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Interview of Lance Humphrey by Leroy D. Federle

Location is Forest Park, Ohio

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Mr. Humphrey has been advised that this interview and investigation is being conducted for John Dowd, Special Council to the Commissioner for Major League Baseball.

HUMPHREY: OK, ahh, we were talking about Tommy Giosa, where he started in Cincinnati with Pete Rose. Ahh, as I mentioned Tommy came to town with Pete Rose in 1981. Tommy met Pete down in Florida when Tommy was playing baseball and trying out with the Baltimore Orioles. Tommy came home with Pete, Pete was getting a divorce from his wife Caroline. At that time ahh, Pete moved Tommy into his house, got him a job at a bar down on Second Street called Sleep Out Louie's, I believe. I also had an employment there, so he used to work right across from me.

FEDERLE: Didn't you say you previously had worked as the daytime manager for Gold's Gym?

HUMPHREY: That is correct.

FEDERLE: From what years was that?

HUMPHREY: September of 1986 to up to September 1, 1988.

FEDERLE: OK, during what hours was that?

HUMPHREY: I worked from 6 in the morning until 2 in the afternoon.

FEDERLE: And you were also training there every afternoon. Is that correct?

HUMPHREY: That is correct. I spent every evening, I won't say every single evening, but the majority of my evenings were spent at Gold's Gym, approximately 2-4 hours in the evening. I was training there as well.

FEDERLE: Ok.

HUMPHREY: So I did spend a considerable amount of time there.

FEDERLE: OK now, go ahead and proceed with your...

HUMPHREY: Well with Tommy, ahh he came into town with Pete and Pete moved him into his house, he stayed at Pete Rose's house in Western Hills. He bought him a car, a 1968 Corvette, a white car.

FEDERLE: How do you know this?

HUMPHREY: Because I was friends with Tommy. He worked at Sleep Out Louie's with me. And he was a good friend of Don Stenger's, who I mentioned earlier. Ahh, Tommy didn't have a car, he didn't have a job. Pete got him a job at Sleep Out Louie's. Nothing fantastic, ahh just a job down there on a bar stool checking ID's to get into the door, bought him a white Corvette, a 1968. He worked there for awhile. While he did work there, he became pretty good friends with a lot of the guys from the Gym, Mr. Don Stenger. Ahh, he met Paul Janszen, he met myself, a few other guys, Donnie Gay, several other guys at Gym. Seemed to be real nice guy. Ahh, he worked there for awhile. Now I lost contact with those guys for about two years, cause I stopped down at Louie's. I didn't work there no more after awhile. And there was a Gold's Gym that started in the, I think, I believe that it opened in June

or May in the early spring of 1984. Ahh, the owners of the Gym when it opened were Don Stenger and Mikie Frye. Mike Frye and Don Stenger were owners of the gym and Tommy Gio became very, very good friends with Don Stenger and Mike Frye. At that time, after the gym opened, they brought Tommy into the gym to assume some responsibility. Within a short period of time, ahh Tommy became the manager up there and it was talked about very frequently that Pete Rose was part owner of the gym. Ahh, I know personally from being a member of the gym and being associated with these guys that Pete Rose was not an owner of the gym. There has been no proof, no stocks, no money, no certificates whatsoever, Pete Rose has had any financial responsibility towards the gym. Ahh, but Pete told Tommy, and it was common knowledge, that Pete, that ahh he told Tommy to go ahead if he wanted to, he could make some money off his name, go ahead and make it. So it was rumored that Pete was going to go into business and build another gym in Kentucky with Mikie Frye. During that period of time, Mike Frye and Don Stenger had a falling out. I don't know what it was about, but Don left and said he left and Mike bought his part of the

gym out and Mike Frye owned all the gym. Don Stenger picked up his business and moved to New Jersey. In the meantime, Don Stenger had, really didn't have anything, but when he left here he was pretty well off. He had a car worth \$150,000 and a lot of people were wondering where all of these guys were making all of their money, because all of them, and I mention all of them, I say, Tommy Gio, Mike Frye, Don Stenger, ahh they really didn't have a lot of money, but they were living like they sure did. So, anyways, ahh Don Stenger picked up, he moved to New Jersey and went into business out there. Tommy Gio ran the gym and there were T-shirts, clothing made from Gold's Gym California that said Gold's Gym, home of Pete Rose. There was a lot of advertising with Pete's involvement in Gold's Gym to make it seem as if Pete owned part of Gold's Gym because it was good to connect a pro-baseball player of Pete Rose's caliber ahh with Gold's Gym. It was good financial doings. I mean it helped everything ahh, ahh to ahh make the business better at Gold's, but to make a long story short, Pete never had any money in Gold's Gym. In fact, Pete said that himself, in the paper, in the magazines, he's really not. He told Tommy flat out "if you can make some money off my name, go

ahead and make it." And that's what it was. It was really a form of advertisement. There was no trading, no hands there. Anyways, ahh while Tommy Gio was an employee there, at Gold's Gym, and he was considered the manager of the gym, he ahh, he did bet, he did gamble. Tommy did. And he has stated profusely that he is a professional gambler.

FEDERLE: What kind of games would he gamble on?

HUMPHREY: Football, baseball, basketball. He, he, he ahh, it was common knowledge to come into Gold's Gym and they had a TV right as you came in and they had ahh the TV on all the time, and there was always games on. Friday and Saturday, they bet on several games.

FEDERLE: What kind of money were you, are you talking?

HUMPHREY: Thousands of dollars. It'd be nothing to bet \$2, \$3000 on a game. Maybe as much as \$5,000. They bet on World Series at times that were going on there.

FEDERLE: Do you know who they called.

HUMPHREY: Who they bet, they called Ron Peters.

FEDERLE: Did you ever hear them call Peters?

HUMPHREY: I, I, I will say this, I know they called Ron Peters. Ahh, whether it's the Ron Peters that we're talking about, that they are showing the coverage on Sports Illustrated Magazine, I can't say that. I'd never met the gentlemen, personally, but that name was mentioned more than once. I've heard it and I imagine ahh that could be the individual that Ron Peters that's getting all of the coverage in the Pete Rose allegations.

FEDERLE: But have you heard them actually call Peters on the phone and place their bets?

HUMPHREY: That's correct.

FEDERLE: What's your understanding as to who these bets were for, that they were placing.

HUMPHREY: Well, it could have easily been for themselves, because, I'm not saying that they placed bets for Pete Rose. They, Tommy Gio was very, very close to Pete Rose. He talked to Pete all the time, Pete would call the gym all the time to talk to Tommy. Ahh, you must realize that these gentlemen, Tommy Gio, Paul Janszen, Don Stenger, Mike Frye, they've all been, ahh they've all had ahh, ahh criminal charges against them. Tommy Gio hasn't of yet, but there is an investigation pending upon him. These other individuals have all pleaded guilty to drug charges, and what have you. Now these guys had a lot of money. I, I think that that can pretty well be established because of their backgrounds, so the money was there for them to bet.

FEDERLE: OK now, do you have any direct knowledge that Rose asked Gio to place bets with Peters for him?

HUMPHREY: OK. If I had to, if I had to testify at a court of law, and say that I seen Pete ask Tommy Gio to place a bet for him, I could not do that.

FEDERLE: Have you ever heard Tommy Gio or any of the rest of them say that they were placing bets for Pete?

HUMPHREY: Tommy Gio, I've heard more than one or two previous times mention that he had to place a bet for Pete. Yes.

FEDERLE: Would the bet have been on baseball, or do you know what sports activity?

HUMPHREY: As far as I know, I don't really know if it was ever for baseball. I know that they bet on football games constantly. And Gio made several bets every weekend, almost every weekend was like clockwork for football.

FEDERLE: During what period of time are we talking about?

HUMPHREY: From 1986, when Tommy was there in '85 and parts of '86, and then Tommy I think broke off from the gym of October of '86. Him and Mike Frye had a falling out and Tommy Gio was fired from Gold's Gym.

FEDERLE: Do you know if any one else continued to place ahh...

HUMPHREY: Bets.

FEDERLE: Bets.

HUMPHREY: Uhh, well at that time when Tommy had a falling out with Mike Frye, he became a very good friend of Paul Janszen's. Paul Janszen and him became very good friends and they hovered around with Pete. When I say hang around, I don't mean they seen him every day or whatever, but Tommy kind of brought Paul into the picture with Pete.

FEDERLE: And how many ah, ah times have you seen Pete out at Gold's.

HUMPHREY: Maybe 1/2 dozen times and he just trained.

FEDERLE: Do you know what the nature of his visits were?

HUMPHREY: He just came out there to train. He worked out. I never seen Pete come into Gold's Gym, ever take a dollar, ever talk about gambling with Tommy or Paul or Mike, ever mention Ron Peters. I never heard Pete say anything about placing a bet, collecting money of any sort, of any kind whatsoever, in person when Pete was present. Pete used to call the gym all the time. I couldn't tell you if it was ten times or a thousand times, I don't know. It was several times. There are documentation from a phone

company of the individual who owns Gold's Gym, has the telephone bills and he is mentioned in the article in Sports Illustrated this month that there was ah phone bills going to Jonathan's Cafe where Mr. Ron Peters is the owner of the cafe. That there were several, several, several calls because he has the paid telephone bills that there were several long distance calls, which it would, had to, had to be long distance because Franklin, Ohio is considered long distance from Gold's Gym. So, he said ahh in this article that he has those phone bills to prove that there were long distance calls made there to Jonathan's Cafe. Ron Peters has admitted he is a bookkeeper, he has been associated with Tommy Gio and Paul Janszen. Ahh, ahh, again, I know Tommy has made bets himself there and and and Paul Janszen says that he has too.

FEDERLE: Have you ever seen Tommy when he lost on his bets, make a pay off to anyone, would anyone come around to pick up the pay offs or anything?

HUMPHREY: No. I never seen that. I never seen ahh, there are a lot of strange things over at Gold's Gym, I won't ever say there wasn't a lot of money that came in and out of there. I'm sure there was,

and when I say that I'm sure there was, someone would say, well would you swear to that in a courtroom. I've seen money come in there at times ahh, a lot of it that Gio had. Where he got it, I don't know, because these gentlemen ahh that we mentioned so far, ahh several of them have been indicted on cocaine charges. I don't need to go into this, a lot of allegations and money tied up in that. It could have been for drugs.

(Telephone rings and is answered)

HUMPHREY: No, like I said, I, I never knew whether or not what the money was for. Ahh, ahh, it was kept, and I might say this, the whole time I've been at Gold's Gym, I had never seen any drug paraphernalia, I have never seen cocaine, I have never seen marijuana, I have never seen any drugs whatsoever come out of there, or go in there.

FEDERLE: How about steroids?

HUMPHREY: Steroids and things like that, I basically think for every health club ahh in the city and every health club, there are some anabolic steroids come to and from. It's just common knowledge, I

think it is common knowledge anymore that where ever you go, ahh there's athletics who constantly talk about them, you can go anywhere, I think, in any training facility, any university, I think it is common knowledge. As far as Pete having anything to do with anabolic steroids or any thing like that, I don't know of it, and if it was, it's news to me.

FEDERLE: Umm hmm.

HUMPHREY: But I don't really feel that ahh these ahh, these allegations ahh towards Pete ahh, I, I think the individuals that really have anything concrete, that could be good or bad in, I say, in Pete's case, would have to be Tommy Gio, Paul Janszen, Mike Frye and Don Stenger, and if there's, and no one else down at that gym other than myself could, could, could basically shed any light on the situation, good or bad and the reason I say it, because there was nobody down there, other than myself, that was there that much that could drag any light onto it. And as far as the gambling goes towards Pete, ahh Tommy was in close contact with Pete, ahh I'm sure they had bets on football games, what have you, but as far

as baseball itself, I don't really know if Pete ever had made a bet on a baseball game. I know Tommy bet on baseball games. Whether that was for Pete or not, who's to say. I don't think anyone down there could tell you anything because it would be total speculation. Those guys bet all the time and where Tommy got the money to bet like that, I don't know, because he worked at Gold's Gym and that was it. And ahh they bet thousands of dollars down there, so I don't know where the money came from, except for that, they were mixed up in narcotics, and the money could have come from there just as easily as anywhere else. Ok. Ahh I'd also like to mention ahh, ahh about the telephone conversations, if there really was going to be an investigation on this, I think it would be in your best interest to contact the F.B.I. Our phones were tapped up there. Those phones were tapped by federal authorities during this investigation for Mike Frye, because Mike Frye was busted for cocaine and he was under investigation 18 months prior to when he got caught and his home phone and his business phones were tapped. So if anyone wants to know if Pete Rose had anything to do with the gambling, if they could get a hold of those tapes, because they have to be there, they have

to keep those on file, those phones up there, ahh there's got to be phone recordings of who called what, and then the only other thing that would come to any ahh, any any anyone's guess would be that ahh to see ahh the individual ahh Joe Monsuers, since he is the new owner, he says that he has access to the phone bills of Franklin, Ohio, from phone calls going in and out of there. But there again, ahh this sure leaves a lot of speculation in there. Ok. And that's about all I can tell you.

FEDERLE: OK. Thank you very much.

HUMPHREY: All right.

END OF THE INTERVIEW