

## Schott may be removed

■ **BASEBALL:** Executive council considers the owner's future with Reds

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Baseball left the clear impression Wednesday that it intends to remove Marge Schott from operation of the Cincinnati Reds, setting a one-week deadline for its decision.

The 10-man executive council, which runs baseball in place of a commissioner, didn't announce any action against Schott after Wednesday's 5 1/2-hour meeting and didn't say what the deadline was for.

Baseball officials, speaking on the condition that they not be identified, said before the meeting they expect Schott will be suspended and that Selig and National League president Len Coleman want her to agree to appoint someone else to run the team.

Schott, suspended in 1993 for eight months for using racial and ethnic slurs, came under fire again this season for other controversial remarks, including comments in a television interview that Adolf Hitler "was good in the beginning" but "went too far."

Acting commissioner Bud Selig, usually reluctant to criticize any owner, spoke out strongly against Schott.

"The executive council condemns in the strongest possible terms the recent comments attributed to Schott," Selig said, later adding: "This is not something we just put off. We're on a very specific course."

Selig said the council will make a decision about Schott's future involvement with baseball no later than next Wednesday.

Schott, accompanied by lawyer Robert Martin and Reds controller John Allen, met with the council several times throughout the day.

A baseball official said earlier this week that there probably would be negotiations between the lawyers for the two sides.

"It is obvious we are deeply concerned by this situation," Selig said.

In February 1993, the council suspended Schott for one year and fined her \$25,000 for bringing "disrepute and embarrassment" to baseball with her repeated use of racial and ethnic slurs. The suspension later was shortened to eight months.

She has apologized for her remarks about Hitler, saying she didn't mean to offend.

Selig said Schott's statements and not her operation of the Reds were at the center of the council's concern.

Schott, who owns 6 1/2 of the Reds' 15 partnership shares, has controlled the team for 12 years.

## Remembering the Ducks: THREE NCAA TOURNAMENTS IN A ROW



Junior Renae Fegent goes up for the block in the first round of the NCAA Tournament against Wisconsin while her teammates wait for the rebound. Oregon's women's basketball team made its third-straight appearance in the tournament this past season and looks for more success next year.

## Chicago takes Game 1 in final minutes

■ **NBA FINALS:** The Bulls outscored Seattle 28-13 in the fourth quarter

CHICAGO (AP) — Nothing too spectacular from Michael Jordan, nothing fantastic statistically. Yet there was nothing Seattle could do to stop the Chicago Bulls.

The Bulls, who last played May 27, toyed with the Sonics and made them seem worthy for a stretch or two. Then Chicago blitzed every time the game got close, pulling away for a 107-90 victory in Game 1 of the NBA Finals on Wednesday night.

"We were out of synch a little bit offensively," Jordan said. "That's natural for having eight days off. I think the guys really had the determination to come out and run hard and play hard."

It was the best team in the NBA showing why it is considered almost unbeatable. Although it was far from a flawless performance, the Bulls still turned it into a laughter in the final few minutes.

Toni Kukoc scored 10 straight Chicago points in a 14-5 run to

open the fourth quarter, and Jordan's supporting cast had all the points in a subsequent 8-0 run that removed any doubt.

Jordan finished with 28 points but didn't contribute much in the game-deciding run. Scottie Pippen had 21 and Kukoc had 18 on a night when the Bulls shot only 43 percent. Chicago outscored Seattle 28-13 in the fourth quarter, however, and attempted 18 more shots than the Western Conference champions.

The Bulls also turned the ball over only seven times and came up with three key steals in the final period.

Game 2 is Friday night at the United Center, and in the meantime the Sonics will try to figure out what it'll take to beat the Bulls.

The first thing they can try to do is stop Jordan's underlings. Ron Harper had 15 points and seven assists and shot 60 percent. Luc Longley dominated the middle in the first quarter and finished with 14 points and four blocks and Dennis Rodman had 13 rebounds and seven points — all on uncontested layups.

"Ron Harper did a heck of a job on Gary Payton," Jordan said. "He created a lot of breaks for us down the stretch."

And Rodman created trouble for Frank Brickowski. The Seattle forward was assessed a flagrant foul for pushing Rodman in the neck while battling for a rebound late in the first half. He refused to stop talking to Rodman, and referee Joe Crawford whistled him for two straight technicals and bounced him from the game.

Rodman's last two points came with 5:25 left in the game after it appeared the Sonics were ready to make one more run.

Payton had scored on a driving one-hander and a fastbreak layup off a steal by Shawn Kemp, who finished with 32 points. The Bulls quickly called timeout, and Harper then faked a 3-pointer and rifled a pass to Rodman underneath for a layup.

Kukoc followed with a fastbreak layup. Harper had a steal and layup and Longley scored from in close for an 8-0 run. Payton scored once more, but Jordan came back with perhaps his prettiest shot of the night, a high-arching fadeaway from the

left side that made it 103-88.

Jordan, who scored 18 points in the first half, added one more basket down the stretch to finish five points short of his postseason average. Kukoc, who was only 3-for-36 from 3-point range in the first three rounds of the playoffs, went 2-for-5 from beyond the arc.

Kemp was backed by Sam Perkins with 14 points and Payton with 13 on 6-of-17 shooting. The Sonics went 31-of-36 from the foul line in a game that featured 56 fouls and 67 free throws.

Chicago seemed to be pulling away in the third quarter as Jordan hit the first shot of the period, Harper scored on a drive and Pippen had a fastbreak layup, three foul shots and a 3-pointer for a 67-56 lead.

A 19-8 run made it 75-75 and Seattle trailed only 79-77 entering the fourth.

Chicago scored 14 of its final 16 points of the half from the foul line and went into the locker room with a 53-48 lead. Kemp and Jordan scored 18 points apiece in the half, but Kemp also had five of Seattle's 10 turnovers and the Bulls had just one.