was Christian Dawkins with them --

RP: Yes.

MD: -- at that meeting? And what was his role with regards to -- or what was your understanding --

RP: He said -- Christian Dawkins told me he was a friend of the family for years I think he said, as I recall.

MD: All right. And what is -- what's your understanding? Are you dealing with him or are you dealing with the dad --

RP: No, I had --

MD: -- or the mom?

RP: Christian Dawkins, I remember him from years ago -- who was the player I had -- I had one of his player -- he called himself a general manager of an AAU team. He wasn't a

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coach. He was a general manager of an AAU team and I had one of his players. decent player, not a great player. And that was the last I heard from him until instant of him showing up.

SM: I want to make sure you guys are on the same plane. You got the text message from Dawkins to coach, right? You've got the text messages?

[00:50:00] MD: Yes.

SM: Okay.

MD: Yeah.

SM: Okay, where he texts coach. Coach doesn't reach out to him.

MD: Yeah.

SM: Okay.

RP: And he also -- in the text messages says, hey, coach, Christian Dawkins. I don't know if you remember me. He says that multiple times, I don't know if you remember me. I'm trying to remember the player now. Anyway.

MD: [REDACTED]

AO: [REDACTED]

MD: [REDACTED]

RP: [REDACTED], okay. And so he says he's friends with the family. I think it was, and he's coming -- he's riding in -- I don't know [REDACTED] I can't recall that. I don't know [REDACTED] I don't recall. But when we sat down at the meeting, I didn't put a lot of credence into him. He didn't say two words at this meeting. Not two words. He just listened to everything I said.

MD: Was it, you -- I think you've since learned at the time Kenny Johnson strikes off some of the information -- itineraries, he tells your director of basketball operations take them off all the records that he was here.

RP: Well, I found that way after the fact, yeah.

MD: Right. I mean, at the time do you catch that, that you're looking at itineraries, Christian Dawkins' name's not here but he's sitting here, do you review compliance paperwork afterwards?

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RP: I do review it and see it and they show it to, especially after the fact. But I had no knowledge of Kenny Johnson saying to take his name off of that.

MD: All right. And would have seen that level of detail where you say Kenny, where is Christian Dawkins' name? I just spend 48 hours with Christian Dawkins and the family, why isn't he on this paperwork?

RP: I probably would have caught it.

MD: And did you catch it or no?

RP: No.

MD: Okay. With regards to Kenny Johnson -- yeah, so were I told beforehand though that Christian Dawkins is coming?

RP: I don't recall.

MD: Okay. All right but with regards to -- at that point, Kenny Johnson now -- [REDACTED] commits pretty quickly I guess and then he's showing up on campus.

RP: It wasn't quickly I don't think.

MD: I mean, he --

RP: He said he wanted -- he said to me -- he told me three, maybe four or five days prior - - and I'm trying to remember and try (unintelligible) -- it was either [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

MD: Okay.

RP: I'm not sure which one it was. But he told me he was coming prior to Gatto's phone call and the staff said he's coming. I knew he was coming anyway, in my mind, [REDACTED] out and there were no other schools. So where else is he going to go, we were his last hope so to speak. So he's trying to keep it -- like he wanted it to be a secret but [REDACTED] were out. [REDACTED] took their players and there were no other schools out there so I thought he was coming all along after the visit. But he told me on the phone prior to that he was coming but he wanted to announce it on [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I can't remember which one.

MD: All right. With regards to -- you said they want to keep it quiet, was that --

RP: He said that.

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MD: He said that, okay. Within the program then, it gets conveyed to everybody we're keeping this quiet. Do you recall that discussion?

RP: I don't.

MD: Okay. There -- some people within the program said they were told, hey, we need to keep it quite because [REDACTED] doesn't want -- you know, there's a mentor at DePaul that he doesn't want to --

RP: Oh, I never heard that. I just heard he wanted to keep it quiet [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

MD: Okay.

RP: No mentor of DePaul ever being mentioned.

MD: Okay.

RP: Not to me.

MD: All right. With regards to once he shows up on campus, when is it that you learn that the parents now have moved to Louisville?

RP: I didn't know they moved to Louisville. I knew they were staying at a hotel.

MD: Okay, I'm sorry. That they were kind of camped out?

RP: I immediately grabbed David Padgett and said what are they doing here. And, well, they're going to move here. I said what do you mean move here. Why are they moving here. But they started quoting me Battle moved to Duke -- to Durham. This guy moved -- there's nothing wrong with that. I said okay. I said who's paying for this -- where they're staying now? Where are they staying? (Unintelligible). I said go down, find out, make sure that they're paying for their hotel room, went through a whole bit with David Padgett on everything about this.

MD: All right. So when you said you do -- you did kind of background figure out if this was -- there was anything suspect about this?

[00:55:00]

RP: Well, the reason I found it out initially and why I questioned -- called everybody in on it is the mom -- I'm trying to think, was it a voicemail or a text message or -- it couldn't have been an email -- said to me it's great to be in town. Can't wait to see you, can't wait to say hello again but we're in town now and excited for the year to come about. So it was strange, like they were down for good. That's what first alerted me to it.

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MD: So your staff doesn't come to you and say, hey, this -- there's a concern, this family is at the Galt House?

RP: No, because the Galt House is a cheap hotel, until I called them in on it.

MD: Okay. Did Kenny Johnson ever come to you and say listen, I'm concerned with this family, they're a little bit -- because the way he described it, is they become pretty high maintenance for him. He almost becomes their concierge of making sure they got --

RP: He never said any of that to me.

MD: Okay. With regards to them showing up for practice, were -- you know, the term helicopter parents, were they more involved with their player -- their son's -- you know, was he kind of pressuring you or, I know --

RP: No.

MD: -- I know you can't --

RP: Actually, I have to say this, the parents -- every year I've been in this business, the one everybody says how is it different today, are the kids different today and I say no, the kids are not different today, the parents are different today. The parents are trying to get much more involved today than it was 20-25 years ago. So actually they weren't really that way. The mom -- like I said, the mom was a delightful lady, still to this day. I don't know this for a fact, and you may know better than me, I don't think the mom ever knew anything was going on at all. I think the dad obviously was behind a lot of this.

MD: All right.

RP: And I think he was ex-policeman I think, so -- I think he was at least.

MD: All right. So when you send -- you find out he's staying at the Galt House and you said you were concerned that how did these, how did this family show up, do we -- there may be a concern. At that point that's implied for you. So you --

RP: Right.

MD: -- put Padgett out on it. Did John Carns or Matt Banker get involved at all?

RP: I told him to.

MD: And what did --

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RP: I told David to make sure everything's -- find out who's pay -- make sure that they're paying for this, make sure there's documentation, how long are they staying at the Galt House, where are they moving to, did they buy a house, are they renting a house.

MD: And so Padgett is now -- he does the fact finding, is that right?

RP: Him and Kenny Johnson, I think both.

MD: Okay. Did you ever consider kind of turning it over to compliance and saying you guys dig into this?

RP: I told Kenny Johnson to go right to compliance. He lied and said I never told him to do that. I told him immediately go to compliance and alert them.

MD: So when they come back and report to you that they're at the Galt House, they're -- who comes back? Is it Matt --

RP: I don't --

MD: -- John or is it just Kenny --

RP: -- I don't --

MD: -- or coach Padgett?

RP: -- I don't recall. I think it was -- but we had a meeting on it and I remember this, I said to Kenny Johnson where is he getting this money to move here. And he said to me, the dad -- two things, the dad represented a player and made a lot of money from his player [REDACTED] I can't remember his name. He was an agent at the time and made a lot of money off of that. And then he lied again, he said but I remember -- the reason -- I don't know if he lied about it, maybe it's true, but I know he did say please don't mention that you know this. He has a legal marijuana business [REDACTED] I said marijuana business. He said yes, marijuana business, but don't mention that. I said okay, fine. Why am I going to mention it. A lot of people are getting into this legal marijuana selling. So that's where he got his money. He told me he has money. So I never suspected because he has money. And here's the thing you have to realize, speaking to a black coach and if this was a white player and he's moving to town with his family, when you start going ballistic over all this.

RP: Speaking to a black coach, here's comes the racial incident. You mean to tell me that a black family can't move to town. So I was very on guard about that as well. He told me that the guy has a lot of money, he's got a marijuana business and he told me that he made a lot of money as an agent representing his player. So I was fine with that. But I told everybody to make sure -- make sure of that. And when I thought back on it, of what it is today, if that was a white family would all of this have come about.

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- [01:00:02] MD: I don't know, I don't -- what I'm concerned -- what I --
- RP: No, I'm not asking for your opinion on it. I'm just saying it's a very -- you have to understand, I'm speaking to a black coach at the time and he's explained to me that the family has money so that's what I'm trying to say to you.
- MD: Okay. With -- but with regards to, you know, you send two coaches out to kind of find out the information, are they -- looking back on it, are they the best suited to go get that information?
- RP: Yeah, I trusted them. I thought that -- I trusted them.
- MD: Do you think they can independently kind of gather the facts and give you an opinion or are they going to give you the answer you want to hear?
- RP: They weren't going to give me answers I wanted to hear because I was upset at this, that I didn't know that they were planning on moving to town.
- MD: Yeah.
- RP: And I had to find out from the mother.
- MD: Yeah. How does -- to your knowledge, how do they verify that he's a marijuana business guy or he's a former agent, I mean, where do they get the information?
- RP: Kenny Johnson said -- he named the kid that he represented. I knew the guy. He was a professional basketball player for 10-12 years.
- MD: And what was the source of information for all of this?
- RP: The dad.
- MD: Okay. All right. But you're not concerned that you're basically having your assistant coach go out, whose got a vested interest in keeping this kid here because he's his recruit, right? You're not concerned about the value of the information you're getting back?
- RP: I had no reason not to trust either one of them. They were -- they never -- I never once had any suspicion of them -- and David Padgett and I have had conversations ever since that time, and he never had any suspicion that anything was wrong.
- MD: And did you -- would you have directly asked Kenny Johnson do you have any knowledge -- do you have any -- that they're getting money from someplace else to show up here? I mean, did you ask him the tough questions about --

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RP: We did ask tough questions. I don't know if I specifically asked that but with -- I had asked tough questions. Why is this kid available this late -- if he's such a great player, why is he available.

MD: Yeah.

RP: You know, and they gave me legitimate answers of [REDACTED] what I alluded to earlier. See -- you see, you don't [REDACTED] if you're looking for things. You just don't do that. It's just -- you just don't do that and then you don't chip in for a \$25 meal, you don't -- you know, it's --

MD: Yeah. With regards to Kenny Johnson, he talked about, you know, basically being fed up with this -- you know, the [REDACTED] family because they're very demanding with regards to, you know, helping them kind of integrate into Louisville and find a renter, find a real estate, find a place to stay and he's say I'm trying to coach basketball and I've got to do all this stuff. They finally have a meeting. [REDACTED] says to him, you know, why are you doing this for me, don't you guys have a booster. And Kenny Johnson references the fact that [REDACTED] brings up the fact that shouldn't I be dealing with a booster. Is that the first you're learning of that or did Kenny --

RP: I never heard that before in my life.

MD: -- did Kenny Johnson ever come to you and say listen, [REDACTED] comes to me and says he wants to talk to a booster instead of me --

RP: He never said any --

MD: -- would that have been a concern --

RP: He never said anything like that to me.

MD: Would that have been a concern to you at the time?

RP: If [REDACTED] did say that?

MD: Yeah.

RP: Of course it would but Kenny Johnson never had that discussion with me. And you have to understand something, you know, just for the record, Kenny Johnson's responsible for me being -- the humiliation to my family, losing \$38 million and another \$1 million on top of it that I lost with my case with Louisville. So Kenny Johnson had ruined -- has ruined my life. So I'm not going to say anything here in any way glowingly about that man. So I just want to let you know that on the record.

MD: Yeah.

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RP: So.

MD: Yeah.

RP: So he didn't -- what I'm saying to you is I don't believe a word that he says.

MD: Yeah.

RP: So he may be on record but I don't believe a word that that man says. I think he's pathological liar, what I know today, and he would look me square in the eye when I said to him is there anything wrong with any of this and he said coach, there's nothing wrong with this. He looked me square in the eye. So he's a -- in my estimation, you can take all the things that you have written down by Kenny Johnson and just throw that away.

MD: Okay, all right. Well, tell me -- kind of give me your synopsis of what Kenny -- you know, looking back on, what do you think now some of the signals that you might have interpreted differently back then, but what is now that you think Kenny Johnson did to set you up for failure?

RP: Just what Nate Leffler told me.

MD: Yeah. Like --

RP: He told me he'd sent out some invitations to coaches in Indiana for a party. He told me some of the other stuff that was in there but, you know, Kenny Johnson came across -- you know, if we sit down for lunch right now, have a sandwich, he'd make the sign of the cross, he would put his head down and pray for two minutes before he'd lift his head up. So, you know, this is going on for two years. A wonderful family, wonderful dad. Never even the slightest suspicion that he would do anything wrong because he was told 100 times, don't -- do not do anything wrong.

[01:05:33] MD: Yeah.

RP: Do not do anything wrong. He pulled the -- right -- so he's a -- he was a pathological liar. He could say that yes, they were -- it may be true that this guy was bugging him but I'm not going to believe that that's true. I'm not going to believe it. It may be true but I'm not going to believe it.

MD: Okay. With regards to -- let me -- and I apologize, we can probably pull this up on the computer but I'll just show you a photo and this is more in regards to Kenny Johnson, this is a photo of what looks to be [REDACTED] and I don't know if you want to -- if you -- we need to we can pull here or I can just show you this, but what it is is it's a picture -- it's a text message but it's from [REDACTED]

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right, to I believe Christian Dawkins. And it's a photo but she attributes that she received this photo from Kenny Johnson. But have you ever seen that photo, and it's --

RP: No.

MD: Would that have been something that your program would have put together, you know, as part of recruiting where you would have put --

AO: I have it in color here.

SS: Yeah, a little bit different in color.

MD: -- where you could have put --

RP: Well, the color was probably illegal. You probably couldn't have color back then.

MD: I mean, do you recognize the photo?

RP: I've never seen this.

AO: What was the -- what did the unofficial visit forms look like to you? Was it something that was a basic piece of paper that looked like an itinerary or was it something that was, you know --

RP: It was --

AO: -- specific for the kids?

RP: -- it was a standard -- it was standard of what every recruit -- when every recruit comes in. It was fairly standard from the college.

AO: And would it have a picture of the recruit or?

RP: I don't recall.

MD: All right. So, I mean, what I'm gathering with regards to the [REDACTED] recruitment, you're -- is it safe to say that Kenny Johnson, there's a lot of stuff going on, he's just not coming back to you with regards to that information, right? If he sees a red flag, he's not reporting it to you?

RP: Well, obviously.

MD: Yeah.

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RP: If he saw red flags, according to what you just said, and he never mentioned a word of it -- any of that. It would have been -- it would have ended that minute. The recruitment of [REDACTED] from what you just told me, it would have ended that minute. They would have gone home. And I've had incidents before in the past, it ended that minute.

MD: Yeah. With -- was your assistant coaches kind of given the freedom to go straight to John Carns and Matt Banker, if necessary, or did they usually come back and do a basketball meeting and then you guys --

RP: No, they constantly were in communication because we had to have interp -- they wouldn't come to me for an interpretation of a rule. They would go to John or Matt. They wouldn't go to me.

MD: Okay. To your knowledge did, you know, do you recall Kenny Johnson ever going to compliance on any of the issues we've just talked about?

RP: Not to my knowledge, no.

MD: Okay. Anything --

RP: No, because they would have come -- the illegal things that were just happening?

MD: Yeah.

RP: No, they would have immediately come to me, to compliance if that was the case.

MD: All right.

AO: With respect to the Galt House though, you said you kind of not only trusted your coaches to find out the information on how they had their money, but you also trusted them to go to compliance. Did you ever follow up with them or compliance to see that that was done?

RP: Yes.

AO: So compliance --

RP: I said did you go to compliance? Yes, yes, they were alerted and he lied to me.

AO: So you confirmed it with the folks but you didn't confirm it directly with compliance?

RP: No.

MD: With regards to Kenny Johnson eventually is alleged to have given money to [REDACTED] right, so it's the \$1,200 that he gives them for -- helps them out with --

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RP: He denies that, so.

MD: Yes, he does. I'm saying allegedly he does. Did he ever come to you with regards to, you know, saying that [REDACTED] has now asked for this \$1,200 or --

RP: Let me reiterate again, if he came to me, he would have been fired and the kid would have been sent home.

MD: Okay. Yup. All right. With regards to the recruitment of [REDACTED] am I saying that, right, [REDACTED]

[01:10:06] RP: It's as good as mine.

MD: All right. Give me the background on his recruitment and what your understanding as to how he first came on Louisville's radar.

RP: [REDACTED] I know he visited with his mom. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I know he visited, that's really all I recall. He had a friend -- Jordan was friends with his AAU coach, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I can't recall that.

MD: All right. But was he a player, you know, that once you were briefed of, he was a player that you would have wanted?

RP: Oh, yes, definitely.

MD: Okay. With -- and Jordan Fair would have been the lead on that recruitment?

RP: Yes.

MD: All right. Did Jordan Fair ever kind of explain to you his relationship with Brad Augustine?

RP: I believe they were both AAU coaches together.

MD: Okay. Did he tell you that Brad Augustine was helping him with the recruitment?

RP: When you say helping him, I think Brad, that he was a friend and I think he was going to say good things about us.

MD: All right. With regards to -- was Christian Dawkins, to your knowledge, involved again in this recruitment?

RP: No.

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MD: Was -- did Jordan Fair ever come to you and say, hey, listen, I'm communicating with Christian Dawkins on [REDACTED]

RP: I screamed at Jordan when I first found out everything. I screamed at Jordan Fair on the phone. I don't think I ever spoke to him again. And said when did you ever meet Jordan -- Christian Dawkins? When did you ever have a relationship with him? And he said he met him on the visit for the first time. So I don't think he had a relationship with Dawkins. He could be lying to me but on the phone he said I met him on the visit. I never knew he even knew Christian Dawkins.

MD: All right, so Christian Dawkins though shows up with [REDACTED]

RP: Yeah, but I don't think it had anything -- I don't think that was the reason he was showing up there.

MD: So --

RP: I thought it was to see a football game.

MD: Okay. So it was just --

RP: It was a big --

MD: -- coincidence --

RP: -- football game, Louisville versus like Clemson.

MD: All right. At that point though is it your understanding that Christian Dawkins is helping [REDACTED] --

RP: No.

MD: -- with the recruitment?

RP: I had no knowledge of that.

MD: Okay. Was -- and Jordan Fair never told you that he's communicating with Christian Dawkins?

RP: Never.

MD: All right. You -- what kind of updates would you ask for Jordan Fair on the recruitment of [REDACTED]

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RP: Just where do we stand, how do we stand and who else is he considering, what are the key factors, what do I have to -- what is the mom interested in academically, athletically, how about the young man, does he want to play in the Euro league, does he have NBA aspirations, all the typical questions that you ask of the recruit.

MD: With -- and you talked about grilling Kenny Johnson on making sure everything was up -- tell me the things you would have grilled Jordan Fair on with regards to compliance?

RP: He was -- you know, with all the guys, because of what went on with the Andre McGee thing, we were on top of everything. I can't -- it was overboard on compliance. They all knew the rules. They all knew how important the rules were to me. They all knew what was at stake for me. So it was -- they were way up on the rules, way up on -- and it was talked about constantly.

MD: All right, coach, I'm going to play devil's advocate. I know they know about the rules but there's a difference between knowing about the rules and following the rules. We just went through Kenny Johnson. It seems like he's not following some of the rules, right? And he's not telling you about some of the problems he's facing. Jordan Fair, with regards -- is -- I know he's up on it but he is -- you're saying he's up on the rules and you talked to him about the rules but does he come to you with -- communicate to you any of problems he's having on this recruitment?

RP: What you're trying to say is, okay, look guys, a police officer comes in here and says look in this area right now, we had a problem -- we had a major car accident, some got seriously hurt. You cannot speed in this area. You cannot speed. We've got a problem. You know the rules. You cannot speed in this area. Somebody just got hurt. Guys, we all understand that. Now, you can't speed in this area, somebody just got seriously hurt. Do not speed in this area. You understand why. Here's the speed limit now. Here's what you can do. Do not go over that speed limit now. They leave here and they go over the speed limit. That's basically what you're saying now.

[01:15:02] MD: Yeah.

RP: Everybody's on top of the rules. I have no reason to believe that they're breaking the rules at all. I have never seen any sign of it at all. They're on top of every rule. They've been told every rule, to stay compliant to every rule. I've asked them every single question of who's involved, what's going on, what's the deciding factor, what other schools are involved. I always ask that question what other schools are involved because if certain schools are involved sometimes my antenna's go up.

MD: Yeah. All right. And so -- and we've -- everybody's seen --

RP: Because you're asking -- is that the red flag question again?

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MD: Yeah. I'm going through -- I have the benefit of hindsight so I'm --

RP: Exactly.

MD: -- but coach, I just need to hear your perspective.

RP: Yeah, but here's what you have to understand. They were almost threatened not to break the rules. I said forget me, guys. Forget my reputation. You've got families. You don't, Jordan, but you've got families, Kenny. You don't want to do this to your family, as well you'll never be a head coach. And if you just do things the right -- they were told this -- there are 30 guys out there today doing great things for their families. If you just do the right things, being under me, you will be a head coach someday. So just do the right things. You will be a head coach and your life -- you'll have a great future if you do the right things. I can't tell you how many times I reiterated that to them that if you just do the right things, you will be a head coach because I've had 30 guys out there that have a great lifestyle because they did the right things. So you have a choice now. You can jeopardize it, speed, and maybe hurt somebody, or you can follow the rules and be a head coach someday and you'll family will benefit. What's more important.

SS: Can I interject something?

MD: Sure.

SM: Look, do you mind if I use the rest room?

MD: Again, let's (unintelligible), so.

SS: I want to speak to some of these matters.

MD: Yes, sir. It's 11:05 a.m. and we'll take a five or 10-minute break --

SS: (Unintelligible).

MD: -- we'll take a 10-minute break.

SM: Yeah, I'm the first one for a bath room.

MD: All right.

[No audio from 01:17:10 to 01:24:00.]

AC: All set.

MD: All right, it is 11:12 a.m. and all the same individuals, prior of the break, are again in the same location. All right.

SS: So (unintelligible) for the record, you know, at this point I wanted to interject something here. I did my sports and graduate at Holy Cross. Played collegiate sports, wanted to work at the justice department and then there's global money laundering money programs for the DEA. I maintain security clearances, I work directly with the FBI, Department of Defense and all of them currently. There is no way in hell I would ever allow what I do for a living on a regular basis, which is consulting work for our top agencies and many colleges across the country because there's great synergy as it works through Visas, applications and international students, that's the crossover. But when I first met Rick many years ago, with regard to compliance and looking into issues, I don't think of any coach that I have dealt with, from my own alma maters to other state schools, all the clients that I've had, I have anybody who has been more aggressive towards me in terms of finding out academic credentials. Is this guy qualified, this kid's from Nigeria, this kid's from Rwanda, Rick and I -- if you were to look at hour phone conversations, 10 times a day we're speaking, all the back 20 years ago. I'm one of the reasons Rick's here at Iona. Many of your questions are direct and to the point. Many of the questions are retrospective. And you've acknowledged that, which is a good thing. He's not the great Gretzky. You aren't, I'm not, none of us are. If we are, I'd like to know (unintelligible). The reality is, Rick has been very aggressive with me in terms of compliance for the entire time. We have gone hard at people that we had suspect. There's been so many recruits, so many families over the years. The ones that really throw a red flag, when you're not sure of or what's going on here. We go very hard. I have very deep access information and that information we use very effectively to root out anything if we have a problem because my relationship with Rick is predicated on you're not messing up my reputation and Rick is -- none of these people are messing up my reputation. That's who we are as a team. And if I thought for one minute, because I have run into other coaches that I felt are problematic, that if there was ever a problem here this relationship would have ended a long time ago. The relationships I have with our country and various agencies I work with will never be jeopardized by any student-athlete, any player, any kid, no way. And that's why the president of Iona took me very seriously when I had discussions about Rick. I dealt with the Board of Trustees. So to your questions, I respect the fact that you guys are just getting right into this and you have a job to do. I want the color on this thing right now. The color is I have been very vigilant in all of these things over all the years. If Rick has seen a red flag, he calls me. That doesn't mean he's calling assistant coaches, he's calling me to find out what the heck is going on there. At no time was the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] or any of these people, had he seen a red flag, make book on this, he would have called me. He would call me. He didn't see it. He's not a mind reader, none of us are. These assistant coaches like Kenny Johnson, when he left, and the next thing I'm getting a call from the athletic director at La Salle asking me to vouch for Kenny Johnson when I have not given any permission to anybody to use my name to vouch for anybody because the reputation I have within agencies and schools and clients, major U.S. corporations is honesty and truthfulness, just as I'm talking right now. I don't know this athletic director. I'm dealing with Kenny Johnson. And people are using

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my name, nah. No way. No way. Kenny Johnson has a credibility issue with me and he sealed that when he used my name with an athletic director to get himself a job, he tried to leverage my credentials and compliance capabilities in these investigative efforts. No way. And I really need you to know that because I'm not screwing around here, neither are you. The bottom line is these people went off the rails. And one of the reasons I'm here with Rick and I'm here with Iona and I have my consulting agreement is no longer an assistant coach is going to screw this up. We're going to do this. These guys are going to understand they're going to deal with me, too. Real simple. And they do. And there's no screwing around here. These assistant coaches, all want to impress him, be the big Kahuna, they want to all be one of those 28 guys to get the next head coaching job. Jordan Fair, unlike almost all these other assistant coaches, actually did have paid coaching experience as a high school guy. None of these other guys ever did. Billy Donovan didn't. None of these guys did. He was more credentialed. For him in any way to impart that he was pressured or to give the impression is full of shit to be quite frank because he was a high school coach, he knew all these people and he knew the rules. It's that simple. So I just -- I really need the color of that to come into play here because I have been involved in compliance with Rick for many years. And Ralph Willard and Kevin Willard and so many coaches across the country. I will not stand for any of this. I will not put my name and my reputation on the line or my security clearances. If there was a red flag here, Rick would have called me. That's the bottom line.

- [01:30:14] MD: So and Rick never called you with regards to any issues with [REDACTED]
- SM: No.
- MD: And never called you with regards to any issues regarding [REDACTED]
- SM: No. And I have full confidence that if he detected any issues, he would have called me.
- MD: All right. And you're a consultant for -- my understanding, you're a consultant for --
- SM: So I don't think -- I have a contract with Iona because he's an employee of Iona. That's the formal agreement. That's the formal agreement. I have a formal agreement. But through Rick's Louisville, to Greece, a lot of compliance on Greece issues with him professionally. So I work that side of it. But Iona has hired me to consult because they want to make sure there's compliance, they want to make sure that these assistant coaches are doing what they're supposed to do so it gives them surety that I'm with them and not just like some lone wolf running around out there or whatever.
- MD: Do they have a compliance officer separate then you though?
- SM: They have a whole department.

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MD: Okay.

SM: Yeah, Matt, they have a whole department and they're actually hiring more people.

MD: All right. Did you have any relationship with Louisville?

SM: No, not formally.

MD: Okay.

SM: No. No. And in fact I -- in fact to be quite frank, Louisville, in conjunction with Nate Leffler and the NCAA, were in violation of his settlement agreement and if it wasn't for Steve and I, once we actually got all the documents from the NCAA on this, there was some serious issues that has gone on between the NCAA investigator, Nate Leffler, Chuck Smrt, who was the outside consultant to Louisville with regards to privileged information on telephone traffic, in violation of settlements that they continue to try to get from Steve and I. And Steve and I finally called them out on it and said that information is not part of this investigation and you have violated the terms of the agreement. We're going to address this at the end of this and that is going to happen.

MD: All right. I'll let you resolve that with the NCAA.

SM: But I want you to realize that the smoke and mirrors as it relates to this investigation, as Nate Leffler continuously -- continuously, vigorously came after Steve and I. You're not turning over phone records, you guys are hiding stuff, blah, blah, blah. They already had the phone records. They had obtained them in violation of a settlement and tried to use them in a way when -- through us, while it was subject to the FBI's grand jury subpoena rules, they tried to do a work around when they already had them. Once they received all these phone records that are about all of this, as it turns out, all of those phone records merely demonstrated they were calls between coach and his staff.

MD: Okay.

SM: So --

MD: Yeah, I'm not going to address a lot of that simply because I'll let you resolve it --

SM: Yeah.

MD: -- you and Steve resolve that between NCAA.

SM: But I think it goes to the heart, Matt, of their intentions.

SS: It's just a matter of the due process, that's what we're talking about.

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SM: Yeah, it's in violation, yeah.

MD: Okay.

SM: But that's a little color.

MD: All right, I appreciate that. All right, with regard -- going back to [REDACTED] with regards to, you know, had Jordan Fair ever kind of given you any insight or anybody else on the staff, give you any insight whether the mother had certain expectations or certain -- you know, had been requesting information or requesting things from the staff?

RP: Not anything illegal, no.

MD: Okay. When you say --

RP: I mean, she may have wanted to know -- ask some academic questions or stuff like that. I don't know that for a fact but she never, ever asked for anything illegal.

MD: All right. With regards to when's the first time you realized that Jordan Fair had had this meeting in Vegas --

RP: Just when --

MD: -- in July of --

RP: -- the FBI showed up at the airport and arrested him.

MD: Okay. And does he call you immediately or does he show up in your office?

RP: I was doing a podcast with David Novak, a CEO of Yum! Brands. And then all of a sudden, my assistant opened up the door and said we have a problem. The FBI just pulled up, pulled Kenny out of his car and pulled Jordan Fair I believe at the airport. I said the FBI. And I didn't know what the hell he was talking about. And then the FBI came in and talked to me the next, that's when I found out all this information.

MD: All right. So the FBI talked to you before Jordan talks to and kind of gives you --

[01:35:00] RP: I don't remember chronological order exactly.

MD: All right. And what point does Jordan come talk to you and kind of tell you about what happened in Vegas?

RP: I don't remember.

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MD: All right.

RP: I just remember screaming at him from a car I was driving and what -- and to think I just said to you earlier when did you ever meet Christian Dawkins.

MD: Yeah.

RP: And what were you doing in a hotel room. And he said that -- I'm trying to remember where the conversation was that he told me this. He said that he was meeting somebody for a drink in the lobby of a hotel casino and then Dawkins -- someone said let's go up to this room. He says, true or untrue, he saw an envelope on the table and he got the hell out of there.

MD: All right. With regards to -- so at the time, he never comes and talks to you about that, in July of 2017 when it occurs, he never has come --

RP: Oh, no.

MD: Why do you think that is that he's not coming back and talking to someone saying this was a big concern?

RP: He would have been fired.

MD: Yeah.

RP: I mean, he knows he's going to lose his job immediately.

MD: Yeah. With -- let's say he is -- let's say what he said is true and he's just -- like he gets basically --

RP: Part of the sting operation.

MD: Well, he gets dragged into something that he didn't intend to be involved with and he came --

RP: Well, if he was an innocent man obviously I'd listen and say okay, let's go to compliance, let's turn it all in, you're an innocent man, tell them that this was a sting operation and this is what happened.

MD: Yeah. With regards to kind of was he a little bit too naive to have -- I mean, why do you think he gets dragged into this if it's -- what he's saying is true?

RP: I can't -- I would be guessing on all these answers.

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MD: All right. With regards to were you surprised that Christian Dawkins also is involved at that point?

RP: I didn't even know that those two knew each other because he never -- Jordan never mentioned his name. Christian Dawkins hardly ever came up in our lives, you know, he wasn't -- until the -- I saw a document on TV, I didn't know this guy even three years, even existed, Christian Dawkins.

MD: All right. With regards to, you know, there's allegations that Kenny Johnson and Jordan Fair basically, you know, kicked in money to pay -- to compensate Brad Augustine for his travel expenses on the unofficial visit of [REDACTED] at that time, did you any indication that these guys were, you know, were basically paying an AAU coach for the visit?

RP: Well, I'm going to repeat this, again.

MD: I know, I have to ask the questions, coach.

RP: They would have been fired immediately if they gave them 10 cents, never mind \$10.

MD: All right. With regards to -- does it -- I mean, do you believe them when they're saying they're giving \$800 to -- or there may be even more money to Brad Augustine to help him pay for travel expenses?

RP: You know, the reason I -- first of all, I'm not sure -- I think -- I don't know if it's Nike or Adidas, I don't know who Brad Augustine was at the time. But I would never suspect that my assistant coaches would give him money for travel, not only because it's illegal, but because these shoe companies pay for those things. They -- the way -- do you know the way it works?

MD: You can go ahead and --

RP: So the way -- what they do is -- so here, I'm an AAU program and I'm a Nike program and you're the head of Nike -- not Phil Knight, but you're the head of that department that runs the AAU. You give my program \$150,000. Out of this \$150,000, it may be more -- out of 150,000, I take 40,000 for my salary and then the other 110,000 is to travel around and go to this place, this place, buy uniforms and so on, whatever the cost may be. That's how it works. So it's -- if I can recall now, Brad Augustine represents one of these AAU teams I think. So the shoe companies usually -- he has money in his department to fly to a school, when they fly to a school. He has money. So I don't know why he would of -- I would never expect he would ask assistant coaches for money to get there because he has that money.

MD: Yeah. What's the relationship between Kenny Johnson and Jordan Fair?

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RP: They worked together.

MD: No, I know but was -- I mean, it seems strange to me that Kenny Johnson says to Jordan Fair give me \$800 bucks and --

RP: I don't know that he said that to him.

MD: Yeah, I know, but, I mean --

RP: Jordan --

MD: -- is there something --

RP: Is this something Kenny Johnson said to Jordan Fair?

[01:40:00] MD: Give me \$800 bucks, we've got to pay Augustine and he --

RP: Kenny Johnson said it to Jordan Fair?

MD: Yeah.

RP: I thought -- if I was guessing, I would have thought it would be the other way around.

MD: Yeah. But, I mean is --

RP: The one guy is making half -- \$450,000 and the other guy is a low pay guy.

MD: Yeah.

RP: So.

MD: Okay.

SS: What is low pay just for the record?

RP: 100,000 maybe he was making.

SS: Jordan.

RP: Yeah.

SM: He was the low man on the totem pole.

MD: All right. With regards to -- all right, looking back on the recruitment of [REDACTED] anything that you look back now and it concerns you during that

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- recruitment? And I know that's the benefit of hindsight but was there anything that you -- that occurred that would have -- didn't concern you at the time but concerns you now?
- RP: The only thing is is just what you're saying. I never heard this \$800. I -- what I did hear, true or untrue, I think Nate Leffler said that he was sending him \$100 periodically. I think that's what he said, if I --
- SM: Who said that? Nate said that?
- RP: Yeah.
- SM: Yeah.
- RP: But I don't -- I'm not sure if he did or didn't thinking back. So I'm saying what type of AAU coach needs \$100. You know, it just didn't make any -- none of it made sense to me after the fact, what I'm hearing today, what Nate said.
- MD: Okay, all right. Now with regards -- what I'm going to -- I'm probably just going to kind of go through and just clarify some of the issues -- the other issues we wanted to talk about -- like we talked a little bit about this, about how the shoe companies with regards to you talk to your coaches about runners and AAU coaches, can you kind of give me the background and ID what are the -- what's the danger with regards to the runners and the AAU coaches?
- RP: Well, I think I alluded to the press conference I had.
- MD: Yup. So same --
- RP: Is that what you mean?
- MD: Yeah.
- RP: Yeah, so I don't know if it works exactly that way today because I've been in Greece for two years, coming back. So you have -- in your profession, it's the same thing and Wall Street's the same thing. You know, the large portion of being an attorney are honorable people with integrity and then there's the Venetta guy with the --
- SS: Avenatti.
- RP: -- Avenatti guy and his (unintelligible). It's in every industry. So in the shoe company industry, I think there are quite a few AAU programs that do it the right way, care about the kids and want to do it the right way and then there are the ones that -- who don't. And so what's tied into the program, the AAU program, here you have what I just explained to you. The AAU coach that gets paid -- some of these programs get paid up to \$250,000 from what I hear. I don't know that for a fact, but. So out of that program,

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now these runners, they work for agents. And if they can convince the great AAU program to get in with an agent and talk -- introduce the AAU coach to the agent, these AAU guys are double dipping. They're not only getting paid by the shoe companies, they're getting paid by these agents as well. They're tied into the whole thing. That's why I went on that dissertation at the press conference that day. It's not a system that's honorable.

MD: Yeah. With regards to your practice, I saw the facility when I went to Louisville, would you have done closed practices? Would you have monitored who comes in on the practices?

RP: If somebody wanted to come watch practice -- like yesterday, this nice gentleman came in and said, you know, coach Cluess, I've been delivering uniforms here, you know, he's like a maintenance person. He said I've always wanted to see a practice. Coach Cluess had closed practices. I said, well, do you want to come see -- you've been supporting Iona all these years, come on, you can watch practice. I have nothing to hide. Come on, watch practice. So no, I would let people come watch practice. People -- anybody interested in learning I invite them into practice.

MD: All right. Any kind of monitoring who's there, meaning like --

RP: Yeah.

MD: -- somebody checking at the door?

RP: Yeah, we know who's coming to practice.

MD: Okay. And how would you achieve if you know who's in the gym?

RP: Well, there weren't many people, first of all. You know, a big football game weekend, you may have, you know, 16 people in the gym but you know who's in the gym.

[01:45:00] MD: Okay. And is that the compliance that's --

RP: You know who's in the gym. You don't want Kentucky watching your practice.

MD: Yeah. Yeah. And you don't want agents in there --

RP: No.

MD: -- obviously. All right. With regards to --

RP: No, you could have an agent in practice. There's nothing -- you can have an agent in practice.

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MD: Yeah.

RP: They come and they can speak to your players as long as they don't sign a contract or go offering anything illegal.

MD: But you want -- you're going to want to know who's in there, is that accurate?

RP: Yes.

MD: Okay. With regards to -- I'm going to go back because I kind of -- and I apologize for kind of backtracking into this, but understanding like what the culture, what you're mindset was going into this in the summer of 2017, you're now beyond the Andre McGee -- well, you're not behind it but kind of behind you and now you're looking forward. You're really trying to keep things right. You had, you know, basically told Kenny Johnson in a text -- and I'll read it to you, I'm away a lot now. It's intentional trying to block out what Andre did. I'm not going to lie, I'm depressed about it. How someone would do that to us after giving him such a break, trying to distract myself from this agony so I can't keep having these fuck ups without being notified. Is -- do you recall that text and can you give me kind of context?

RP: Was there some fuck up that happened?

MD: I don't know.

RP: I don't know either.

MD: But with regards to kind of your saying, hey, I'm away from the program, do you recall that?

RP: I think I was away for that week or whatever period of time I was.

MD: All right. Was there a time where you were kind of, you know, burnt out, spent --

RP: No.

MD: -- as you were going through this whole Andre McGee thing and just saying all right -
-

RP: Look, it was -- Andre McGee's parents were two wonderful, wonderful people. Andre McGee was one -- is the biggest shock of my life. He showed no signs of this. Diligent student, captain of the team, hard worker. What he did was so unconscionable, it is depress -- it's still depressing to this day. I mean, you've investigated it, too.

SS: Countless. What is the date of that text, Matt?

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MD: Sorry, it's July 20th, 2017.

SM: And coach, that's important because you're not in school, you're not.

MD: Yeah.

SM: In season, you know, so that's when you go on vacation.

MD: Yeah.

SM: And you can be away from your guys and go like oh, my God guys, you torture me. See you later.

MD: Yeah, and I'm -- and I'm asking the question just to kind of understand context of the situation at the time.

RP: Of course.

SM: It's hard what you're doing.

MD: Yeah.

SM: It's hard.

MD: With regards to [REDACTED] with regards -- do you recall any involvement of either Gatto -- and I know you said not Code but Chris Rivers, Gatto or any of the other Adidas?

RP: No, the only thing that struck me odd and why I would never suspect Gatto to be involved in that at all, and I probably could be wrong on this, but I thought that [REDACTED] for his career was a Nike guy, I think. I think he played under the Nike circuit.

MD: His father?

RP: No. No, the kid.

MD: Oh, the kid.

RP: I think he played under the Nike circuit, not Adidas.

MD: Yeah.

RP: Gatto's Adidas.

MD: Got it, okay. At any time did you ask either Gatto or Gassnola to help with any prospects on your behalf?

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RP: No.

MD: Did you ask them to ever encourage any prospects to talk with your team or within Louisville?

RP: Not that I can ever recall. The only question I think I had with them was whether they were going to lose -- I'm forgetting the kid's name.

MD: [REDACTED]

RP: [REDACTED]

MD: Okay. That was the only time that --

RP: That I can recall.

MD: Okay.

MD: And again, Gas --

RP: How these guys help is they speak to their AAU coaches and say, you know, for years I know they were -- it was alleged that they were pumping -- I used to get mad at Jeff Robbins, here I said to you about being friendly with the guy Jeff Robbins. I liked him.

MD: Yeah.

RP: For years he was friends with the UCLA coach.

[01:50:03] SS: Harrick?

MD: Yeah.

RP: Was it Harrick?

MD: Or was it the guy after him from Indiana?

SS: Alford.

MD: Alford.

RP: No, I think it may have been -- he was friendly with one of the UCLA coaches and I kept accusing even, even those he was friendly, will you stop helping UCLA and I was upset at him and I asked -- I think I called one time to complain to somebody that they were helping UCLA with Adidas. That's the only time I think.

MD: Okay.

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RP: I can't recall actually.

MD: (Unintelligible), Anne, do you have any questions? Does Amy have any questions?

AO: I'm just going to check my email. Amy, do you have anything?

AC: The only question I had was on the text that we referred to the graphic [REDACTED] in the Louisville jersey. Coach, do you know who would have produced that or designed it on your staff?

RP: I don't remember seeing this, ever. I know, I do see it.

AC: Do you know who would usually handle your graphics on your staff?

RP: I don't think it's a specific person. You know, it could be the SID, if it was creative and legal.

AC: Okay, that's all I had, Matt and Anne.

MD: All right. With regards to the SDNY trial, it was alleged that, you know -- you know, that you had called Jim Gatto and basically asked for \$100 grand for [REDACTED] is that --

RP: Excuse me?

MD: Well, it says in the -- with regards -- there's a discussion between TJ Gassnola and Christian Dawkins. And Gassnola basically says, hey, Rick Pitino called Jim Gatto and TJ and \$100 grand was given to [REDACTED]

RP: That's total bullshit. I've never heard that or seen that in my lifetime.

MD: Okay.

RP: Where -- what transcript is that from?

MD: This was a call between Gassnola and Dawkins, it's a wiretap so it's a record phone call. All right.

RP: But you do know under oath in court that both the dad, as well as Gassnola said I had no knowledge of anything that was going on.

MD: All right. With regards to -- so you never called Jim Gatto to get 100,000 given to the [REDACTED] family?

RP: Absolutely not.

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MD: Okay.

RP: Did you ever see that?

SM: No.

RP: Did you?

SS: (Unintelligible) that's a wiretap.

SM: That's a wiretap.

MD: Yeah. All right, with -- and this is just kind of a culture thing -- well, you know what, we've already addressed that, I apologize. All right, Amy, do you have any other questions?

AC: No, I'm good.

MD: Anne, do you have any questions?

RP: Come on, Anne.

AO: I'm just looking at my bullets, no, you've been thorough.

MD: All right.

SS: Yeah, I just have a couple things that I just want to -- it might be a little clean up. We talked a little bit about some of the assistants and we also brought up Padgett's name a little bit. Did you have any problems with him?

RP: Absolutely not. He's a young man with integrity.

SS: Would he bring (unintelligible) -- obviously, he would bring -- you guys must have talked to him many times while he was an assistant coach.

RP: Yeah. Well, our issues were more of basketball related things, you know, I trusted -- David played for me. But --

SS: Let me ask it this way, if you asked David to do something, you felt confident he would do it?

RP: Yeah.

SS: So if you asked him to look into something --

RP: He would --

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SS: -- the Galt House, right.

RP: Yes.

SS: You had no reason to believe he wouldn't check into exactly what you asked him --

RP: Yeah.

SS: -- to do. How long -- he played for you and he worked for you.

RP: Yes.

SS: How many years do you think total between playing and working?

RP: Well, to get an idea, going back, he -- I'm thinking his exact situation, I think he was cut from Miami and I think I made him an assistant strength coach, then graduate assistant because we had no position. Then he became a full-time coach, what you alluded to earlier.

[01:55:10] SS: Then he became the head coach?

RP: Yeah, when I got fired.

SS: I know we've talked about some of the players and we've talked about it today, I couldn't even ask you to guess how many players you've recruited in 40 years, thousands.

RP: Right.

SS: Right? And we talked about -- they call him Tugs I guess, you refer to -- what do you refer to the younger [REDACTED] as? Do you remember what you referred to --

RP: [REDACTED]

SS: [REDACTED] you would recruit him as [REDACTED] Would that have even been a player -- you alluded to this earlier but I want to make sure they understand it, you didn't -- you weren't -- you really weren't that interested when you did see him play, true?

RP: Initially when I saw him play?

SS: Right.

RP: No, I was there to see [REDACTED]

SS: Right, and then --

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RP: And I thought [REDACTED] That caught me way off guard.

SS: But you're coaching career, how many five stars have you had play for you?

RP: Oh, hundreds.

SS: But you typically coached kids who are not five stars on your team. How many five stars are here at Iona?

RP: Well, to give you an idea, the national championship team, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] are walking through that door with the guys I was recruiting.

SS: So you're more than comfortable coaching kids who are not five stars or entering into that recruiting --

RP: It wasn't my thing. Coach K and coach Calipari were recruiting one-and-dones and I wasn't. And, you know, it's -- I've had some McDonald's All-Americans but they stayed. David Padgett was a transfer. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] It was a tough recruiting assignment.

SS: And then during the summer I think [REDACTED] was on campus, [REDACTED] correct? He was on campus for a while at Louisville before everything happened.

RP: Right.

SS: And what was your relationship with him during that period? Any issues with him?

RP: [REDACTED] was a good kid. A good kid. I don't know this for a fact, you would probably know better than me because you have things I just saw for the first time that you read to me about the wiretap, I don't think [REDACTED] knew what was going on.

SS: And that's what I was going to ask you.

RP: Yeah, I don't think he knew and I don't think -- I feel from my heart that the mom didn't know and the kid didn't know. I think this was the dad.

SS: And if [REDACTED] tells the NCAA I didn't know what was going on with respect to payments, do you have any reason to disbelieve the kid?

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RP: No, I don't have any reason to believe him or not believe him. I don't know -- I believe today, if you said to me do I think the mother and the kid knew anything about this, absolutely not. Do I believe anything that Kenny Johnson said, knowing what I know today, knowing the way he looked me square in the eye and prayed before he -- I wouldn't believe a word he said in any of the documents right now. I believe he's just protecting his own ass and I believe probably Jordan Fair would probably speak the truth. I think he feels bad for what happened to me. I don't think Kenny Johnson gives a shit what he did to me and my family. That's just me.

SS: And with respect to those two you talked about -- or answered a lot of their questions but you even talked about how much the two of them made while they were with you, the fact that they knew the rules. Do you have any idea as you sit here today why they would do some of the things they did?

RP: No, there was no -- that's what I keep going back to. Every day when I spoke to them about rules look, all you guys have to do is follow the rules, work hard, be compliant, you'll be a head coach someday. You're going to be on top of the world like Jeff Van Gundy, like Billy Donovan, like Tubby Smith, like Mick Cronin and Kevin Willard and all these people if you just do things the right way. And I said -- here's what I told them over and over and over, think about this, guys, Andre McGee went from getting cut, he gets cut in Germany. I'm on a Zoom call, Andre, what's going on. Why are you shooting 58% from the foul line, son. He said I don't know, coach, they're going to cut me from this team. Well, what do you want to do. I'd maybe like to go into coaching. I said, well, let me know, come on back in, I'll get you started. Come on back in, I'll get you started. He comes back in, whether the assistant strength coach, I forgot exactly the chronological order, he moved up in a very short period of time to make over \$100,000 and he had been told like these other guys, all you've got to do is work hard and do the right things. And I showed them all a list of 25 head coaches -- head coach of the Knicks. My student manager -- my student manager at Kentucky, my video guy and GA, a graduate assistant, I moved him up to GA. He was my manager at Kentucky. Do you know where he is today, Frank Vogel and the Los Angeles Lakers, hey, coach, do you know how many stories have been repeated to these guys every single day about doing it the right way. He was -- he went from a student manager to a GA, just like Jordan. He didn't have four or five years of high school experience like him. He's the head coach of the Lakers today, been doing it the right way. These guys were told every single day all you've got to do is the right way. Look at all these examples. Forget me, look at all these examples of doing it the right way. They were told this every single day. And Andre McGee was told every single day. He heard all the stories. To the team every day. You know what I do every single day before I go into practice, they get a 10 minute motivational speech about the game of life. Not about basketball, the game of life, about doing it the right way. Yesterday, the whole speech was how to treat women, about how to treat women, how to talk to women, how to treat women. Go ask any of my players right now, go out and ask my assistant coaches about the 10- 15 minute

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dissertation about how to talk with women, how to treat women. And every single day they get a different speech. So you don't think these assistant coaches heard those speeches every single day about how to prosper in life. They did. And about following the rules the right way. And they -- but they -- but the mind boggling thing about these two guys is they had like Mickey Mantle and all these guys to look up to right in front of them. They had all these guys like Tubby Smith and Van Gundy and Stu Jackson, all of these guys that have made it big in the industry, so just follow the code of ethics of doing it the right way.

[02:02:42] MD: Do you think with regards to some of these assistant coaches that -- yeah, I understand your preaching the right way, you've got to do it the right way, they still have to deliver on recruits.

RP: But you're at Louisville. You're at -- when you're at Notre Dame, Louisville, Kentucky, you're going to get your recruits. This is tough here. You're in college, you're playing in the MAAC conference, you're playing Saint Peters and you're playing -- and we're trying to get great players and it's tough here. It's tough in the MAAC. You know, you're riding buses everywhere. You know, you have four meals a day and you were given \$25 a day to eat four meals a day in New York. You know, so it's tough here. You don't have what these other places have. So you don't have to cheat at Duke, Notre Dame, Kentucky. You don't have to cheat at those schools.

MD: Yeah, I'm not saying they -- but there's pressure for them to land good recruits.

SM: Matt, you've got to bring some perspective to this, too. I'm just curious, did you play college sports?

MD: I didn't.

SM: Part of that -- and I don't say that in a diminishing way. I ask you that when you have a Hall of Fame coach, do you know how many people are calling to try and get on his team? Forget about the assistant coaches. The kids and their parents want to play for a Hall of Famer. I want to get to the NBA. I want get to the MLB. I want to get in the NFL. Because every kid's -- every -- my two boys are Division I baseball players, everybody thinks they're going to play, right. Rick has all these people calling him. So these recruits, they've got to kind of keep up with the parents.

RP: All right, so let me give --

SM: You know.

RP: -- let me give you an example to your question. Right now Tulsa and SMU are probably bigger programs than Iona just because their league -- they play in better leagues. I'm not sure what their leagues are. One is AAC. Tulsa, I'm not sure what league they're in.

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Okay. Two fifth year starters, these guys start for both programs just came here because they -- I do something that's different than any coach in all the game. From 8:00 to 9:00, I'll take the four of you guys and just work on your offensive game. 9:00 to 10:00, the next four players come in. 10:00 to 11:00, the next four players and all I do is work on player development every single day. I'm in my gym shorts. No head coach in America does that. These kids left those schools -- they're both starters, they think they can become pros and the player development could get them over the hump with their shooting because they've read stories that that's what ██████████ said about his shot when he played for me, so. I'm at Iona and these kids come in. This is Louisville, this is Kentucky, you don't have to break rules or even circumvent the rules a little bit. You're like -- you've got a 24,000 seat stadium. These -- you know what these guys are doing, they're lying to themselves in the mirror by saying their under pressure. 24,000 seats, 15,000 season-ticket holders, training meals, you live in Billy Minardi Hall, it's a suite, you're own dormitory. At Kansas you have a basketball court connected to your dormitory. Why do you have to cheat or break the slightest little rule. They're lying to themselves. They're trying to make excuses for why they did what they did. And it's a lie. It's a blatant lie.

[02:06:02] SS: But I know all these guys, Rick. And Matt's driving at an environment that was pressurized. That's exactly what you're driving at. Did Rick create a pressurized environment where these guys would then -- because that sounds like --

MD: You know, I'm not saying Rick created it but is the system where they have to land recruits. I mean, is there --

SS: Does Jordan have --

MD: -- performance based --

SS: -- to land a recruit?

RP: Well, let me say this to you -- I've never fired one coach -- I mean all those guys have moved, never fired one coach for not getting a recruit. The toughest thing I had to do in my life was fire a young man in the back court with Billy Donovan, Providence College went to two Final Fours in the history of the school. It's a small Catholic school. We had a Cinderella ride like no other time in life. Delray Brooks transferred from Bobby Knight at Indiana to me at Providence. He became a really good player. That was the back court. Delray Brooks did the wrong thing. Here's the example. I got a call from my secretary -- and he played for me, Delray Brooks, talked about pressure, he did it the wrong way, just what you're alluding to. He asked a booster that if I need you could you kick in some money for this school that may needs money for their church or whatever it may be. I forgot the exact same thing. The secretary called me up. I called Delray and I said did you do that. I was just asking if he could make a contribution possibly to the school. I said Delray, you're fired, son. I'm sorry, you know,

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MD: Yeah, no, I asked do they have pressure with regards to recruiting.

RP: Yeah, but even more so then the pressure, which is a good thing, they know that by getting great players their reputation is high and they move on to be head coaches.

AO: So would that be more of an individual pressure rather than like a team -- what's good for everyone is good for the team or was it an individual pressure, you know, for credit to get --

RP: Some. Some are just -- guys like Kenny Johnson now --

AO: Sure.

RP: -- you know, he went to -- this story doesn't pertain to anything, he went to -- behind my back to the AD and asked for -- I was paying him \$350,000, now that's a lot of money for an assistant coach. He went to the AD and said he had an offer I think from Maryland and I called him in and I said how could you go to the AD without asking me. That's my job to go ask the AD. He went and asked him for \$100,000 raise so he could turn down this other school. He said, well, I just thought you, you know, you would want me to go to him. I said why would I want that. I said, do you think I want to approve that now that you went behind my back to do that. So, you know, Kenny was all about Kenny. But then there's the Tubby Smith's of the world and the Billy Donovan's who are all about team. So it's every individual. Kenny was about Kenny. And when I hired him, all he talked about was spirituality, molecular biology and the other things in his life. You meet his wife and you meet his family, you know, but you don't know why certain people do certain things. Andre -- if I could ever introduce you today to Andre McGee's brother and his parents, you'd be blown away that he could even conceivably do that. And by the way, David Padgett was Andre McGee's -- they were co-captains together. They were teammates together. He was blown away. I said David -- I said this 100 times, was there any sign or suspicion that you could see Andre McGee even think about doing that. He said coach, not in a million years. Not in a million years.

MD: All right.

AO: When you say Kenny was -- you're saying Kenny was for himself, that's now with the benefit of hindsight.

RP: Yes.

AO: At the time --

RP: Oh, no.

AO: -- you would have thought it was a team effort?

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RP: No, I thought everything about him was wonderful. Wonderful father, and he was a wonderful father. He was a wonderful father. I think he may have split up with his family. I think, I don't know that for a fact. I haven't spoken -- did he?

SM: Yeah, I think you're right. I think the thing that has struck me over the years is just how many people want to leverage either they know somebody who knows Rick or they saw Rick at the airport -- oh, I saw him by the hamburger or you should -- people leverage for their own benefit. And I think these assistant coaches, which has tortured me throughout the entire time period from a compliance standpoint, guys try to leverage this outside on their own for their own personal benefit as opposed to being integrated into the whole team thing. If they just do it and follow the rules, they'll move on. But they try to individualize what you're alluding to, again, and they self-impose pressure upon themselves because not many guys get to work for someone in the Hall of Fame or the top guy on Wall Street or the top guy at EMC Dell. I mean, when you're dealing directly with someone like that, people either handle it appropriately and work within the rule or they leverage it for their benefit, which is what these guys all do. They just can't -- they can't be successful and as a result, they fail. And they do that because their character just can't work within the confines of success. They fail and they all do it. That's the problem.

SS: And then I know that you and I talked on the phone, Matt, about it a little bit, but -- and I know we talked with the NCAA in a separate and apart from his interview with Nate, so I know that we've discussed this before but I want to make sure since you all are in it, how has this affected you, this last four years? We've shared this before but now these two in the room, I think it's important you tell them. Because as his lawyer, I've said this to the NCAA and I don't think they take it seriously, he's a victim, too. So, I want you to be able to tell them while they're sitting socially distanced. [REDACTED]

[02:15:07]

RP: [REDACTED].

SS: He's (unintelligible).

RP: Excuse me. (unintelligible).

SM: Yeah, I mean when all this starts going down, I mean, we start to look into Andre McGee, I do. I go hard at it. I find out that Andre McGee is involved with marijuana people in Louisville. He's trying to impress huge NBA players, some of who became NBA players and surreptitiously operating to make sure those players can buy marijuana in the dorms and all the sort of facilitating.

RP: Yeah, this was --

SS: It's just outrageous.

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RP: It all started with Andre McGee getting a haircut and this guy saying what they do on Friday nights.

SM: (Unintelligible).

RP: Sir?

SM: (Unintelligible) just thing about it.

RP: Yeah. And that's how this -- the genesis -- we found out after the fact, so no more (unintelligible). Obviously, you're on top of the world. You're at Louisville, winning championship, kids want to come play for you, several a year. Like I said earlier, life was never same after 9/11 for a lot of New Yorkers. For my family, it really changed, so. When you put that on top of 9/11, you're suddenly done with coaching. And I figured, okay, I'm done with coaching. I'm out. So on Christmas -- a week before Christmas, I can't get an interview for a college job. Kidding around before one of the guys says Gassnola, hey, Hall of Famer, you know, hey. Seven Final Fours and two national championships, I can't even get an interview for the police league in town, so. My ex-AD at the Celtics -- general manager of the Celtics calls and says there's a team in Greece, Panathinaikos, would like to hire you. It's a few days before Christmas. I had my 13 grandchildren at my house. We're in Miami and I said no, I said I have no interest. No coach in Euro league that are best Boston Celtics of the Euro league. Never been to Greece. I said, I don't know. I said to my wife do you want to go to Greece and she says I'm not going to Greece. She said but you need to go. I said I'm going to be gone a long time. She says, you're watching the Phoenix Suns play at 1:00 o'clock in the morning and you're bored to death. You're not getting a job. They're not going to hire you here. I said well, maybe I'll go back to the pros. No, it's not going to happen. Go. I left on Christmas Eve for the LaGuardia airport. I had an 11:55 flight, Emirates. Showed up in Greece the next day I coached the Russians in (unintelligible) 19,000 people, sold out. There's nets around the court for -- your benches are bullet proof.

SS: I've been there.

RP: Yeah, so.

SM: It was tough.

RP: So I'm kind of a little nervous, a little -- I had great trepidation but I realized what my wife said, I'm not going back into coaching. So it ended great. It's been four years of turmoil. The thing that has bothered me the most, I feel like I've been treated unfairly by the organizations I tried to represent the right way, the NCAA, especially that committee. The gentlemen (unintelligible) in question. They took a championship away. They can't take a championship. They took a banner down because of one individual sneaking women through a side door. They interviewed 60 people, 60 people

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said no one knew anything, half the team didn't know about it and they took a championship. No performance enhancing drugs were taken. They beat those guys. They beat Michigan fair and square. There was no performance enhancing drugs, nobody gave them money, they didn't sign with agents. Did they do the wrong thing and go to stripper parties, without question. That had on no bearing on us beating Michigan, beating Wichita State. That was one of the most unfair things of all time that that committee did, in my opinion. Did we deserve a \$15 million fine, \$100 million fine, go ahead, kill them with that, yes. The question that the guy said in this thing -- that Leffler said about this guy sending me a thing about DePaul, that was the most absurd thing. Or about Gatto's phone call. On top of it, finally this idiot Dawkins gets to do a documentary. And finally he pours his heart and soul in this documentary. Do you know he says the direct -- the person said what about Rick Pitino. The FBI came in, I was pretty nervous now, and the FBI storms in and says you give us Rick Pitino, the FBI, and we'll cut a deal with you. He says but Rick Pitino has no knowledge of any of this. He has nothing to do with any of this. He said it to the FBI. Do you know the director cuts it out of the show because he doesn't believe Dawkins and then comes out and says it not as trailer, the recap, comes out and says -- it's in the papers that I didn't belief Dawkins so I didn't put it in the thing. So all of this has taken a toll way beyond from the championship, being let go, to people you love like Andre McGee and the disappointment, to the trust you had in your assistant coaches and to the hurt that it's put to your family. But the good thing is, I became the national coach of Greece, almost made the Olympics, upset the Turks which for the Greeks was great. And ended up at a small Catholic school which is awesome. So it's a good ending but a terrible four years.

[02:22:24] MD: Do -- as your counsel said, do you consider yourself a victim?

RP: I do. I do. I consider myself a victim of Adidas, which I sued. I consider myself a victim of Louisville. Since I've said I deserved to be fired, didn't for a long time, but somebody's got to take the bullet. But I'm not -- today, my biggest regret is not seeing any red flags because if I would have seen the slightest little red color I would have attacked it. My biggest regret is -- and you both can appreciate this -- imagine an athletic director, he comes in to me, Tom Jurich, too, and he can't a job today either. I don't know how much he's looked for a job, but. Too much pride. He says to me this guy from Papa John Pizza is trying to get me and you fired. He doesn't like the way I treat him and he's getting to the other Board of Trustees. The Governor fires the Board of Trustees at Louisville. They're all supporters of the AD and me. The Governor's a Kentucky fan. He puts in five-six University of Kentucky people on the board of Louisville and, you know, probably the rivalry. So he comes in to see me about three weeks prayer and says look, they just came to me and said if I fire you my job's okay. I said fire me, for what. He goes on and on. He says I'm not doing it. Another week goes by and he comes in and says the same thing. I said Tom, look, you have a family. If they're going to fire me, unpay me, let me go to another school. If they don't want

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me I don't want to be here but do not under any circumstances jeopardize your job because there's no -- if they're going to fire me they're going to fire me. Why are you going to lose your job. So I make him promise me that he'll go home and talk to his wife and come back. With a week to go he says they confronted me and I'm not letting you go. You've done nothing wrong. You've done everything right for these kids. You've gone way beyond what's called a student-athletes benefit. I'm not firing you.

SS: (Unintelligible).

RP: I said Tom, I'm begging you now, please. He says no, they're calling me at 9:00 o'clock, they want to see you at 9:15. They call him in at 9:00 o'clock, there's two people there, the acting president and the Board of Trustees, the Kentucky guy, said to Tom Jurich will you fire Rick Pitino. He said absolutely not, Rick Pitino has built this college right now. He's taken us, he built down to that arena, he's helped to the revitalization. He's brought so many great things. He does it the right way, I'm not firing him under any circumstances. You're fired. As he's walking down the steps, the cameras are showing, he said they just fired me. I walked up, they said to me will you resign. I said absolutely not, I did nothing wrong. And they said -- that was it, that was the end of 17 years. Now, I go back to my office. I said, look, you can fire me -- I'm upset -- but I need to speak to my team and say goodbye to my team. Coach, I need to -- I'm crying in the locker room. They're crying in the locker room, 17 years, three Final Fours and championships. I go up. I've had my office for 17 years. The guy is changing the locks on my door. He locked me out of my office after 17 years. So do I consider myself a victim, hell yes.

[02:26:30] MD: You mentioned Christian Dawkins, how many recruits, to your knowledge, was he involved with and was it just [REDACTED] and --

RP: For me?

MD: Yeah.

RP: After the fact do you mean?

MD: Yeah. Or no, just --

RP: I had no knowledge that he had any -- anything to do with [REDACTED]

MD: Okay. But you know he was involved with [REDACTED]

RP: Yes, he said he was [REDACTED]

MD: And during your 17 --

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RP: But remember, that this guy became -- this guy -- if you want to know the truth today, he was a nothing in our business.

MD: Yeah.

RP: I mean --

SS: You've got to finish his question though. What about -- besides those two people, have you ever had any --

RP: No, well just the --

SS: -- the one before?

RP: Well, no, but he didn't have anything to do with that kid. He was the general manager of the team. He kept saying in his text messages you may not remember me, my name is Christian Dawkins.

MD: Yeah. You mentioned about direct questioning of, you know, your players -- or your players -- your families, the coaches. Would you have been so direct to say, hey, listen, is anybody giving you any kind of improper benefit to come to Louisville? Would you have been that direct in asking --

RP: To who? To who?

MD: [REDACTED]

RP: No, I wouldn't have asked that.

MD: Would you have asked his father?

RP: No, I wouldn't have asked any recruit or family that question. I wouldn't have done that.

MD: Even if you had some indication, was it --

RP: If I had some inclination, I would fire that person.

MD: Okay.

SM: Delray Brooks.

RP: Just what I just told you.

MD: Okay.

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RP: And by the way, that was -- nothing was ever done with that young man. He never did anything, he never asked anybody, he never consummated a detail or anything like that. I just fired him on the spot.

MD: Yeah. And you talked early -- very early on about [REDACTED] and assessing their credibility. You said the fact that, you know, they drove down, they paid for their meal, the wife was very, very nice; is there anything else that you would say, you know, judging their character that you said this is a good family, there's nothing going on here?

RP: The other thing about that -- he probably is a great con man, now that it's all -- like we said, hindsight. Dawkins one time had a conversation with me -- a long conversation on the phone. I'm talking maybe 20-25 minutes, which is long for me. And he never -- all he kept talking about would I give him a chance to play point guard because the father's going to get on the phone with you and he's going to say could you give him a chance because all these kids today think at 6-7, if I could the point I'm a pro. That's -- it's not true, but that's the way they think. So he -- that's all he's talking about is prepping me for this conversation. I need to call the dad, get on the phone with the dad and (unintelligible). [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] He prepped me on that. But he -- 25 minute -- Dawkins didn't even -- in the little interaction, never even hinted. But you know why? He was already told by everybody that if he did anything, brought up any little thing, he'd never show his face at University of Louisville ever again. He was already prewarned about all of that. All of that. He knew it.

MD: Okay.

RP: Because he would have. He would have -- even like conjecture of some sort, he would have said is there any way like you could help with this or, you know, just give him gas money or something like that. Never even suggested anything. He was -- I don't know who prepped him but he was well prepped.

[02:30:11] MD: Yeah. Steve, did you have another question?

SS: No.

MD: Okay. Is there -- coach, is there anything else you want to add or clarify at this point?

RP: No, just that I'd like my championship back. I would like you to convince to put it back. I know you're --

SS: He's been told you have that power.

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MD: Yeah, I very seriously question your assessment (unintelligible). All right. Any -- all right, anything else? Any other questions by anybody?

AO: Amy?

AC: I'm good, thanks.

MD: All right. Well, coach, I appreciate the time. I know that you're very, very busy and so this was -- you shared a lot with us with regards to two-and-a-half hours. The last thing I need to tell you is that the NCAA legislation requires that you help protect the integrity of this investigation. Therefore, as this investigation continues, you're not permitted to speak with others about what we discussed today or any related information, except that you may speak with your personal legal counsel, others present in this room or myself. Failure to protect the integrity of this investigation could result in an allegation that you violated the Principles of Ethical Conduct and/or the Cooperative Principle. Do you understand?

RP: Yes, I do.

MD: Thanks. As we continue with this matter, someone else included as a party in this case, or their attorney, legal counsel or representative, may request an interview with you about information related to this matter and you would encourage you to speak with them just as you have done with us today. This does not include representatives of the media. If you have any questions about anybody -- anyone who you may speak to at this point and when you can speak to them please contact your counsel or myself and we can make sure that you get the appropriate advise.

SM: Quick question, Matt. What about like Iona, the athletic director, the president, they're all going to want to know how -- they're his employer, they'll all want to know how this went, you know.

MD: I don't think you should talk about any matter that we discussed with regards to the investigation. I mean, you can say, you know, how did it go, well, we conducted a two-and-a-half hour investigation but I don't think you should discuss any of the matters that were discussed with regards to anything we discussed today. I think you can acknowledge that you sat for the interview.

SM: Yeah, because realistic, they're his employer, they're going to ask. Like how did it go like what went on, was Matt and Anne nice or whatever. They're going to ask those questions. They should ask those questions.

MD: I think anything be --

SM: They're his employer.

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MD: -- I think I would just say I can't really speak to how it went, what was discussed. That'll all -- the transcript will be provided back to his counsel and to coach Pitino?

SM: Will they be able to -- will Steve be able to share that transcript with the president and Matt Glovaski?

MD: I don't think so but let -- you know, until the investigation is completed but let me -- if Steve raises that issue with us we can address it if, and when --

SM: Yeah.

MD: -- that comes up.

SM: I'm just thinking they're going to ask. Yeah, realistically, and they should ask.

RP: Not say everything went fine.

SM: Yeah.

SS: And when you're off the record I just have a couple --

MD: Yes, sir.

SS: -- you know --

MD: Logistics.

SS: Yeah.

MD: All right. Any -- I know we have -- but any final questions for the purpose --

SS: No.

MD: So at this point, it's 12:21 Eastern Standard time and we will -- it is actually the same day, July 29th and we will conclude this interview at this point. Thank you.

[End of Interview]

TPJ:smc