

Serbian hoopster fouls out — for good

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Slobodan Jankovic, fuming at a call that fouled him out of the game, rammed his head against a cement block in anger and suffered a broken neck that left him paralyzed.

The 6-foot-8 Serb is the center for Panionios of Athens, which was playing in the semifinals of the Greek Championships.

It happened Wednesday night with six minutes left and Jankovic's team trailing Panathinaikos by four points.

With several players fighting for a

rebound, the referee called a fifth foul on Jankovic. Waving his arms in disbelief that he had fouled out, Jankovic moved toward the backboard and rammed his head against the cement blocks supporting it. He bounced back and slumped to the floor in a pool of blood.

He told paramedics that he had no feeling from the waist down.

"It's 99.99 percent certain Jankovic's legs will be paralyzed, while his arms will be partially disabled," team doctor Giorgos Kat-

sifarakis said.

Doctors said Jankovic, 30, was in critical condition and it was not possible to give a prognosis.

Later, a hospital statement said Jankovic has a fractured neck vertebrae, damage to the spinal cord and paralysis from the neck down.

Despite Jankovic's 17 points, Panathinaikos won 65-58 to qualify for the final against Olympiakos Piraeus.

HARRIS

Continued from Page 14

Drake Relay season-best performance, but Woods has yet to clock a competitive time in the 100.

The emergence of Pierce in the Ducks' past two meets could have Dellinger resting a little easier. He set PRs at the Oregon Invitational in winning the 100 and 200.

Pierce and Khoo will also run in the 4x400 relay along with Sol Sallos and Grady O'Connor. Here the pressure will be on Sallos, a sophomore who has yet to be called on in the event this

season.

With the loss of Harris, it becomes even more important for Oregon to hold its own in the distance and field events.

In the steeplechase, Jason Humble will be given the unenviable task of running against two top steeplers, Arizona State's Erin Scroggins and Kansas State's Francis O'Neill. Both are capable of running under 8:45, while Humble has yet to break the nine minute barrier this season.

Arizona State could be the favorite, holding best marks in several events, including the pole vault (Nick Nysong) and

the triple jump (Brian Ellis). Oregon's Todd Bleakney and Devon Hosey are not far behind Ellis's distance, and could gain the Ducks valuable points in the event. Jason Walton is Oregon's best athlete in the high jump, but will likely need a PR to have chance.

Washington State will gain the most from the absence of Harris, largely because Oregon's arch-nemesis Michael Joubert should have an easy time in the 400. Joubert became famous with Duck track fans last season when he taunted the crowd in the 4x400 relay at a dual meet.

Besides winning the meet title, much of Oregon's empha-

sis will be in qualifying athletes for the Pacific-10 Conference and NCAA Championships.

So far, the Ducks have qualified 15 athletes — including six in the sprints — for the Pac-10s, but only one — Derek Snelling in the pole vault — for the NCAAs.

After Saturday's meet, Oregon will only have two more meets before the Pac-10s: Next weekend's team invitational at Boise State, and the Oregon Twilight the following weekend.

Saturday's meet begins at 12:30 p.m. with the hammer throw, and concludes at 4:25 with the crucial 4x400 relay.

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PEPSI

Continued from Page 14

its perfect Pepsi Invitational record intact, as the Ducks have won the past six titles. Oregon narrowly won the Pepsi Invitational last year, edging Nebraska 182-180.

Arizona State, which placed fourth in the Pac-10 meet last spring, should prove to be the Duck's major competition this year. In fact, the meet could be a preview of the Pac-10 conference meet, as the Ducks and Sun Devils are two of the favorites for the conference meet which will be held in Berkeley on May 22.

The Sun Devils boast three of the top sprinters in the conference with the sister combination of Christi Tayo, and Lahti Akinremi. The three transferred to ASU after leading Alabama A&M to the NCAA Division II title last year.

"Arizona State had a very good team without those three, but with those kids they're dramatically better," Heinonen said.

Heinonen expects some tight sprint races on Saturday. "ASU is strong in the same areas where we're strong, and for this meet that's good," Heinonen said. "If we get a break in the weather, this will give our kids a chance to find out what they can do."

ASU also has one of the top 800 meter runners in the country in Kim Toney. Toney placed third in the NCAA championships last year with a time of 2:03.6.

Washington State does not figure to make a run for the team title, but the Cougars will shake things up in the jumps and distances. Jennifer Bravard has the best 3000 meter time in the nation, but she was forced to withdraw from the Drake Relays last week and is questionable for the meet.

Chantal Brunner finished 10th in the NCAA indoor meet in Feb. and, along with Oregon's Kelly Blair, is a co-favorite in the long jump.

Rovelto said that his distance runners are especially excited about appearing in Eugene.

"The cross-country team found out last fall that Oregon was on our schedule, and they've been looking forward to this meet ever since," Rovelto said.

When told of the recent rainy weather in Eugene, Rovelto seemed unconcerned.

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