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emerald sports

Women's tennis The women's tennis team went through a season filled with problems and some team dissent. Tim Leonard, our women's tennis reporter, takes a last-look analysis at the season.
By Tim Leonard p. 3B

Bill Ballester Would it surprise you any if you found out Duck men's gymnastics coach Bill Ballester found time during the summer to race from one end of Baja California to the other, on a dirt bike, in the Baja 1,000. Don't be surprised — it's true. Read this interesting story on pages 4 and 5B.
By Mike Marino pp. 4-5B

Centrowitz — On film .. People often describe an athlete who's "been away" as a has-been. A lot of people see Matt Centrowitz as being in that boat. But how can you be a has-been when you've never been away?
Photos by Mark Stewart p. 6B

Intramurals It's one of the highest participation organizations on the campus, and yet it's just that kind of thing — high participation — that is causing space problems. There are other "problem areas" surrounding IMs.
By Nick Dawson p. 7B

The Emerald Sports weekly supplement is published every Wednesday and is designed to cover the University's athletic programs.

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Ass't. Sports Editor—Nick Dawson
Cover Photo by Mike Marino

Contributing writers — Tim Leonard, Mike Marino, Nick Dawson
Inside photos courtesy Bill Ballester

Walton's selection as MVP 'well deserved,' says coach

PORTLAND, (AP) — Bill Walton's selection as the Most Valuable Player in the National Basketball Association was "well-deserved," said Portland Trail Blazer coach Jack Ramsay. Ramsay said it was "an added distinction the award was made by a vote of the players. The people you work with are the ones who know you best."

In a vote of NBA players, Walton received 96 votes to 80½ for scoring champion George Gervin of the San Antonio Spurs. David Thompson of the Denver Nuggets was third with 28½ followed by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar of the Los Angeles Lakers with 14. Abdul-Jabbar had won the award for each of the last two seasons.

Walton was unavailable for comment. Ramsay said he wasn't

sure where Walton was.

"I think he's in San Diego," said the club's public relations director, John White.

Also receiving votes were Walter Davis of Phoenix, 4; Paul Westphal of Phoenix and Maurice Lucas of Portland, 3 each; Truck Robinson of New Orleans and Gilmore of Chicago, 2 each; and 1 each for Marques Johnson of Milwaukee, Marvin Webster of Seattle, Julius Erving of Philadelphia, Bob Lanier of Detroit and Bob McAdoo of New York.

Walton helped the Trail Blazers win 50 of their first 60 games before being sidelined for the remainder of the season, first because of surgery on his right foot and then with an injury to his left foot. He played in two playoff games before breaking his left

ankle.

For 58 games, Walton averaged 18.9 points and 13.2 rebounds per game.

Ramsay, asked how valuable Walton was to the Trail Blazers, said, "Well, we were 50 and 10 when he was playing. That was by far the best."

Ramsay declined to compare Walton with past winners Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Dave Cowens, Wilt Chamberlain and Bill Russell, but he said, "He certainly deserves to be in that company."

The Trail Blazers lost the first series in the playoff, 4-2 to Seattle. "But remember we were without Bob Gross and Lloyd Neal as well as Walton," Ramsay said. Walton played in the first game of that series and left the second early in pain from his foot.

'Downtown' Brown will shoot if it's necessary — no surprise

SEATTLE (AP) — Fred Brown, the Seattle SuperSonics' trigger-happy reserve guard who ambushed Washington in the opening game of the National Basketball Association championship series, says he'll open fire on the Bullets again — if he has to.

"I just go in and see what the situation is," explained Brown, whose 16 fourth-quarter points Sunday highlighted a spectacular

rally in Seattle's 106-102 victory that left the Bullets wondering what hit them.

"I'll be shooting if it's needed because I do it very well," continued Brown, who unloaded the ball 30 times in Game 1 and wound up with 30 points to lead all scorers.

"If it's defense, I'll do that. I give game leadership. It just depends on what the situation permits."

The loss was a disheartening blow to Washington, which dominated Seattle through the first 2½ quarters but saw a seemingly insurmountable 19-point third-quarter lead slip away in the final 14½ minutes of the game when they fell victim to complacency, Brown's shooting and a tough Seattle defense.

"We had some games like that, too, this year," admitted Brown. "Even though you're playing so well and you get such a big lead, when a team makes a run at you, sometimes you relax your senses so much that you can't respond."

"When it gets close and you have to make baskets, that hoop can look a lot smaller. You begin pressing and making fouls and turnovers. It happens to them Bullets."

When the teams square off in Game 2 at Landover, Md., on Thursday night, Brown says he doesn't expect a repeat performance from either side.

"The main thing is that we don't wait until the fourth quarter to get untracked," Brown said. "We've got to get going right away, get on the boards right away. Then we'll be all right."

Winkles walks out on A's and Finley — McKeon in

OAKLAND (AP) — Bobby Winkles walked out as manager of the first-place Oakland A's Tuesday night and Jack McKeon returned to the job in a typically unpredictable turn of events with Charles O. Finley's basketball team.

McKeon was fired last June 10 by the Oakland owner and replaced by Winkles, hired off the coaching staff of the San Francisco Giants.

Winkles telephoned Finley, who was in Chicago, three hours before Tuesday night's game here with the Milwaukee Brewers and said he was resigning effective immediately, according to Finley.

"He gave as his reason for resigning that he did not think I was

satisfied with the manner in which he was managing the team," Finley said in a statement released by the A's. "I stated to Bobby personally Sunday evening and again by telephone today that I thought he had done an outstanding job and gave him every assurance that wanted him to continue managing the A's."

Finley was in Oakland over the weekend and watched the A's, last-place finishers in 1977, increase their lead in the American League West to two games.

In Chicago, Finley would not say anything other than what was contained in the statement issued at the ball park.

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