

March 1, 2006

Ammon McWashington  
Education Director  
Seattle Public Schools  
P.O. Box 34165  
Seattle, WA 98124-1165



**RE: Eligibility of Chief Sealth Varsity Basketball Players**

Dear Director McWashington:

This report addresses the eligibility based on residence of girls who have played for Chief Sealth High School in varsity basketball games during the 2005-06 season. On February 15, 2006, the Seattle Times published an article alleging that Chief Sealth girls basketball coaches improperly recruited players and played ineligible players. The same day Chief Sealth received a joint letter from Bishop Blanchet High School and Lakeside School citing the Seattle Times article and requesting that Chief Sealth investigate the Times' allegations.

The undersigned authors of this report are conducting an initial investigation of the allegations. Neither the Times article nor the Blanchet-Lakeside letter contains specific allegations raising issues about the eligibility of current Sealth players. Nevertheless, because of the Times allegations about the eligibility of several former Sealth players, and because the state tournament begins on March 1, 2006, we began our investigation by examining the eligibility of current Sealth players. Based on the Times allegations about whether several former players met residency requirements to play for Sealth, we focused our inquiry on whether current players meet residency requirements. We are unaware of any issues concerning whether present or former Sealth players met other eligibility requirements. We will be continuing the investigation as to the recruitment issues raised.

This report addresses the eligibility of the 13 girls who have played in varsity Sealth games during the current season. There appear to be no issues concerning the eligibility of nine of the girls. There are potential eligibility issues about four girls. The facts concerning these four girls are described below. To protect the students' privacy, we identify them below as players A, B, C, and D.

**Player A**

In September 2003, player A originally enrolled in Chief Sealth, and she has attended Sealth continuously since then. She resides with her mother and stepfather. Their mailing address city is listed as Seattle, but they actually reside in an unincorporated area of King County that is within a few blocks of both Seattle and another city. Their home is within the school district of the other city. When they

RISK MANAGEMENT  
SERVICES

John Stanford Center for Educational Excellence \* 2445 3rd Avenue South \* 98134 \* www.seattleschools.org  
Mailing Address: MS 33-361 \* PO BOX 34165 \* Seattle, WA \* 98124-1165 \* Tel.: 206.252.0710 \* Fax: 206.252.0708

Report to Ammon McWashington  
March 1, 2006  
Page 2

applied for enrollment of player A at Sealth, they listed, as their address, their out-of-district address. Player A applied for and was approved for enrollment by SPS as a non-resident student.

**Player B**

Player B enrolled at Sealth in 2003. She lived with her parents in Seattle at that time. In 2004, player B moved with her parents to an unincorporated area of King County, within another school district. They listed their new out-of-district address with the SPS. Her father states that they submitted paperwork to the other school district for a waiver to allow player B to continue to attend Sealth. Player B has continuously attended Sealth from September 2003 to the present.

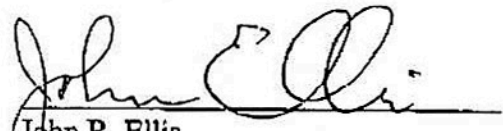
**Player C**

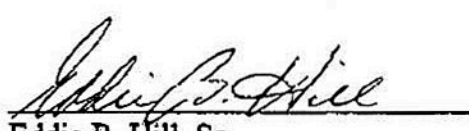
In 2003 when player C was ready to apply for high school, she lived with her mother in a city outside Seattle. During the 2003-04 school year, she may have lived within the Seattle School District at the home of a friend who was unrelated to player C or her mother and who was not her legal guardian. The Seattle address of the friend was listed in 2003-04 as the player's home residence and continues to be listed as player C's residence. During the past three years she has lived with her mother outside of the Seattle School District. Player C has continuously attended Sealth since September 2003.

**Player D**

Player D resides within the Seattle School District with her grandmother and her five siblings. She has lived with her grandmother since she was born, and she has continuously lived within the Seattle School District since she enrolled at Sealth in September, 2005. The grandmother apparently has not been appointed legal guardian of the six children, but she is in fact raising them.

cc: Jane Westergaard-Nimocks

  
John R. Ellis  
Investigator

  
Eddie B. Hill, Sr.  
Investigator, SPS