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\$LAP SHOT AT PUCK SUCKERS

NHL STARS INVEST \$25M - AND BUILDER BLOWS IT ON PORN PARTIES: SUITS

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By JEANE MacINTOSH

Last updated: 9:28 am
June 19, 2009
Posted: 2:29 am
June 19, 2009

A golf-resort developer put nearly two dozen NHL stars on ice -- taking millions they had invested with him and blowing it on parties packed with porn stars, hookers and his baseball buddies, including ex-Yankees Roger Clemens and Reggie Jackson, according to two explosive lawsuits filed yesterday.



ROGER & HE: Accused swindler Ken Jowdy (far left) joins Roger Clemens (2nd right) to ring the opening bell of the NYSE in 2003.

The 19 former and current stick-handlers -- including an all-star roster of

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Rangers and Islanders -- are demanding that Las Vegas-based golf-course mogul Ken Jowdy return the \$25 million they invested, plus fork over \$15 million in damages for failing to build two luxury resorts in Mexico that are seven years behind schedule.

Instead, the players say, Jowdy got rowdy, squandering their cold cash on "lavish parties" that included "various female porn stars, escorts, strippers [and] party girls" to impress Clemens, Jackson, banned star Pete Rose and ESPN announcer Joe Morgan, one of the suits filed in Los Angeles County Superior Court alleges.

Only baseball greats got to attend -- the hockey players were not invited to the revelry, a source said.

Among the biggest losers in the failed investments are former Ranger and Islander Bryan Berard and ex-Islander Michael Peca, who each lost \$700,000. Ex-Ranger Mattias Norstrom lost \$600,000, according to the suits.

"It's particularly uncomfortable for all," Berard told The Post. "He's taken our money without telling us, and it's supposedly all gone."

The suits also allege that Jowdy:

- * Put a Clemens gal pal named Adrian Moore, described as a "regular party attendee who was close to Clemens," on his payroll "as a personal favor" to the former Yankee Cy Young winner.

- * Bought three private planes to fly himself, childhood pals, the baseball players and their "female companions" to Mexico, Palm Springs, New York and Las Vegas.

- * Paid himself an \$800,000-a-year salary -- plus travel and entertainment expenses -- while his brother-in-law, Connecticut lawyer Bill Najam, took in \$650,000 annually without having a role in the project.

- * Hired Brian McNamee -- the one-time Clemens trainer who told Congress he supplied the ballplayer with steroids -- as a fitness trainer.

- * Paid the projects' sole construction manager, Ken Ayers, a \$550,000 salary, even though Ayers spent fewer than 20 days at the sites in seven years.

Jowdy, who started the projects seven years ago, did not return calls for comment.

Other notable player plaintiffs include: Chris Simon, who played for the Rangers and Islanders; former Rangers Greg deVries, Steve Rucchin and Rem Murray; former New Jersey Devil Turner Stevenson; and 2009 Pittsburgh Penguin Stanley Cup champion Sergei Gonchar.

"The only thing they have to show for it is sand on a beach in the middle of nowhere," the players' lawyer, Ronald Richards, told The Post.

According to the filings, Jowdy lavished attention on the baseball players "under the guise that these individuals would eventually purchase real estate" in the planned resorts, called Diamante Del Mar and Diamante Cabo San Lucas.

But the former major-leaguers never expressed any interest, according to the suit.

Specifically, the suit states, "Clemens and even his wife were vocal and adamant that they would never purchase" the property.

"Nevertheless, Jowdy continued to provide -- and these individuals all continued to accept -- gratuitous, extravagant private air travel, five-star hotel accommodations, luxury home rentals, unlimited food and beverage expenses, golf tournaments and lavish parties several times a year over a three-year period," the suits allege.

A call to Clemens' business manager was not returned. In statement sent to TMZ.com, Morgan said he "never went to any of those parties."

The NHL investors learned only in May that they may had been duped, after Jowdy testified in a separate court case brought by investors in another troubled project.

The larger lawsuit by the NHL stars seek \$25 million in damages related to a planned resort in Cabo San Lucas. On that project, Jowdy defaulted and owes money to a PGA star and golf-course designer Phil Mickelson, the suit claims.

Jowdy, the papers allege, also "falsified his financial statements" for a loan he

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got through a Lehman Brothers broker, Masood Bhatti, before that firm imploded last September.

Bhatti had a secret equity interest in the Cabo resort through an investment group controlled by his goddaughter, according to the suit, and blocked the hockey players' efforts to recoup their losses.

Additional reporting by Chuck Bennett

jeane.macintosh@nypost.com

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aggitta wrote:

The Hall of Shame awaits them all. All those wins, K's, ERA's, Homers, hits don't mean spit. Just put an * after it.....

6/19/2009 9:22 AM EDT

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aggitta wrote:

Truth truth, I'm down with that. Morgan is nothing but a blowhard. ESPN lets him go and MLB network will pick up the scraps.....

6/19/2009 9:17 AM EDT

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aggitta wrote:

When you do what you do, you get what you got and I don't feel sorry for the entire lot. Halls of shame all around.....

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Gov watcher wrote:

Dopes!

6/19/2009 8:49 AM EDT

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Wally paupack wrote:

clemens nearly killed Mike Piazza because he hit him well.clemens only cares about clemens end of story

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Danstealy wrote:

Buyer Beware!! Can't feel sorry for rich greedy athletes who get scammed. They have money to burn from playing a game for a living. Boo Hoo!!

6/19/2009 8:22 AM EDT

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nosofte wrote:

The stupidity of "Professional" sports players to trust someone with your money, and no collateral up front. They deserve what the got it return.....nothing!

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dls wrote:

Roger Clemens is both personally and baseball wise disgusting. No HOF forever!!

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philstillsux wrote:

no surprise clemens is involved with these guys. criminals and dirtbags seem to follow each other.

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georgeinc wrote:

like the madoff investors the nhl players most likely believe an investment to good to be true-was!!! my grandmother told me that and these guys all had agents, accountants, etc. and qualified as sophisticated investors because of their net worth.

6/19/2009 8:07 AM EDT

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