

Danielle Hickey Photo Editor

Joey Bracamonte beat his Oregon State counterpart Sunday, 14-7. The Ducks still lost to the Beavers, 30-12, in the second Civil War match of the season.

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got to a point where we are carrying baggage from every outing we've had, and we have to put down that baggage, and just deal with what the task at hand is. We want them to focus on the task at hand, but it's hard, especially

when you have a bunch of freshmen and sophomores."

The Ducks will wrap up their regular season Wednesday against Portland State in Portland, before heading to the Pac-10 Conference tournament.

Scott Archer is a freelance reporter

NEWS BRIEF

Blue Devils suffer first ACC loss

RALEIGH, N.C. - Julius Hodge hurdled the press table to embrace family members in the crowd Sunday night as N.C. State fans stormed

Top-ranked Duke had fallen 78-74 at the RBC Center, and it was time to celebrate.

Marcus Melvin stood atop the scorer's table and tossed a red towel into the crowd. Mike O'Donnell jumped on Scooter Sherrill's back.

"Great job, baby," O'Donnell said. Great job, indeed. No.21 N.C. State (16-5, 9-2 ACC) snapped Duke's 18game winning streak and pulled within a game of the Blue Devils (21-2, 10-1) in the ACC standings.

"It just felt really good," Sherrill said. "(O'Donnell) is a freshman. For him to be in an atmosphere like this, for him to realize that it can be done, we can beat anybody in the country, it felt really good."

Hodge and Melvin each scored 18 to lead the Wolfpack, and Melvin grabbed a game-high 11 rebounds. N.C. State outrebounded Duke 35-27 and shot 52 percent of the field, becoming the first Blue Devil opponent to shoot better than 50 percent in 28 games dating back to last season.

Duke trailed 36-26 at halftime but drew back within two points on a Chris Duhon three-pointer with 16:11 remaining. Hodge responded with a

N.C. State went 12-for-12 from the foul line in the final 1:10 to hold on for the victory.

rebound basket and a driving bank

shot over Duhon

We just have to learn from this feeling and not let it happen again, I guess," said Duke guard J.J. Redick, who scored 28 points. "Of course I was surprised we came out like this. We just didn't play the way we had the last couple of months.'

N.C. State improved to 2-5 against No.1 teams in Sendek's tenure. The Wolfpack defeated top-ranked North Carolina 86-72 on Feb. 21, 1998 in Chapel Hill under coach Herb Sendek.

Most of N.C. State's offense came in the paint as Duke's ball pressure was outstanding and limited the Wolfpack to six three-pointers and just 12 attempts.

"Coming into the game we knew they were going to try to limit our three-pointers," Hodge said. "Coach said we were going to go inside and stick to our program."

> - Ken Tysiac **Knight Ridder Newspapers**

Rodriguez heads to Yankees after New York, Texas talk

The superstar goes to New York after almost landing in Boston last month

> By Evan Grant The Dallas Morning News (KRT)

ARLINGTON, Texas — The Texas Rangers have waited all winter to trade Alex Rodriguez, so, hey, what's one more day?

Making sure that everyone in baseball knows nothing happens until he says it does, commissioner Bud Selig put the Rangers' blockbuster deal of Rodriguez to the New York Yankees on hold Sunday.

The Rangers had been hoping to have an afternoon press conference to announce the acquisition of versatile infielder and potential outfielder Alfonso Soriano, a minor leaguer to be named and significant cash relief. The Rangers are expecting to save approximately \$120 million over the final seven years of Rodriguez's 10year, \$252-million contract.

Though Selig issued no statement, a baseball official said the commissioner was simply taking time to review all the legal language with Major League Baseball's lawyers. The official said Selig's delay should not be interpreted as a red flag.

"I've been around the world long enough to know that nothing is done until it's done," Rangers owner Tom Hicks said. "But I think all along the Texas Rangers have been consistent in what we would and would not do."

The deal has apparently already cleared the most significant hurdle, gaining approval from the Major League Baseball Players Association.

Other than the players association, the biggest obstacle in the way of the deal was Hicks.

After the December trade to send Rodriguez to Boston fell through, Hicks started Rodriguez and the Rangers on the road to reconciliation. That included naming Rodriguez captain during a five-hour clear-the-air session in New York.

After that, Hicks said he was intent on moving forward with Rodriguez. The two met last week to again talk about the team's direction before the deal with the Yankees appeared.

"I really struggled with it," Hicks said. "But a window started developing. Alex decided it was an opportunity for him. And once we got the dollars right, we decided it was an opportunity for us. But we had turned this thing down three times before we even started taking it seriously.

"Once we got the dollars right, I asked both (GM) John Hart and (assistant GM) Grady Fuson separately if they thought this would help make us better faster. They both said it would."

While Selig approved the pro-posed trade of Rodriguez to Boston for Manny Ramirez, the union squashed the deal.

That deal, however, was far more complicated because Ramirez had almost \$100 million remaining guaranteed

money. The proposal with Boston called for Rodriguez to give back \$28 million in salary. The players association viewed that as significantly diminishing the contract's value and wouldn't lend its approval. Rodriguez deferred to the union.

Soriano is in a different situation. He will make \$5.4 million this year and will have two more years of being eligible for salary arbitration before free agency.

The drastic difference in salary allowed the Rangers to give the Yankees money and still end up with savings of more than \$100 million.

The Rangers have agreed to pay the Yankees \$40 million over the next seven years (about \$5.7 million per year) and to assume the remaining deferred money (about \$27 million) in Rodriguez's contract. Rodriguez has agreed to allow the start of those deferred payments to be pushed back from 2011 to 2016. He has also agreed to lower the interest rate on the deferments from 3 percent to 1.5 percent.

For those concessions, the Yankees reportedly will pay for a hotel suite for Rodriguez on the road and allow a link from the Yankees' web site to Rodriguez's site. While Rodriguez often got a suite while with the Rangers, the club paid only for a standard room. Rodriguez picked up the rest of the tab.

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Thomas makes waves with latest New York acquisitions

The Knicks received Tim Thomas and Nazr Mohammed from Atlanta on Sunday in a three team trade

> By Frank Isola New York Daily News (KRT)

LOS ANGELES — Tim Thomas is no Latrell Sprewell, but he's no Keith Van Horn, either. And that was apparently good enough for Isiah Thomas.

Open season on Scott Layden's players continued Sunday when Thomas, the Knicks' president, stole the spotlight at Sunday night's All-Star Game by acquiring forward Tim Thomas from the Bucks and Nazr Mohammed from the Hawks in a threeteam deal that sent Van Horn to

Milwaukee. Atlanta received Michael Doleac from the Knicks and Joel Przybilla from the Bucks.

The New York Daily News first reported Sunday that the Knicks and Bucks were discussing a Van Horn-for-Thomas deal.

"It's a good day for us in New York simply because we wanted to get more athletic," Thomas said. "I think any time you have the opportunity to trade one player and potentially get back two starters...it's very difficult to do nowadays with the salary cap and the players that we have."

The trade doesn't necessarily make the Knicks better. And it comes at a time when they were playing as well as any team in the Eastern Conference, having won five of their last seven.

Also, Van Horn's game had begun

to flourish since the arrival of Stephon Marbury. Overall, Van Horn averaged 16.4 points and 7.3 rebounds this season, while Thomas was averaging 14.1 points and 4.9 rebounds for Milwaukee. Most executives rank Sprewell ahead of both Thomas and Van Horn.

The only reason why we made the trade was because we got both players," Thomas said. "When you add Tim Thomas and Nazr Mohammed to our team, it makes us a much more athletic team. I think we've become a better defensive team, a better rebounding team and it also helps our future just in case Kurt Thomas leaves or Doleac wasn't coming back and (Dikembe) Mutombo is 38.

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