Judgment day for Arenas

Star will be sentenced for December gun stunt

By Craig Stouffer
Examiner Staff Writer

The Gilbert Arenas gun case has been compared to the Latrell Sprewell choking incident with P.J. Carlesimo in 1997 — as a precedent for whether the Wizards could try to void Arenas’ contract. It has been mentioned in the same breath as Stephen Jackson’s shooting episode outside a nightclub in 2007, for the length of Jackson’s NBA suspension.

But when it comes to the sentence that Arenas may be handed down when he goes before D.C. Superior Court judge Robert E. Morin on Friday, a non-basketball case might have the most in common.

“The name that keeps cropping into my head is Martha Stewart because it’s one thing to do something wrong,” said Clifford Fishman, a Catholic University criminal law professor and moderate Wizards fan.

“But what really gets the Fed angry at you is when you start to cover up, or lie about what you did.”

Stewart famously served a five-month prison sentence in 2004 after lying about a stock sale.

As part of the deal on Jan. 15 in which Arenas plead guilty to a felony count of carrying a pistol without a license, prosecutors agreed not to ask for more than six months of jail time for the Wizards guard. In a memorandum filed Tuesday, Assistant U.S. Attorney Christopher Kavanaugh recommended a three-month jail term, followed by three years of probation and 300 hours of community service.

But the filing also said Arenas repeatedly lied about his Dec. 21 locker room confrontation with Javaris Crittenton. Judge Morin, who is not bound by the plea agreement, could be persuaded by the government or the character portrayed by Arenas’ attorney that reiterates that the incident was “a misguided attempt to play a prank.”

Paul Butler, a former federal prosecutor and law professor at George Washington University, said the District of Columbia isn’t known for being lenient on criminals and may want to send a message.

“I think the deterrence factor is going to be important here,” said Butler. “This is a high-profile case. And part of what will be in the judge’s mind is sending a message to everybody who is going to be watching what happens here, especially to young African-American residents of the District of Columbia who look up to Mr. Arenas and will be very interested in what happens to him.”

Follow us online
For breaking sports news, buzz and analysis, visit our sports blogs and follow our reporters on Twitter:

NBA » WIZARDS

D.C. ON DECK

Wizards
Friday » @ Bobcats, 7 p.m., CSN

Capitals
Sunday » Flames 3 p.m., CSN (HD)

Follow us online
For breaking sports news, buzz and analysis, visit our sports blogs and follow our reporters on Twitter:

LOTTERIES » MARCH 25

DC Lucky Numbers
Day: Mid-day: 4-2-9; Night: 2-9-1
DC 4: Mid-day: 9-8-6; Night: 1-6-6-0
DC 5: Mid-day: 7-7-6-5-8; Night: 9-9-7-8-9
DC Daily 6: 0-2-07-10-21-32; Bonus Ball: 17
HOT LOTTO (Wednesday)
9-12-14-22-35; Hot Ball: 11
next drawing = Saturday

MARIAND
Pick 3: Mid-day: 7-5-9; Night: 8-4-8
Pick 4: Mid-day: 4-2-4-0; Night: 7-1-6-9
Bonus Match 5: 0-01-06-19-10; Bonus Ball: 03
Multi-Match (Thursday) midlottery.com
next drawing = Monday

MEGA MILLIONS (Tuesday)
00-25-29-35-40; Bonus: 11; next drawing = Friday

POWERBALL (Wednesday)
14-20-24-39-41; Powerball: 07; Power Play: 3x
next drawing = Saturday

GOLF
Tiger to field questions before Masters begins

ORLANDO, Fla. — Tiger Woods will speak before he plays in the Masters. Woods is scheduled to hold his first news conference in nearly five months at 2 p.m. on Monday, April 5, according to a tentative interview schedule that Augusta National released Wednesday. It will be his first news conference in nearly five months, and his first time facing a room full of reporters since he crashed his SUV into a tree on Nov. 27, setting off shocking revelations of rampant infidelity. — AP

CAPITALS/WIZARDS

Leonsis reaches agreement with Abe Pollin estate

Wizards, arena, assets valued at $550 million

By Brian McNally
Examiner Staff Writer

Capitals owner Ted Leonsis and the estate of late Washington Wizards owner Abe Pollin have agreed on a sale price for the National Basketball Association team and Verizon Center, according to multiple reports.

Leonsis — through a Capitals spokesman — had no comment about the pending sale, which is still weeks away from completion, according to the Associated Press. The two sides have valued the Wizards franchise, the downtown arena and the company’s other assets at $550 million. But there still are hurdles left to overcome, including approval by at least 23 of the 30 NBA owners and, according to the Washington Post, an antitrust review by the Justice Department.

Leonsis and his fellow investors at Lincoln Holdings already hold 44 percent of Washington Sports & Entertainment, the parent company that owns the Wizards, Verizon Center and the local Ticketmaster franchise. The 54-year-old entrepreneur long had an agreement in place with Pollin for exclusive negotiating rights to purchase the rest of Washington Sports upon Pollin’s death. The 85-year-old businessman passed away on Nov. 24. That original agreement with Leonsis was negotiated in 1999 when Lincoln Holdings purchased its portion of Washington Sports and the NHL’s Capitals outright. Through a team spokesman, Wizards representatives also declined comment for this report.

The two sides have been in formal negotiations since Jan. 6. Talks stalled late that month when a Washington Sports representative claimed in internal memos obtained by the Post that the company could be bought on the open market. Lincoln didn’t have “exclusive” negotiating rights. That disagreement has since been resolved and the two sides have moved closer to a final agreement.

A Dec. 19 article in Forbes magazine estimated the value of the Wizards at $333 million.

For more at www.washingtongexaminer.com