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# Bruce's penalty for Carter easy as 1-2-3

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Ohio State football coach Earle Bruce thinks a one, two or three-game suspension might be penalty enough for Cris Carter. But Bruce's boss, athletic director Rick Bay, disagrees.

Carter, the Buckeyes' all-time leading pass catcher, was kicked off the team July 16 after admitting he accepted money from sports agents **Norby Walters** and **Lloyd Bloom**.

Bruce said the NCAA decision to reinstate Pittsburgh defensive back Teryl Austin changed his thinking about Carter's situation. The NCAA granted the reinstatement on the condition Austin repay any money he may have received, sever ties to the agent and sit out the Panthers' first two games.

"One, two, three games . . . that's a hell of a penalty," Bruce said. "I really don't want to see a young man, 21 years old, who has made a mistake, have both arms cut off."

But Bay said the school still considers Carter to be ineligible. "We were all aware of the extenuating circumstances," he said. "They don't change the way I look at this."

CHARLEY, OH: Time has not dulled the tongue of former Oakland owner Charles O. Finley, who returned to the major leagues Sunday to manage the Athletics in an old-timers' rematch of the 1972 American League playoffs at Detroit.

"I'm sorry Billy Martin isn't here to manage the 1972 Tigers again," Finley said. "I'd like to kick the bejeebers out of him."

Finley also could not resist a shot at former Commissioner Bowie Kuhn. "He's a 24-carat kook," Finley said.

What about Finley's managerial strategy in the game? "Oh," ex-reliever Darold Knowles said, "he's probably going to manage this game from his office in Chicago - just like he used to do."

**CONTRACT LEVER-AGE:** One year into a five-year, \$2.05 million contract, Denver Nuggets guard Lafayette "Fat" Lever wants to renegotiate.

Lever, 27, said he just wants a piece of the new, larger pie following the NBA's recent decision to raise its salary cap.

"Anything's possible, but it isn't at the top of our priorities," Nuggets vice president of operations Pete Babcock said.

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