

Miami AD to take over as Atlanta Olympics director

ATLANTA (AP) — The hiring of University of Miami athletic director Dave Maggard Monday as Atlanta Olympics sports director takes the spotlight, momentarily, off the money dealings that have dominated plans for the Games.

Maggard will fill a slot that has been vacant since LeRoy Walker left the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games in December to head the U.S. Olympic Committee.

The often frantic attention given to marketing deals, sponsorship contracts and construction deadlines has sometimes made it seem as if athletics are incidental to the modern Olympics.

"No question it's a big business. That doesn't mean to say we shouldn't be thinking about the sports part," said Maggard, who competed in the shot put in the 1968 Olympics. "Now you have someone in this position, I'll devote my time to this side of it."

The 53-year-old Maggard will be responsible for organizing the 26 sports on the 1996 Olympics program, including selecting and acquiring competition and training sites, picking sports equipment and materials and preparing schedules.

He also will be ACOG's liaison with the various international federations that govern Olympic sports. During a recent meeting of the International Olympic Committee, ACOG was told it needed to improve communication with the federations.

"I come to Atlanta with tremendous enthusiasm," Maggard said. "The most important part of this position is going to be professionally managing the Olympic Games. It is a very complex endeavor."

Maggard, who came to Miami in 1991 after 28 years at the University of California as a coach and athletic director, was a member of the USOC executive board from 1979 to 1986 and has served as president of the U.S. Track and Field Association.

Maggard was involved in resuming the NCAA's involvement in the Olympics after it withdrew from the USOC several years ago. He served on a USOC preparation committee for the 1984 Summer Games in Los Angeles.

"Dave has a long and successful relationship with the Olympic family," said USOC executive director Harvey Schiller. "He totally understands the special needs and requirements of the sports governing bodies and the athletes themselves because he was an Olympic athlete himself."

Maggard, who placed fifth in the shot put at the 1968 Olympics in Mexico City, said he will stay in Miami a few more weeks to ensure a smooth transition at the school. He has completed two years of a five-year contract at the school, but said he had an escape clause after the first year.

"The difficult part is leaving the University of Miami, a great place, and it's especially tough leaving the athletes and coaches," he said.

Maggard said the decision to take the ACOG job had nothing to do with a financial aid investigation at Miami involving football players. The federal probe involves activities alleged to have occurred before he arrived at Miami.

"I believe that it's near resolution," Maggard said. "We've done everything we could, including good faith and self-disclosure."

With coach Dennis Erickson, Maggard led an effort to improve the image of the football program by discouraging players from taunting and showboating. The Hurricanes won the national championship in Maggard's first year at Miami. Last season they lost to Alabama at the Sugar Bowl in the game to decide the No. 1 ranking.

Matchup could send fans back, back, back

(AP) — Back in the days of Sunday doubleheaders, they sometimes held home run derbies between games. Three sluggers from each team, teeing off against batting practice pitchers to see who could hit 'em how far.

It might've been Willie McCovey, Willie Mays and Jim Ray Hart against Hank Aaron, Eddie Mathews and Joe Torre or maybe Al Kaline, Willie Horton and Norm Cash against Carl Yastrzemski, Tony Conigliaro and George Scott.

They don't do that anymore. This week, though, fans at Tiger Stadium might get to see a home run derby for real.

Starting Tuesday, in the first swinging series of the young season, it will be Jose Canseco, Juan Gonzalez, Dean Palmer and the Texas Rangers taking on Cecil Fielder, Rob Deer, Mickey Tetleton and the Detroit Tigers.

Pitchers, beware!
The Tigers lead the majors in scoring with 90 runs in 12 games. Twice in the last week they scored 20 in a single game.

Texas tops the majors with 17 home runs. The AL West-leading Rangers have scored 21 runs in their last two games.

"I'm just glad I'm not pitching," Texas' Charlie Leibrandt

said.
Instead, Kenny Rogers will face Detroit's David Wells Tuesday night and Craig Lefferts will oppose Bill Krueger of the Tigers in the wrapup Wednesday afternoon.

All four pitchers are left-handers, the kind that both righty-dominated lineups love to see.

The Rangers are batting .369 against lefties after Canseco and Palmer roughed up reliever Neal Heaton in a 12-2 romp over the New York Yankees Sunday.

"I like to think we have more power than any team in major league baseball," said Canseco, 6-for-10 with a homer and six RBIs in the last two games.

Anyone who saw the Tigers wreck Oakland 20-4 or ruin Seattle 20-3 might disagree.

"It was like Michigan beating Northwestern out there," Mariners manager Lou Piniella said after his lopsided defeat.

Detroit rallied against left-hander Norm Charlton to beat Seattle 8-7 Sunday on Travis Fryman's two-run homer in the ninth inning.

It was the second time in a week that the Tigers had won in the bottom of the ninth, and made them 5-0 at home for the first time since 1937.

It's almost official: Montana's a Chief

SANTA CLARA, Calif. (AP) — If Joe Montana and the San Francisco 49ers split, as expected, it promises to be a messy divorce.

Montana, San Francisco's starting quarterback through the 1980s before missing virtually all of the past two seasons, dismissed as too little, too late the 49ers' offer to give him his old job and make a backup of Steve Young, last year's passing leader and NFL MVP.

Besides, Montana says he has made up his mind to accept an offer to play for Kansas City and has all but detached himself from the 49ers, the team he led to four Super Bowl titles.

However, the 49ers and the Chiefs cannot agree on compensation for Montana, who has one year left on his contract with San Francisco.

"In an effort to accommodate Joe, we had conversations with the Chiefs today ... but to no avail," 49ers president Carmen Policy said at a news conference Monday. "Those negotiations have broken off again."

"We are now in a very delicate situation in that we are exploring all, and I underline all, of our alternatives. Because of the very special relationship with Joe, we will continue to attempt to take his wishes into consideration. But from this point in time, the underlying purpose of whatever we do will be in the best interest of the 49ers."

Montana, who lost his job to Young during a two-year recovery from an elbow injury, turned down the 49ers' job offer earlier in the day during a meeting with Policy and coach George Seifert.

Still, the coach said Montana technically was the team's No. 1 quarterback, with Young getting the job if he left.

Neither Policy nor Seifert went into detail on Montana's reasons for declining the offer.

During the previous weeks of speculation

over Montana, Seifert had publicly backed Young as the starter before team officials suddenly reversed field this weekend following Montana's meeting with club owner Edward DeBartolo Jr.

"It is my opinion, which I expressed to Mr. DeBartolo, that it is in the best interests of the 49ers to go with Steve Young and Steve Bono as their two quarterbacks," Montana said in a statement. "Both are great players and will continue to be successful leading one of the best teams in the NFL."

"At the same time, it is in my best interest, and that of my family to play for the Kansas City Chiefs. We feel comfortable in Kansas City and I look forward to continuing my career there."

Seifert and Policy denied the 49ers' hastily arranged offer to give Montana his old job was intended to deflect public criticism. Backers of Montana have deluged the club's offices with faxes and phone calls in an attempt to derail any trade.

The team's turnaround also seemed to undermine Seifert's credibility, and would have left the 49ers in the uncomfortable position of demoting both Young and Steve Bono, the nominal No. 2 after being re-signed April 7.

Since returning from a torn right elbow tendon — Montana played a half as Young's backup in the 49ers' 1992 regular-season finale — he has been adamant that he had no desire to stay in San Francisco as a reserve.

Two weeks ago, Montana began searching in earnest for another job elsewhere. That search led Montana to embrace the Chiefs.

In a statement released through his agent Peter Johnson, Montana said he already has found a new home and new job with Kansas City and could not forsake the commitment he made to the Chiefs for a return to the 49ers.

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