

SPORTS

SPORTS BRIEFS

BASKETBALL

U-Conn Caps Perfect Season:

Capping a perfect year University of Connecticut won its first NCAA championship and completed an undefeated season. In just its second visit. The Women's final four U-Conn came with championship. Not since 1986 had a team gone undefeated, when Texas went 34-0. The Huskies did them one better by posting a 35-0 record.

FOOTBALL

Cornerback Convicted

Kansas City Chief Cornerback Dale Carter was found guilty on a municipal charge of assault in a fight at hotel near Arrowhead stadium. He was convicted of the May 21 incident and given 180 days suspended, two years probation, and 40 hours of community service.

Walker Signs

Free agent running back Hershel Walker who was waived by the Philadelphia Eagles, has reached a tentative agreement to sign with the New York Giants. Terms were not disclosed.

YACHTING

The lone man on the Mighty Mary erred and consequently cost the team a victory it sorely needed to advance to the next round of competition.

It was a welcome break for Dennis Conner, a three time America's Cup winner who had lost three straight races and whose victory over the Mighty Mary was annulled, because of a mid-round keel change.

Sunday was the vessel of the annulled race and after the botched start it allowed the Stars and Strips to pull into a 3-3 tie.

The Mighty Mary needed only one victory to eliminate the Conner team.

A BASEBALL LEGEND RECOUNTS

Racial Threats Forced Hank Aaron To Hire Security When He Challenged Babe Ruth's Home Run Record

"I had to have security for the last two or three years of my career," commented Hank Aaron, who was the object of racial taunts and threats when he challenged Babe Ruth's home run record of 714.

Aaron told Parade Contributing Editor James Brady, who interviewed him for this Sunday's issue of the magazine, that even a white star, such as Mickey Mantle, would have been resented had he topped Ruth's record.

"They would have questioned his ability," he said. "There was with me the question of ability and also of race."

Aaron, who retired in 1976 with 755 home runs, was asked if he thinks anyone will ever break his record. "I think anyone can break any record," he replied. "But I played 23 years in the majors. I don't know if any of them (today's stars) want to play 23 years."



Hank Aaron, a 23 year veteran of baseball, now retired.

UCLA WEARS NCAA CROWN

Continued from front

"Our whole plan of attack was to receive the ball and attack the pressure, because they don't want you to run from set plays and that's fine with us. We're the kind of team, if you open the court, we'll make you pay," Harrick said.

The Bruins (31-2) cashed in all night. Dollar had eight assists. Charles O'Bannon had 6 and freshman Toby Bailey collected 26 points.

UCLA shot 53.1 percent in the second half. And the Bruin defense played a pivotal role in the their success Monday night.

Arkansas (32-7) rode into Seattle with an inside-out attack. That being 6 foot 7 inch, 245 pound Corliss Williamson scoring from the inside and Scotty Thurman bombing away from three point range.

However, against UCLA, Williamson went up against 7 foot George Zidek who weights 250 pounds.

Zidek was able to neutralize Williamson with his height and bulk and by moving his feet so Williamson couldn't shoot over or around him.

Also whenever Williamson touched the ball the Bruins would collapse on him and they were still quick enough to recover to the perimeter and hamper Thurman.

"I got caught in the physical play, trying to go inside," Williamson

said. "He was bumping and I wanted to go in. I guess bump back and shoot over him."

Williamson who had been averaging 22 points was held to 12 points. He was 3 for 16 and had 6 points from the foul line. Thurman was limited to 2 for 9 and five points.

The Razorbacks shot 35.1 percent in the second half and 43.1 percent for the game.

"I was getting good looks the whole game," Thurman said. "I just wasn't making the shots."

Early on the Bruins looked like they were in for a long night.

Harrick thought that the level of competition and adrenalin might see Edney through, so he started him.

But it quickly became evident that Edney could not dribble or shoot with his right hand. This necessitated calling Dollar's number to play.

Arkansas shot out in front 12-5 after Clint McDaniel, who paced the Razorbacks with 16 points, picked Dollar's pocket and roared in for a lay-up at the 17:16 mark to cap a 10-0 run.

UCLA couldn't regain the lead until Ed O'Bannon took a pass from his brother Charles and slammed it to put the Bruins ahead, 17-16.

UCLA led by as many as eight during the first half. But Arkansas wouldn't quit under the pressure and kept it close. The score at intermission was 40-39, Bruins.

In the second half, UCLA

turned up the heat and led by 10 on a baseball pass to Bailey from Ed O'Bannon. Bailey finished the play by reverse dunking the ball.

Try as they might, the Razorbacks couldn't make up the difference.

"Normally when we're behind in the game, we feel confident, regardless of how much time is on the clock or how far down we are," Williamson said. "Normally we get a run. Tonight, for some reason we couldn't get a chance to get that run."

Indicative of that was how the Razorbacks were out-rebounded, 50-31.

Williamson's free throws with 4:31 left, closed Arkansas to within 69-65, but that was as close as the Razorbacks could get.

Bailey's flying tip of Ed O'Bannon missed shot started a 8-0 run. Bailey closed the run when he took a pass from Charles O'Bannon and made a short jumper, with 3:15 remaining in the game. From there it was all academic and UCLA was on its way to its 11th national title.

SAFETY TIPS FOR LITTLE LEAGUE

BY DANNY BELL

Last Saturday play started for 60,000 Oregon children and 4,000 Little League teams.

What most fail to realize is that there is a real potential for injury in the course of participating in this popular past-time.

Kids of course, always have scraped knees, twisted ankles, and even a lost tooth or two while playing baseball.

But recent studies that have examined everything from pitchers' over-use injuries to incidents in which children have died have prompted such groups as the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Institute for Preventive Sports Medicine to push for new safety standards and better equipment for youth baseball and softball programs.

In discussions with pediatricians, sport medicine specialist and physical therapist one gets a clear message, that is children are not little adults.

They have bones that are still growing, cartilage not fully developed and baseball skills that have yet to be refined.

But somewhere amid the enjoyment, the excitement of play, and thrill of competition a simple message gets lost: play it safe.

The result of inattentiveness is that 107,000 visit to the emergency room occur as a result game related injuries.

Uncounted numbers more never make it to the doctor's office, instead

PLAY BALL

Strike settled

BY DANNY BELL

Well, the baseball strike is over as of Sunday. It was the longest and costliest work stoppage in the history of professional sports. It ended when the owners voted not to lock out the players, after the players agreed to return to the ball field without a renewed contract, and play under the old contract guidelines.

The season which was scheduled to start Sunday April 2nd with replacement players was canceled and moved to April 26. In the shortened season each team will play 144 games, 18 fewer than a regular season.

Acting commissioner Bud Selig was quoted "anyone who has gone through this eight month experience will let it serve as a poignant reminder that we have a responsibility to make sure it will never happen again certainly not in our life time."

Those were his sentiments however the players did not pledge that they would not strike again in the future.

Players may voluntarily start reporting to training camps in Florida and Arizona on Wednesday. Although some are expected to start trickling in on Monday. The mandatory reporting date is Friday.

The strike took a toll of 52 days off the 1994 season canceling 669 games. The World series and playoffs were canceled for the first time since 1904. It also knocked out the first 252 games of this season making a total 921 games lost.

"It was not a surrender. The players were on strike" Selig said "They made an unconditional offer to come back, and we accepted it."

Albeit, without a pledge not to strike any talk of a salary cap the precursor to this whole episode may well provoke the players to strike again.

"I think its clearly a step in the right direction" union head Donald Fehr, said. "If they had voted for a lock-out, it would have been an indication they didn't want peace - at any price".

Ask why didn't the players give a pledge not to strike, Fehr responded that to do so would raise legal complications for both sides.

President Clinton who put to a failed effort two months ago to resolve the strike, commented, "Today's decision is good news for the game of baseball, its fans and local economies of the cities where baseball is played."

While I am heartened to know this season will start with major league players, there are a number of underlining issues which still need to get resolved."

To that extent the two sides must work toward a new agreement to replace the old one which expire Dec 31-1993. The players walked out Aug 12, and ended the strike Friday, after U.S. District Judge Sonia Sotomayor found in the players favor, issuing an injunction forcing the owners to continue the work rules of the expired agreement.

Baseball's eight month work stoppage since 1972 was cause by the owners demand for salary cap. They tried impose it on Dec 22 but rescinded it Feb 6 when National Labor Relations Board threaten legal action.

When the teams refused to restore the old rules, the NLRB filed a complaint March 15, and then obtained the injunction.

BLAZERS CONTINUE DOWNWARD SPIRAL

BY ERIC NOON

It seems to be time to hold on, grab your seat cushion, put away those peanuts, and hope the downward spiral of The Portland Trail Blazers pulls up just short of impact.

Not only have The Blazers seem to hit decade low for the franchise on the court, now off the court The Blazers problems to be on the same flight headed for new and ever-changing rock bottoms.

The Blazers have been playing with no heart at times. And for fans who remember the overachiever of not many years ago, this one hard plane to follow. Not only is The Blazers record spinning towards the lottery, the losing has infected the team moral and focus between the players and coaches. Last week Rod Strickland voiced his frustration over the status of The Blazers and his attitude toward head coach P.J. Carlisimo.

"I don't like him-and you can write that," Strickland told Jeff Baker, Blazer beat writer. "I didn't like him in the beginning, and I don't

like him now. I', just going to play these last 14 games, and that's it."

This is a huge statement by Strickland who usually keeps his frustrations to himself. For him to come out publicly with statements like these and one last week in which The Blazers point guard jumped back at fans in saying they can "just go home, if they don't like it", that's how low The Blazers have fallen.

Sure it's easy to second guess but the hiring of a college coach like Carlisimo, might have been the move that sent the tail spinning out of control. Carlisimo, who never played in The NBA, might not have toned down his act enough as The Blazers haven't responded to his coaching techniques.

Always off the record before, The Blazers are not happy with the inconsistent and sometime overbearing style of the first year coach. With your floor general and most valuable player in Strickland standing up to the coach, some big questions are now on the management docket.

The players of the 90's in the NBA are a different strain than the players of old, and Carlisimo's con-

trolling style doesn't go far with players like Strickland who in the past has proved flourished with loose reigns by his coach.

Carlisimo, who eat and breaths basketball, might have good intentions, but his intensity for the game might turn out to be his downfall. Strickland is not the only unhappy Blazer, he's just the one who spoke up and yelled out the window as The Blazers rebuilding efforts keep falling.

We have to give The Blazers the benefit they will pull out of there rut and rally together around there veterans, but to be realistic this team is going nowhere quick and the lottery might be the best for the future at this point.

For The Blazers to move forward, they need to do it on the court, its amazing what winning can do for a team with no identity.

"Each and every one of us needs to look into the mirror and figure out what we can do make this team better." Said new comer and member of last years NBA Championship team, Otis Thorpe.

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