

Olympic organizers ease ban on sportscasters

Groups that did not pay for the right to broadcast the Olympics will be allowed to film on a limited basis

By Stephen Wilson
The Associated Press

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (AP) — Olympic organizers eased restrictions Tuesday on television access at the Sydney Games, allowing a limited number of international broadcasters to film within the main Homebush site.

Sydney organizing chief Michael Knight announced a compromise plan — approved by

the International Olympic Committee — to allay the concerns of non-rights-holding entities including CNN, ESPN, Fox, Associated Press Television News and Reuters Television.

Under previously announced guidelines, all non-rights-holders would have been banned from the entire Sydney Olympic Park area at Homebush, a public area that is the site for most of the marquee sports.

The rule would have restricted access to local Australian rights-holders and NBC, which paid \$705 million for exclusive U.S. rights to the Sept. 15-Oct. 1

games.

The ban led to official protests by TV companies and the threat of possible legal action against Sydney Olympic officials.

Under the new rules, Olympic officials will issue eight permits per day to international non-rights-holders and eight to Australian non-rights-holders.

The permits will be issued on a rotating basis by the Olympic Coordination Authority, a body of the New South Wales government that controls the Homebush site.

"This is a victory for common sense and enables the international news organizations to report

the news events that surround every Olympic Games in a proper manner. It is the Olympic ideal that there should be access for all," APTN managing editor Sandy MacIntyre said.

The IOC has accredited 140 non-right-holders for Sydney, suggesting the competition will be fierce for the daily permits.

"We are trying to balance crowd management and the legitimate interests of news media, while protecting our rights holders," Knight said. "They have paid a lot of money for the rights and don't deserve to be ambushed."

Sydney officials have cited crowd control as a main reason for their decision to restrict TV access to the area.

As in previous games, all non-Olympic broadcasters are prohibited from filming inside the stadiums and arenas. But in the past, non-rights-holders have not been banned from filming outside the venues.

Those non-rights-holders allowed access to Homebush will be subjected to several conditions. They will be prohibited from doing live broadcasts or conducting interviews with athletes outside the venues.

Sir Charles plans dress rehearsal for farewell game

Charles Barkley will come out of retirement for the Houston Rockets' last game of the season Wednesday

By Bob Baum
The Associated Press

PHOENIX — In a dress rehearsal for his farewell appearance Wednesday in Houston, Charles Barkley said he'd probably be in uniform Tuesday night when the Rockets meet the Phoenix Suns.

Barkley didn't plan to play, however. He's saving that for Houston.

There had been hints that

Barkley might make a cameo appearance against the Suns, a team he led to the NBA Finals in 1993.

During Houston's shootaround Tuesday, he said his knee wasn't fit enough to play in consecutive games.

"I'm probably not going to get to play tonight," Barkley said, "because my knee is only 70 percent, and they don't want me to take any chances. I'm probably just going to dress tonight, which is fine."

Barkley called an end to his 16-year career after he ruptured a knee tendon Dec. 8 in Philadelphia.

But, after rehabilitation, he will

make a final appearance in the Rockets' last game Wednesday at home against Vancouver. He wants to end his career by walking off the court, not being carried off.

A brief appearance in Phoenix seemed fitting. That would make his last three games against the three teams that he had played for — Philadelphia, Phoenix and Houston.

Barkley has a home in Phoenix, and he played four seasons with the Suns when he was in his prime. His first season with the Suns, he averaged 25.6 points and 12.2 rebounds as Phoenix reached the NBA Finals. The

Suns lost to Chicago in six games, with John Paxson hitting the decisive 3-pointer with 3.6 seconds left on Phoenix's homecourt. It was as close as Barkley would get to a championship ring.

Houston coach Rudy Tomjanovich said it would be taking too much of a chance for Barkley to play in Phoenix and Houston.

"Charles doesn't have to prove anything," Tomjanovich said. "The guy's one of the greatest players to ever play the game. We love what he's done for us."

"To me what makes sense is to have one final tribute at home. Why take the chance of getting him loose here and then having a

back-to-back situation? That just doesn't make sense to me."

Barkley and the Suns parted company with bitterness. Barkley felt he was treated unfairly, and Suns owner Jerry Colangelo didn't like the way Barkley behaved.

"I regret how it ended here, how they treated me here," Barkley said. "I wanted to finish my career here. It didn't happen."

Barkley said that he's had time since his injury to reflect on his career.

"There's not one person around here who expected me to accomplish what I did in 16 years," he said. "As cocky as I am, I never expected it."

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Horoscope by Linda C. Black

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (April 19) — Finish up old business this year. Your past experience will lead you to a more secure future. Follow a talkative woman's advice in April. A quiet man should lead you in May. Study at home to succeed over the summer. Be bold in romance in September. Listen to your partner's wishes in November, but don't be bullied around. In December, be careful not to learn the lesson the hard way. Make friends with the boss in February.

To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

Aries (March 21-April 19) — Today is a 7 — Put that great attitude to work for yourself. You can bring in more money several ways. Your skill level's increased, so start looking around. Don't overspend to create opportunities, though. Find ones that pay you, instead of the other way around.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Today is a 7 — The sun's going into your sign today. It's different every year, of course. Sometimes it's on the 20th or 21st. But this year you're quite lucky. What would you do if you were king or queen of the world? Make plans; you may get a great chance later.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21) — Today is a 7 — You have been busy lately. Now, you're entering a contemplative phase. You may start by wondering if you're in the right job. List the good and bad things and be as thorough as you can. You may find you like what you have after all.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) — Today is a 7 — You should be cool, calm and collected. That's not true for everyone, though. Make something special for dinner tonight. A friend who's stressed out would appreciate your thoughtfulness. Otherwise, keep it low-key.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Today is a 7 — Your environment may get kind of solid pretty soon. If you're going to make any changes, better do them early in the morning. You'll be able to help the others lighten up later in the day, and that's the only way anything will get done.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Today is a 6 —

Your luck is changing for the better, but slowly. It may be hard to notice, at first. A cranky friend could make your life miserable if you don't stand up for yourself. You can be nice without being a doormat, you know! Let the other guy know that, too.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Today is a 6 — Money, money, money, money. You need to count yours, to make plans and to figure out what you can afford. It's not easy for you to budget, but you can learn. Usually, you just go and get whatever you want, right? In your dreams!

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21) — Today is a 6 — You might as well get used to doing what you're told. A partner could get incredibly strong over the next few weeks. This is his or her turn to shine, so there's no point in arguing. The other person's already a little stronger, so relax.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Today is a 7 — Service is your motto during the coming phase. You are independent, so this may not be easy. You'll hear it over and over again for the next few weeks, however. What can you do for others? OK, then, get out and do it!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Today is an 8 — You get luckier as the days go by. Romance, games and children are all going to be easier and more plentiful, soon. You may not have been much of a social butterfly before, but you can learn. Start today by making others feel special.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Today is a 7 — You're trying to do several things at the same time, and maybe botching them all. Set priorities and move slowly. It's OK if it takes a while. Traffic may even be clogged, so minimize traveling, too. This is a good evening to hide out at home.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) — Today is a 7 — You focus on learning for the next few weeks; you'll astonish even yourself. Take on a huge study project. Postpone travel if you can, however. There'll be all sorts of delays and complications associated with that endeavor.

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