

There being no objection, the article was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Boston Globe, Mar. 20, 2003]

COMEBACK PLAYER; FOR VERMONT'S SHEFTIC, FAMILY CAME FIRST

(By Joe Burriss)

BURLINGTON, VT.—Big men get nervous, too. Vermont center Matt Sheftic—a 22-year-old junior with Jack Sikma's shooting touch and Paul Bunyan's body—stood on the sideline moments before the Catamounts' America East final against Boston University, pondering how he would play in the biggest game of his career. Worry set in; Sheftic's melon-sized calves trembled.

But he knew it wasn't too late to dial heaven. As he often does during the national anthem, Sheftic called upon his sister Lauren—who died in 2001 at age 18 from a brain aneurysm after a courageous struggle that lasted nearly a year—and asked if she would loan him "the strength she showed" for the next two hours.

Sheftic missed his first shot, with 18:04 left. With 17:25 left, he turned the ball over. In fact, he didn't score until the 11:01 mark of the first half, on his second shot of the game. By then Vermont had raced out to a double-digit lead and Sheftic began to settle; legs that once trembled became sturdy enough to help carry his team.

With 8:33 left, he scored on an up-and-under post move. BU left him open at the top of the key with 5:43 left and he capitalized with a basket. He scored two more soft-stroke baskets to finish the first half with 10 points on 5-for-10 shooting.

Over the last 9:41, when BU rallied and subsequently forged ahead, Sheftic was the Catamounts' go-to guy, scoring 8 points. His poise helped keep Vermont close in a contest at a time when the partisan BU crowd was loudest.

"After I hit a couple shots, I really settled down and I started to get my confidence, and all of my nervousness in my legs just left," said Sheftic.

Vermont's David Hehn won it for the Catamounts with a fadeaway baseline basket with 5.6 seconds left, but Sheftic was named most outstanding player, scoring 23 points on 10-for-17 shooting and adding 6 boards to lead UVM to its first NCAA Tournament bid. The Catamounts are the 16th seed in the West and will meet top-seeded Arizona in Salt Lake City today.

"I was just thinking that she was with me at the [high school] state championship game, and just how awesome it would have been for her to be there for [last Saturday's] game," said Sheftic about Lauren, who was three years younger. "But I knew she was watching anyway, and I really felt like she was there with me."

For Sheftic, his involvement with Vermont basketball this season is a far cry from last season. He enters today's Arizona game as the team's second-leading scorer (10.8 points per game) and rebounder (6.4 rebounds) and is third with 54 assists. The Essex Junction, Vt., resident who chose to stay home rather than accept lures from big-name programs such as Providence and Southern California has led UVM in scoring in five games and in rebounding in six. Moreover, the 6-foot-8-inch, 260-pound widebody has been a team leader. He has helped to alleviate pressure from other players—including sophomore Taylor Coppenrath, the America East Player of the Year.

"We had a situation where when somebody said something about Taylor, that he wasn't that good, Sheftic became his big brother and his protector," said coach Tom Brennan. "It was really a neat thing to watch."

"I don't know if I've consciously taken it upon myself to be a leader," said Sheftic. "I try to help out the team wherever I can."

Last season, Sheftic didn't play at all. Lauren took ill during winter 2000. Sheftic, the oldest of five children and the only male, endured the 2000-01 season, but during the fall of last year, weeks before the start of the season, he decided to take a redshirt to spend more time with his ailing sister.

"It was really an unbelievable time for me," said Sheftic. "Thinking back on it now, it was like a dream, a nightmare. My sister ended up with a brain aneurysm and was really sick, and we had a really tough season the previous year, when we finished 12-17. I'm a business major, and my classes are really tough.

"Making a decision to leave the team, it just became too much for me. I just felt totally overloaded. I felt like I was drowning, like I couldn't get up to the surface to breathe with my school work, going back and forth to the hospital, trying to help my family out, trying to be there for my parents."

"You just didn't know what was going to happen. Phone calls from my mother would range from, 'Lauren's making great progress today,' to 'We took 10 steps back today, she's sick again.' It was an emotional roller coaster I was on, as well as the season, just trying to get up for games, when I felt like all my emotions were with my sister."

Sheftic went to Brennan's office and relayed his desire to sit out the season. "He was looking across at me and saying, 'T.B., I just can't do it,'" said Brennan. "They were very, very close, and it really ripped his heart out. He told me, 'I really need to spend time with her. Basketball doesn't mean as much to me.'"

During his sister's battle, he battled his own sense of grief while helping his three youngest sisters cope. Then, he said, his sister suffered her biggest setback.

"She went in to get a routine shunt in her head, which is a procedure where they drain pressure in her head," Sheftic said. "And when they went to drill into her head, they hit her brain with the drill, and it caused another brain aneurysm. So almost a year later, we were in the exact same spot.

"We had to make a decision. My mom had spent every single day of her recovery with Lauren. And one day [before the surgery], Lauren told her that if anything like this happened again she didn't want to do it again, because it was so painful for her and such a long road." Sheftic was at his sister's bedside when she died shortly after the surgery.

"I think my family has become so much more important to me," said Sheftic. "Family is always important, but I don't know: You sometimes start to take your family for granted. They'd be at my basketball games and I loved the support, but I guess you don't realize how good it is to go home until you've gone through some kind of adversity with your family."

Sheftic returned this season and picked up where he left off as a sophomore, when he averaged 10 points per game. In his first game back, he recorded a double-double: 20 points and 10 boards against Eastern Michigan. That was followed by a 22-point, six-assist contest against Albany, where he went 10 for 10 from the floor.

"Sheftic as a recruit was a star. When we got Sheftic, it was like, 'Wow, this is a tremendous recruit,'" said Brennan. "And yet he has never said, 'I need the ball more. You're not running plays for me.' He fits in really well since he's been back."

Said Sheftic: "Feeling as much pain as I did that year, I'm so much more thankful and appreciative of having good times and

friends and family, and these games mean everything to me." •

TAYLOR COPPENRATH, PRIDE OF WEST BARNET, VERMONT

• Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today I salute a key member of the first University of Vermont men's basketball team ever to participate in the NCAA Tournament. Taylor Coppenrath is the Vermont version of Larry Bird, a smalltown boy who found huge success on the basketball court.

Taylor's basketball excellence has transformed his hometown, tiny West Barnet, VT, into perhaps, on a per capita basis, our State's most basketball-crazy town, and with good reason. During his career at St. Johnsbury Academy, Taylor did not make the varsity squad until his junior year, but when he finally arrived, his presence was felt. Taylor was named Vermont's 2000 Player of the Year by USA Today and Gatorade, and Mr. Basketball by the Burlington Free Press.

When Taylor joined Coach Tom Brennan's University of Vermont Catamounts, he had an immediate impact, and was named the 2002 America East Rookie of the Year, and earned All-America East, second team honors. During this season, he was named the Kevin Roberson America East Player of the Year, an honor appropriately named for one of UVM's all time greatest players. Taylor has attracted national attention, including a mention on ESPN.com's The Radar Screen. An opposing coach, Tim Welsh of Providence College said of Taylor, "I'm glad we only have to play him once this year."

Taylor Coppenrath's story is perhaps best told by award-winning writer Sam Hemingway of the Burlington Free Press in his column of Wednesday, March 19. I ask that the column "Basketball Star Makes West Barnet Proud" be printed into the RECORD.

The article follows:

BASKETBALL STAR COPPENRATH MAKES W. BARNET PROUD

[From the Burlington Free Press]

(By Sam Hemingway)

Shortly after 3 p.m. Thursday, the quiet hamlet of West Barnet will grow even quieter.

Sharon Roy will put her small, seldom-used black-and-white television on the counter at the West Barnet General Store and see whether she can capture WCAX-TV Channel 3 on the screen.

Meg Clayton has a better plan. Her good friends, the Coppenraths, have a satellite dish, and because they'll be away in Utah, she intends to stop by and "check on their cat" for a couple of hours.

Over at the Barnet School, the afternoon in-service session for teachers should end in time for the staff to check out the cable television hook-up installed at the school this week.

The focus of all this television attention: hometown hero Taylor Coppenrath. The 6-foot, 8-inch forward will be on network television, leading the University of Vermont men's basketball team in its first-ever NCAA appearance, against the University of Arizona.

The funny thing is, no one in these parts really saw this day coming five years ago. The funnier thing is that, now that it's happening, no one's that surprised about it.

"He's such a sweetie," said Karen Stewart, the principal of Barnet School. "He was always very mellow, very easy going."

He still is. Neighbor Liddy Roberts recalled how, last year, Coppentrath and her son, Jimmy, were home on spring break and spent a whole day making an igloo for a youngster in town albeit one big enough for Coppentrath to stand up inside.

"And, of course, he and Jimmy had to go out and cook up some hot dogs inside the igloo afterward," she said.

Under that unassuming exterior lurks the heart of a lion, however.

As a kid, Coppentrath played so hard at recess, some teachers said, the school created the Taylor Coppentrath Rule: If you come in from recess soaked in sweat like he did, make sure you have a set of dry clothes to put on afterward.

Name a game, and Coppentrath was ready to play it. Games filled the idle hours for kids in the village, none more so than basketball. The sound of a bouncing basketball often echoed through town from dawn to dusk.

Sometimes the games involved Coppentrath and his two best friends, Clayton's son Chris and Roberts' son Jimmy. Other times, it drew in entire families, passers-by, anyone who wanted to play.

"We even had family tournaments," said George Coppentrath, Taylor's father. "You had mothers, fathers, sons, daughters, all bumping and shoving each other out there. It was fun."

Basketball became such a fixture in West Barnet that six years ago a paved, full-sized basketball court with two backboards and hoops was built smack dab in the middle of the village.

Still, the chances of a small-town kid from Vermont making a big splash in Division 1 college basketball are as remote as West Barnet itself, tucked into the hills 15 miles southwest of St. Johnsbury.

Coppentrath, who kept growing taller throughout high school, was a late-blooming star. He didn't make the varsity at St. Johnsbury Academy until his junior year, a year after his two West Barnet buddies had made the team.

Only as a senior did he finally receive the recognition he deserved: Vermont's Gatorade Player of the Year, The Burlington Free Press' Mr. Basketball and a full scholarship from UVM. This winter he led the Catamounts in scoring and was named the player of the year in the America East basketball conference.

How crazy is this town for basketball now? George Coppentrath has taken to making video tapes of UVM games and leaving them at the two stores in town for people to borrow and watch.

Tuesday, all of the West Barnet General Store's copies were out on loan.

RECOGNITION OF COACH JOHN McDONNELL AND THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS TRACK AND FIELD PROGRAM

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, on behalf of all Arkansans, I want to congratulate the University of Arkansas Razorback Track and Field program on their 17th NCAA Indoor Track and Field championship this past weekend at the Randal Tyson Track Center in Fayetteville, AR. This is the program's 37th overall NCAA crown under the di-

rection of Head Coach John McDonnell. At the University of Arkansas, Coach McDonnell has led his teams to more national championships, triple crowns and conference titles than any other coach in history. His most extraordinary accomplishment is winning 29 consecutive conference cross country championships. He has coached 20 Olympians and over 140 athletes to All-American status. We celebrate Coach John McDonnell's success at the University of Arkansas and his continued dedication to the Razorback Track and Field and Cross Country programs.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

REPORT RELATIVE TO THE ADDITIONAL STEPS TAKEN WITH RESPECT TO THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WHICH WAS DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 12722 OF AUGUST 2, 1990 BY EXERCISING THE STATUTORY AUTHORITY TO CONFISCATE AND VEST CERTAIN PROPERTY OF THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAQ—PM 28

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to section 204(b) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(b) (IEEPA), and section 301 of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1631, I hereby report that I have taken additional steps with respect to the national emergency declared in Executive Order 12722 of August 2, 1990, by exercising my statutory authority to confiscate and vest certain property of the Government of Iraq and its agencies, instrumentalities, or controlled entities.

Consistent with section 203(a)(1)(C) of IEEPA, 50 U.S.C. 1702(a)(1)(C), as added by section 106 of the USA PATRIOT ACT, Public Law 107-56, I have ordered that certain blocked funds held in the United States in accounts in the name of the Government of Iraq, the Central Bank of Iraq, Rafidain Bank, Rasheed Bank, or the State Organization for Marketing Oil are hereby confiscated and vested in the Department of the Treasury. I have made exceptions for any such funds that are subject to the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations or the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, or that enjoy equivalent privileges and immunities under the laws of the United States, and are or have been used for diplomatic or consular purposes. In addition, such amounts that, as of the date of the order, are subject to post-judgment writs of execution or attachment in aid of execution of judgments pursuant to section 201 of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002 (Public Law

107-297) are not being vested, provided that, upon satisfaction of the judgments on which such writs are based, any reminder of such expected amounts shall, without further action, be confiscated and vested.

I have delegated to the Secretary of the Treasury authority to undertake all other action of the President and all functions of the President set forth in section 203(a)(1)(C) of IEEPA with respect to any and all property of the Government of Iraq, including its agencies, instrumentalities, or controlled entities, and to take additional steps, including the promulgation of rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this order.

I am enclosing a copy of the Executive Order I have issued, which is effective immediately.

I have exercised these authorities in furtherance of Executive Orders 12722 and 12724 with respect to the unusual and extraordinary threat to our national security and foreign policy posed by the policies and actions of the Government of Iraq. I intend that such vested property should be used to assist the Iraqi people and to assist in the reconstruction of Iraq, and have determined that such use would be in the interest of and for the benefit of the United States.

The power to vest assets of a foreign government with which the United States is engaged in armed hostilities is one that has been recognized for many decades. This power is being used here because it is clearly in the interests of the United States to have these funds available for use in rebuilding Iraq and launching that country on the path to speedy economic recovery. In addition, this authority is being invoked in a limited way, designed to minimize harm to third parties and to respect existing court orders as much as possible.

GEORGE W. BUSH.
THE WHITE HOUSE, March 20, 2003.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:54 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, was delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate.

H.R. 314. An act to amend the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act to exempt mortgage servicers from certain requirements of the Act with respect to federally related mortgage loans secured by a first lien, and for other purposes.

H.R. 417. An act to revoke a Public Land Order with respect to certain lands erroneously included in the Cibola National Wildlife Refuge, California.

H.R. 519. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of the San Gabriel River Watershed, and for other purposes.

H.R. 699. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a comprehensive study of the Rathdrum Prairie/Spokane Valley Aquifer, located in Idaho and Washington.

H.R. 975. An act to amend title 11 of the United States Code, and for other purposes.