

Conduct detrimental to all involved

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Monday was not a good day to be Ben Roethlisberger. And Tuesday is not shaping up much better.

Because for all the “good news” Roethlisberger might have heard in a Monday news conference — when the Steelers quarterback learned he would not face sexual assault charges — Fred Bright, the district attorney for the Ocmulgee Judicial Circuit in Milledgeville, Ga., all but placed Roethlisberger’s head on a tee for a swing of N.F.L. Commissioner Roger Goodell’s Big Bertha. Bright described Roethlisberger’s all-but-prosecutable night in a Milledgeville bar with a 20-year-old college student in such damning detail that he all but dared Goodell and/or the Steelers to do something about it.

As Ron Cook of The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette writes, when the district attorney lays out one of your star quarterbacks and tells him to “grow up,” it would be difficult for Goodell to forget about that moral high horse he has parked inside his office. He might, in fact, sit on it as he meets with Roethlisberger on Tuesday afternoon. Many, led by Jeffri Chadiha of ESPN.com, are writing that the N.F.L. needs to give Roethlisberger real consequences (as in a multiple-game suspension) for his lack of judgment because he clearly has not gotten the message so far, writes Pete Prisco of CBSSports.com. The way Roethlisberger read his statement of apology on Monday in the Steelers’ locker room did not help him much, writes Mark Kriegel of Foxsports.com, because he managed to make Tiger Woods look humble and introspective by comparison.

Roethlisberger even got a televised lecture from the former Steelers quarterback Terry Bradshaw about staying out of bars.

It would be wise advice for lots of trouble-prone N.F.L. players, many of whom seem to be congregating on the Jets these days. Or, as Rich Cimini of The Daily News describes them, “a halfway house for misbehaving millionaires.” The trade for the Steelers’ last image nightmare, Santonio Holmes, added to the collection, which Clark Judge of CBSSports.com says puts an awful lot of pressure on Coach Rex Ryan to prevent a locker room implosion.

The Seahawks, meanwhile, are dealing with a little behavioral tornado of their own: linebacker Leroy Hill, who followed a sentence for marijuana possession with an arrest for domestic assault.

If all of that makes you nostalgic for a more pastoral side of sports, go ahead and watch the scene from the opening of the Twins’ new stadium, bringing outdoor baseball to Minneapolis for the first time in 29 years. The park was a smashing success, writes Jim Caple of ESPN.com, and was christened on a beautiful day. It might be the best of its generation of ballparks, writes Jon Paul Morosi of Foxsports.com, and maybe the best part: the bronze statues of Rod Carew, Harmon Killebrew and Kirby Puckett.

It will be far from pastoral when the N.H.L. playoffs start this week in bone-crunching fashion. The most fascinating action will be in the Western Conference, which Ross McKeon writes on Yahoo.com, should be wide open and where everyone will watch to see if the San Jose Sharks will stage their annual flop. While the playoff teams’ arenas will be filled with fans wearing hockey jerseys, the jerseys are extremely popular in a most unlikely place, Liberia, Bonnie Allen writes in The National Post.

In the N.B.A., there are new objections being raised to the Russian oligarch Mikhail D. Prokhorov’s owning the Nets, this time by a New Jersey Congressman.

And here's an early warning: the N.C.A.A. may detonate the beauty of the 65-team men's basketball tournament on April 29.

For now, the only detonations will be coming from N.F.L. headquarters. And Ben Roethlisberger will be the one ducking.

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