

Sports brief

NBA season in question as deadline nears

NEW YORK — We should know shortly whether David Stern's threat was real, whether Michael Jordan will play again and whether it was worth it to push the NBA to the brink of calamity.

Stern is due back in the office Monday after spending two weeks in Aspen, Colo., and union director Billy Hunter has told the players on his negotiating committee to be in town by Tuesday morning.

"We're ready to negotiate. The league is refusing to negotiate," Hunter said Sunday. Hunter also said he had not yet spoken to Stern.

With Thursday the deadline for reaching a new collective bargain-

ing agreement, a look at some of the most pressing questions in what will be one of the most pivotal weeks in NBA history.

Q: They wouldn't cancel the rest of the season, would they?

A: Yes, they would. The threat of losing the entire 1998-99 season is very real, with Stern saying many owners are pushing him to pull the plug and teach everyone a lesson about how seriously imperiled the league's financial health is. But rest assured, NBA fans, Stern will not cancel the season without making at least one sincere, last-ditch effort to forge a compromise.

Q: So when does Stern make his final push?

A: It depends on what his owners tell him to do. One possibility would be for him to come out of

the Board of Governors meeting Thursday with the authorization to make one "absolute, final offer." It's hard to see Stern ending the season without something being voted on by the 430 players. The NHL lockout settlement in 1995 came several days after the deadline, and baseball owners went two days past their deadline when they canceled the 1994 World Series.

Q: What is the biggest factor in the way of a compromise?

A: Aside from the fact that the chief negotiators have let this fight get too personal, the single biggest stumbling block appears to be the union's insistence upon receiving 57 percent of the revenues in year 6 of a six-year agreement.

— The Associated Press

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Oregon's Lindsey Dion muscled her way into the basket to score two points against California in the Ducks' victory at home Saturday night.

Matt Hankins/Emerald

Stanford

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points for the third time this season and finished second on the team with five rebounds.

"We certainly need to work on our free throws and played better overall, but a win is a win, especially in conference play," Wolverter said.

Oregon hit just 10 of 22 free throws for the game, including just four of 12 in the second half. Head coach Jody Runge said Oregon will need to greatly improve at the line for it to have a chance to beat Stanford tonight at McArthur Court.

"I think there was some nervousness out there in the beginning," said Runge, whose team was playing for the first time without senior guard Lisa Bowyer, who broke a finger in a 86-57 win over Depaul in Portland on Dec. 22.

"That can happen anytime you have pressure to perform. But I'm really pleased with the way we

played, Dion especially, both offensively and defensively."

Meharry added 13 points and eight rebounds off the bench as Oregon, the Pac-10's top-rated defense entering the game, held California to 49 points on just 37 percent shooting from the field.

"Tonight was a good step in the right direction," Runge said. "But you can't expect to keep winning games if you miss your free throws. We need to take care of the little things to beat Stanford."

Oregon has not beaten the Cardinal in its last 22 meetings with them dating back to 1988. However, Stanford (5-7, 1-0) has struggled early this season and has already lost more games than it had all of last season.

The victory over California was the Ducks' fifth win in a row, including a two-game sweep of Depaul and Portland at the first-ever Portland Jam at the Rose Garden last month.

Rivalry

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just 50 percent in the win.

After the game, head coach Jody Runge said that is one area the Ducks will need to improve.

The Cardinal have had an up-and-down season thus far. They defeated then-No. 1 Purdue 73-72 earlier this season, but have posted a weak 5-7 record to date.

Sophomore Carolyn Moos leads the team, averaging 15.5 points per game with Lindsey Yamasaki second with a 14.7 average.

Yamasaki is a former teammate of Meharry's from Oregon City

High School and has the edge after the Cardinal defeated the Ducks by more than 20 points in their first meeting on Jan. 4th last season.

Oregon made a better showing in the second meeting, losing by eight points, but it was a loss nonetheless. The Ducks feel that this will be the year to end their losing streak with the Cardinal.

"We just want to be one of the first teams to get a Pac-10 win against Stanford," Meharry said. "We want to knock them off early and we feel good about our chances this year."

Tonight

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vs.
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1999 Home Schedule

Mon., Jan. 4	Stanford	7:00pm
Fri., Jan. 15	Washington	7:00pm
Sun., Jan. 17	Washington State	1:00pm
Fri., Jan. 29	Oregon State	7:00pm
Thu., Feb. 4	UCLA	7:00pm
Sat., Feb. 6	USC	7:00pm
Fri., Feb. 19	Arizona State	7:00pm
Sun., Feb. 21	Arizona	1:00pm

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