

Civil Rights Icon Ida B. Wells Is Commemorated With A Barbie Doll



By
Josephine Harvey
HUFFPOST

(HUFFPOST)

Famed Black journalist and activist Ida B. Wells is the latest female historical icon to be immortalized as a Barbie doll.

Mattel's Barbie brand announced that Wells was the latest addition to its Inspiring Women series, which spotlights role models who paved the way for generations of girls.

"When kids learn about heroes like Ida B. Wells, they don't just imagine a better future - they know they have the power to make it come true," the company said.

Wells, born into slavery during the Civil War, fought racism, sexism and violence in her work as a prominent journalist who exposed injustices against Black people in the South in the late 19th and early



The Ida B. Wells doll
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20th centuries. She led an anti-lynching movement, traveled nationwide and abroad to expose the practice at great personal risk, and went on to participate in the founding of the

NAACP. Other Barbies in the collection have included Maya Angelou, Florence Nightingale, Eleanor Roosevelt, Rosa Parks, Billie Jean King and Ella Fitzgerald.

Court reverses rebuke against state Sen. Sarah Eckhardt for wearing "pussyhat," mocking Gov. Greg Abbott's disability

BY **PATRICK SVITEK** | THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

(TXT) - A special court of review cleared state Sen. Sarah Eckhardt, D-Austin, after the Texas Commission on Judicial Conduct rebuked the former Travis County judge for wearing a pink "pussyhat" during a commissioners court meeting and making fun of Gov. Greg Abbott's disability at a Texas Tribune event.

The commission, which investigates judicial misconduct complaints, admonished Eckhardt over the incidents in December 2020, saying she engaged in "willful conduct that cast public discredit upon the judiciary." Eckhardt disputed the commission's jurisdiction, noting that a county judge in Texas has no judicial role, despite the title. Texas county judges operate as the county chief executive and preside over commissioners courts.

The special court of review sided with Eckhardt in an opinion issued Tuesday, writing that Eckhardt was a "judge" in name only and that the commission overreached in rebuking her.

"Today, the First Amendment won in Texas," Eckhardt said in a statement celebrating



Sen. Sarah Eckhardt

the opinion.

Eckhardt served as Travis County judge from 2015 until she stepped down in 2020 to run for the Senate in a special election.

Eckhardt wore the pink knitted "pussy hat" while presiding over a meeting of the commissioners court in January 2017. At the time, the hat was a symbol of resistance among women to the 2016 presidential election of Donald Trump.

Eckhardt made the joke about Abbott at the 2019 Texas Tribune Festival. Discussing the Republican governor's support for a law restricting local governments from

regulating removal of trees on private property, she said Abbott "hates trees because one fell on him," referring to the 1984 accident that left Abbott paralyzed. She later apologized for the joke.

The State Commission on Judicial Conduct is made up of 13 members, including six judges appointed by the all-Republican Texas Supreme Court, two lawyers appointed by the State Bar of Texas and five citizens appointed by the governor.

The Special Court of Review that examined the issue consisted of three state appeals court justices. All three were Republicans.

Aborted tank in 2019 may have soured Stephen Ross on Brian Flores

by **Mike Florio** | ProFootballTalk



Will Brian Flores immediately get another NFL head coaching job?
(Michael Reaves/Getty Images)

(PFT) - The mere fact that Dolphins owner Stephen Ross fired coach Brian Flores and kept G.M. Chris Grier becomes what the lawyers would call prima facie evidence of institutional dysfunction. Smart teams take the position that the coach and G.M. fail or succeed together, with no opportunity to place blame on one or the other. And it likely would require a whole team of lawyers to get to the bottom of what caused Ross to pull the plug on a coach who delivered consecutive winning records for the first time since 2002-03, culminating in a sweep of the Patriots.

So what went wrong? Here is some educated speculation, based on everything we've read and heard about the franchise over the past few years.

As previously mentioned, the fact that Ross doesn't live or work in South Florida opens the door for factions, cliques, and allegiances. On game days, while the coach is busting his butt in an effort to win games, others can whisper sweet somethings into the ears of the owner, blaming the coach for whatever may be going wrong.

In 2021, the biggest thing that went wrong was the failure of the team to land quarterback Deshaun Watson. Despite the best efforts of Ross and company to spin the facts now, Ross wanted Watson. Flores simply didn't want the distraction.

The endless Watson chatter was affecting Tua Tagovailoa in a negative way. As one source explained it to PFT early in the season, Tua actually declined an opportunity to be a team captain for 2021, given the possibility that Watson would be arriving and taking over the starting job at any time.

The moment the trade deadline came and went, Tua started playing better and the Dolphins started winning games. Is it a coincidence?

Ross, like plenty of other owners, wants to call the shots without being accused of meddling. Thus, like other owners, he never gives a direct order. He shouldn't have to. He makes his views

known, and he trusts that employees smart enough to get the hint will do so.

This year, it was Watson. And Ross didn't get him. Last year, it was Tua — but only after the Bengals refused to trade down with the Dolphins for Joe Burrow.

And that could be where Flores first lost Ross. Entering the 2019 season, Ross realized that, sometimes, you've got to take your lumps. Although the object of a full-season tank job initially was Tua, Ross pivoted to Burrow. However, after a few ugly losses to begin his tenure, Flores apparently ditched and defied the tanking strategy.

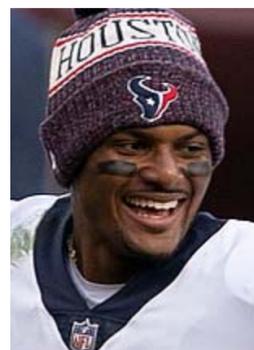
That kept the Dolphins from securing the top pick, which became Burrow. Where would they be now if they had gotten him? They'd probably be in the playoffs, and they'd potentially be the No. 1 seed or close to it.

At some level, that reality may have been sticking in the owner's craw. He wanted to tank. Flores didn't get the hint, or he ignored it. And there went the best chance to get the franchise quarterback the team has coveted since Dan Marino's retirement.

Throw in the failure of the organization to execute a trade for Deshaun Watson, and Ross had to blame some-



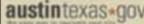
Joe Burrow



Deshaun Watson

one. Throw in the fact that others in the organization had more open and regular access to the absentee landlord who owns the team, and Flores was the one to take the fall.

Does it matter at this point? To whoever may become the next coach of the Dolphins, it definitely should.



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