



ON THE TUBE
Men's College Basketball
Temple at Cincinnati,
ESPN (34), 6:00 p.m.

SPORTS

DAILY TRIVIA
What NFL franchise did Wellington
Mara purchase for \$500 in 1925?
See scoreboard for answer.

Seifert retires from 49ers; Cal coach may be hired

COACH: After spending 10 years with San Francisco, Seifert decides to say goodbye

By Dennis Georgatos
The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — In eight years as the San Francisco 49ers coach, George Seifert won two Super Bowls and built the best winning percentage in NFL history. On Wednesday, in a startling move, he retired.

He was expected to be succeeded by Steve Mariucci, who was 6-6 at California this year, his only season as a head coach.

Carmen Policy, the 49ers president, said the team had not yet hired Seifert's replacement — but that only one person was being considered.

"We are presently negotiating with that one individual," Policy said. "No offer has been made to anybody. Those negotiations are going to continue

tomorrow."

Seifert said he made his decision to leave the job while vacationing in Mexico.

"My wife first told me when I got this job, 'Don't screw it up.' I don't think I did," Seifert said. "I'm proud of the things we accomplished during my watch."

Coaching changes have been rampant around the NFL. Seifert becomes the 10th coach to leave a team since the start of this season, meaning one-third of the teams have made changes.

Seifert, who turns 57 next week, won Super Bowls in 1989 and 1994. With a record of 108-35, Seifert is the franchise's winningest coach and has a winning percentage of .755. He reached 100 victories faster than any NFL coach.

"It's time for some new blood," Seifert said. "I'm not saying my blood is stagnant. But I'm saying let's just pass this on to someone else."

Mariucci was schooled in the 49ers system while working for Green Bay coach Mike Holmgren, a former offensive coordinator for San Francisco. He was an assistant for four years with the Packers, getting much of the credit for turning quarterback Brett Favre into a two-time NFL MVP.

Mariucci, 41, has been coaching for 18 years. His Cal team began the 1996 season with a 5-0 record, but lost six of its last seven games — including a defeat by Navy in the Aloha Bowl.

Under Mariucci, Favre became the youngest

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scoreboard

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

NBA

Philadelphia111	San Antonio77
Golden State128	New York94
Charlotte104	Seattle122
New Jersey116	Toronto78
Minnesota102	Vancouver79
Chicago112	Detroit103
Dallas66	L.A. Clippers82
Orlando78	Indiana102

NHL

Hartford0	Colorado4
Pittsburgh3	Tampa Bay2
Ottawa5	Phoenix1
Washington1	St. Louis4
N.Y. Islanders1	Calgary2
Buffalo2	Anaheim1
Toronto2	Edmonton4
Los Angeles3	Florida0

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Virginia54	Fairfield79
(2) Wake Forest58	(19) Boston Col.81
(11) Maryland63	Miss. State75
(3) Clemson67	(20) Mississippi64
Houston78	N.C. State56
(10) Louisville92	(22) N. Carolina59
N.C.-Greensboro29	Texas A&M76
(13) Duke87	(23) Texas86
Northwestern66	Oklahoma62
(17) Indiana63	(25) Texas Tech67

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Rutgers45	(19) Duke73
(1) UConn78	(15) N.C. State86
(5) Alabama68	Texas A&M63
(4) Georgia64	(16) Texas100
Michigan State82	Syracuse45
(7) Vanderbilt51	(21) Notre Dame72
Oklahoma55	NE Illinois69
(14) Texas Tech67	(25) DePaul77

NCAA investigating possible violations by UConn basketball program

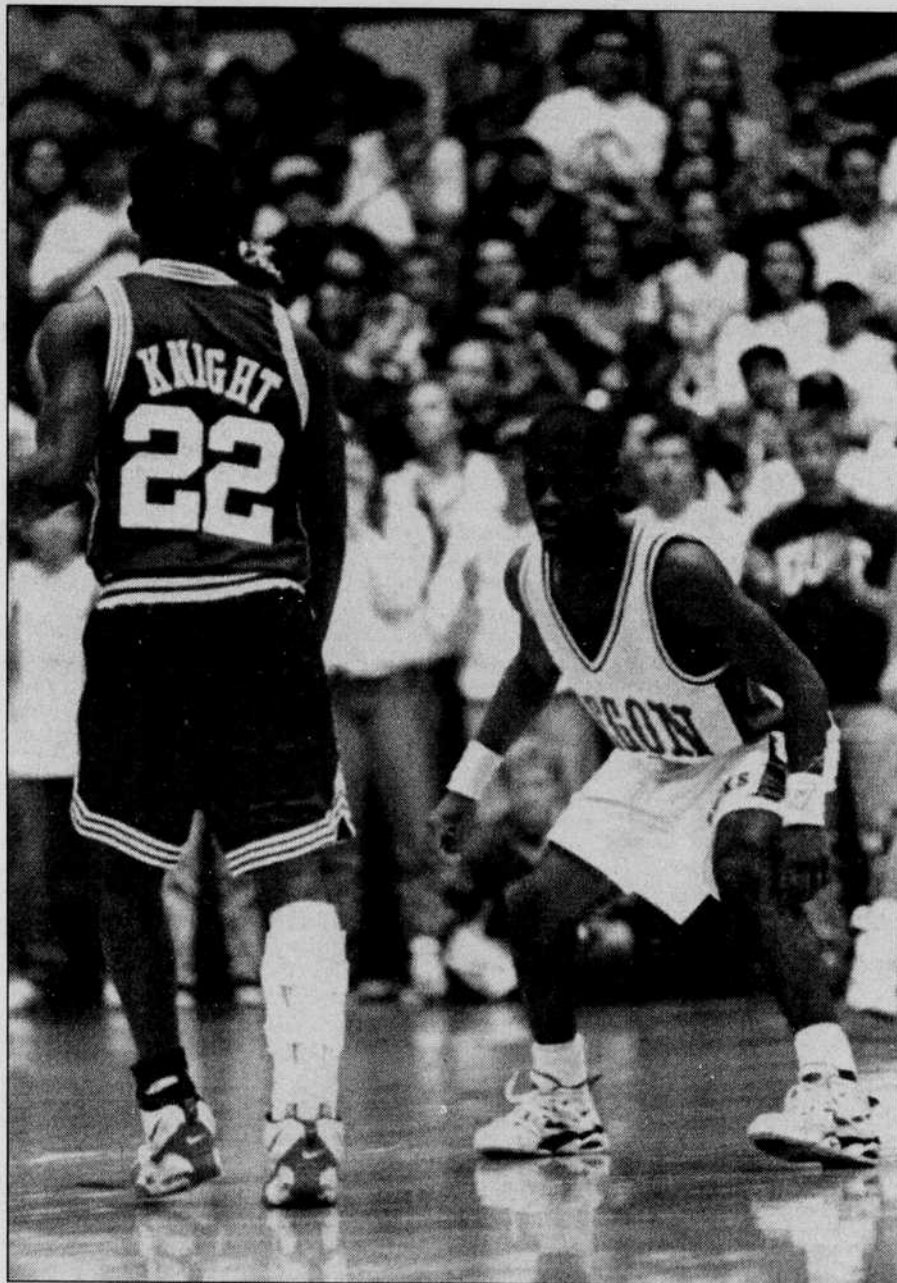
HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — The University of Connecticut said Wednesday it believes its men's basketball program violated NCAA regulations, and that an investigation is under way.

A statement by Athletic Director Lew Perkins was issued after the abrupt cancellation of a news conference in Hartford involving players and coaches from both the men's and women's basketball programs. The event was to promote public safety posters.

DAILY TRIVIA ANSWER

The National Football League's New York Giants were bought for \$500 in 1925.

Home game could prove vital for Oregon



Oregon's Kenya Wilkins and Stanford's Brevin Knight are two of the best point guards in the nation. They face one another tonight when their teams meet at McArthur Court.

MEN'S BASKETBALL: Focus will be on a matchup between point guards and centers tonight

By Andrea DeYoung
Assistant Sports Editor

The Oregon men's basketball team competes in its Pacific-10 Conference home opener tonight in what may be one of the most important games of the season.

That's not only because the Ducks (10-2 overall, 1-2 Pac-10) have lost two in a row and are 1-2 in the conference, but also because their opponent is Stanford (10-2 overall, 3-1 Pac-10). Ranked No. 15 in the country in the last poll, the Cardinal is coming off two impressive wins last weekend. This included a 109-61 drubbing of UCLA — the worst loss the Bruins have ever suffered. Stanford went on to easily take the 85-70 win over USC.

But the Cardinal had the luxury of playing at home — something they will not have tonight. Stanford knows all too well how loud the crowd at McArthur Court can be after it lost by two points last season on an off-balance shot from Kenya Wilkins. The fans erupted, stormed the courts and lifted Wilkins onto their shoulders.

All that happened more than 11 months ago, and Stanford only returns one starter from that team — Brevin Knight. The team that will take the floor tonight includes center Tim Young, who redshirted the entire season, and three players who played in last season's game

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Oregon tennis heads up to conference tourney

TENNIS: The indoor tourney hosts some of the nation's top teams

By Joel Hood
Freelance Sports Reporter

With temperatures in Seattle this weekend expected to drop below freezing, the Oregon women's tennis team and head coach Jack Griffin are glad to be competing indoors.

On Wednesday, Oregon sent its top five players north to compete in the Pacific-10 Conference Indoor Championships. The tournament, which this year is host to three of the nation's top five teams, begins today and will run through the weekend.

"I'm really excited for our team," Griffin said. "This weekend's tournament is a great opportunity for us.

This will show us how we stack up in the Pac-10."

For Oregon this will be its first action since the Rolex Regional Championships in Palo Alto, Calif. in November. In that tournament, sophomore ace Ali Napier defeated Washington's Annette Kristensen in straight sets to advance to the second round. She lost there to Florida State's Dora Dijilina 7-5, 6-1.

Every year the Pac-10 is one of the toughest conferences in the country to compete, and this year is no different with Stanford, UCLA, and Arizona all being ranked in the nation's top five.

"This is a very difficult conference," Griffin said. "If

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