

# SPORTS

## SPORTS BRIEFS

### RB Lawrence Phillips Arrested, Thrown Off Team

Nebraska star tailback Lawrence Phillips has been thrown off the team after he was arrested early Sunday for an alleged attack on his ex-girlfriend.

Nebraska coach Tom Osborne said Phillips is "dismissed from the football team, effective immediately." When contacted by E-S-P-N Radio Sunday night, Phillips would not comment on the dismissal.

Phillips allegedly assaulted the unidentified woman early Sunday at an apartment in Lincoln. A spokesman for the Lincoln Police said the incident was reported at about 5:45 a.m. EDT. Phillips turned himself in to authorities at approximately 9:15 p.m. Sunday and was arrested on third-degree assault, a misdemeanor. He was released less than an hour later on \$100 bond.

### Woosnam To Replace Olazabal

Ian Woosnam of Britain today was named to replace Jose Maria Olazabal of Spain on the European Ryder Cup golf team that will oppose the United States later this month at Rochester, New York.

Olazabal has been bothered by a foot injury for months and decided to withdraw from the team. European Captain Bernard Gallacher added Woosnam to replace him. Woosnam, a former Masters champion, has appeared in the last six Ryder Cup competitions and was the top European player in the last competition two years ago at the Belfry in England. Olazabal had hoped that his sore right foot would heal in time for him to play but Gallacher said today the injury actually felt worse and that Olazabal decided he could not compete. Olazabal and fellow Spaniard Seve Ballesteros had 11 victories and two halves in 15 previous Ryder Cup matches.

### Oilers Agree To Contract Terms With Ranford

The Edmonton Oilers have agreed to terms with goaltender Bill Ranford on a one-year contract. Financial terms were not disclosed.

Ranford has reported to the team's training camp, which officially opened today.

The 28-year-old Ranford will be entering his 11th N-H-L season, and his ninth with the Oilers. He had a 15-20-3 record with a 3.62 goals-against average and two shutouts in 40 games last season. Ranford has a career 3.46 goals-against average in 441 regular season games with 10 shutouts.

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## RIPKEN PASSES LEGENDARY GEHRIG

Baseball fans lined the streets near Baltimore's Inner Harbor last week to pay tribute to Cal Ripken, the shortstop for the Baltimore Orioles who stepped into baseball immortality Wednesday night when he broke one of the most revered records in all of sports — Lou Gehrig's legendary streak of 2,130 consecutive games played.

The parade was one of two scheduled to honor Ripken. Another was held in Ripken's hometown of Aberdeen, Maryland. Ripken broke Gehrig's record Wednesday night in the Orioles' 4-2 win over the California Angels at Oriole Park at Camden Yards.

"Tonight I stand here, overwhelmed, as my name is linked with great and courageous Lou Gehrig," Ripken said in an emotional ceremony after the game. "I'm truly humbled to have our names spoken in the same breath.

"Some may think our strongest connection is because we both played many consecutive games," added Ripken, who thanked the Orioles fans, his parents, his wife Kelly and former teammate Eddie Murray. "Yet I believe in my heart that our true link is a common motivation — a love of the game of baseball, a passion for our team and a desire to compete at the

very highest level."

Ripken belted a solo shot off Shawn Boskie in his second at-bat in the fourth inning that sent the stadium into a disbelieving ovation. Ripken also homered on Tuesday night.

"You get so wrapped up in the emotional side of it, but you don't want to look like an idiot," Angels utility man Rex Hudler said. "In your heart, you want to high-five him. You have to keep the integrity of the game."

The record streak became his alone when the game became official after the top of the fifth inning. The canvas numbers hung on the warehouse outside the right field wall changed from 2,130 to 2,131 and a fireworks display began. Ripken took off his number 8 jersey and handed it to his wife, Kelly, and their two children. Beneath the jersey, Ripken wore a black T-shirt which read, "2,130+ Hugs and Kisses For Daddy."

"It was something I wanted to do," Ripken said. "I am not a collector, but I wanted to keep that as a memento, something that my children can take pride in. I couldn't think of giving it to anyone better than my kids."

Players from both teams joined in the long ovation. Teammate Bobby

Bonilla was one of many players taking pictures. Ripken took three curtain calls before taking a lap around the field, greeting fans for whom he has signed endless autographs in an attempt to rebuild baseball's broken relationship with America.

"In the last year and a half, with the negotiations on and then off, contract, no contract, and the strike, baseball really took a beating with the fans and in the fans' eyes," former teammate Al Bumbry said. "The thing he has accomplished this year has helped baseball and I know it's helped our city and our fans here."

Ripken took the field by himself and was greeted with an ovation from the sellout crowd before he was joined by his teammates.

His children tossed out the first ball to him. When he led off the bottom of the second inning, Ripken received a 30-second ovation that would have lasted a lot longer had he not tipped his batting helmet before popping out to the catcher. Ripken added an eighth-inning single and finished 2-for-4. The Orioles won, 4-2. It was practically a repeat performance of Tuesday night, when Ripken received numerous standing ovations in his record-tying 2,130th straight game and belted a homer in an 8-0 victory.

## CLINTON IN STANDS FOR RECORD

President Clinton believes Cal Ripken's consecutive-games streak will help pull major league baseball out of its post-strike doldrums.

"This is going to erase the bad taste in people's mouths," Clinton told a reporter as he watched Ripken set a new baseball record for consecutive games played last Wednesday night. "This is the best thing going for baseball."

Fan attendance has been down at ballparks across the country this year because of the lingering outrage about a strike that wiped out the World Series last year and cut into this year's season.

But if Clinton was any barometer, baseball could enjoy a rebound based on the euphoria surrounding Ripken's feat of playing in 2,131 straight games — a string that began in 1982 and breaks Lou Gehrig's of 2,030 straight, a record that once seemed unbeatable.

Just like any youth who loves

the game, Clinton looked awestruck when he chatted with Ripken in the Baltimore Orioles' locker room at Camden Yards before the record-breaking game. He was slack-jawed as he looked up at the six-foot-four, 35-year-old superstar.

"Congratulations," Clinton told him, and received a signed baseball, in addition to warm-up jackets for he and 15-year-old daughter Chelsea and a black Louisville Slugger bat with Ripken's written inscription: "Thanks for being here on this special day."

Clinton took the bat, and waving it around, said: "Think I should carry this to work?"

Vice President Gore was there too with his wife Tipper and their 12-year-old son Albert, who has recovered from a serious injury sustained when he was hit by a car after watching an Orioles game in 1989 in Baltimore.

Clinton and Gore received some

brief boos by some in the crowd when their images flashed on the stadium's big-screen television. It came at a time when people were yelling for Ripken to come out of the dugout to be applauded after he broke the record. Ripken obliged and the crowd roared its approval.

The presidential entourage included a big baseball fan, National Security Adviser Anthony Lake as well as White House Chief of Staff Leon Panetta, and the big group, including press, was ferried the 25-minute ride to Baltimore from Washington in six helicopters.

Clinton said Americans would do well to try to emulate Ripken's "dedication, devotion and consistency" and use it in their everyday lives, pointing out the example of a Virginia bus driver who had not missed a day of work in 18 years.

Of those qualities, he said: "We shouldn't view them as out of date or passe."

## GIRLS BASKETBALL LEAGUE ANNOUNCED

Registration is now open for girls in grades 6-8 to participate in a new basketball league sponsored by the YWCA of Portland Fitness and Swim program.

The season begins Sept. 26 and lasts 10 weeks. There will be one game and one practice per week aside from the first two weeks when there is practice only.

All of the sessions will take place weekdays, between 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. Registration deadline is Sept. 18. Fees are \$36 per player and includes a team jersey.

Registration can be made by phone at 294-7416 or in person at the YWCA Fitness and Swim Department, 1111 S.W. 10th Ave., Portland, OR 97205.

## SPREWELL ARRESTED IN TRAFFIC STOP

Golden State Warriors All-Star guard Latrell Sprewell was arrested in Oakland for driving with a suspended license and allegedly threatening a police officer.

Sprewell was charged with driving with a suspended license and obstructing traffic and allegedly threatened a police officer who chased his truck, according to Oakland police.

Sprewell was released after posting bail of \$6,000 and was scheduled to be arraigned last week in Oakland Municipal Court.

According to sergeant Larry Krupp of the Oakland Police Department, an officer observed Sprewell speed away from a stop sign and then followed the truck through downtown Oakland.

Sprewell then stopped and blocked a lane of traffic as he was talking to a man walking across the street.

Police then confronted Sprewell, who allegedly threatened a police officer with racial slurs, and arrested him after a routine computer check revealed the traffic warrants.

Despite being voted to the All-Star game as a starting guard for the Western Conference, Sprewell endured a turbulent 1994-95 season.

He was suspended twice during the season for missing a practice and a team function and was involved in a bitter feud with backcourt partner Tim Hardaway.

Sprewell averaged 20.6 points, 4.0 assists and 1.6 steals in 69 games for the Warriors last season.

## SANDERS TO EARN \$5 MILLION PER SEASON

The Dallas Cowboys have officially announced the signing of two-sport star Deion Sanders to a seven-year contract worth \$35 million with a record signing bonus of \$12.999 million.

The terms of Sanders' contract were disclosed by Cowboys owner Jerry Jones at a morning news conference in the Stadium Club at Texas Stadium.

"This has been the biggest decision of my life," said Sanders at the news conference. "This was really a family decision."

The last two years of the contract are voidable, making the deal worth \$25 million over five years. Sanders is the first defensive player in the NFL to average \$5 million per season.

Sanders' signing bonus surpassed the record \$11.5 million quarterback Drew Bledsoe received from the New England Patriots when he

## RIPKEN HOME RUN BALL NOT FOR SALE

The fan who retrieved the home run hit by Cal Ripken in his record-tying 2,130th consecutive game last Tuesday night said the ball is not for sale.

Mike Stirn, a 32-year-old homebuilder from Sykesville, Maryland, left the Baltimore stadium under police escort after corraling Ripken's homer leading off the sixth inning. Ripken played in his 2,130th straight game, tying the record held by Lou Gehrig.

"I have been offered as high as \$2,500 for the ball but it is not for sale, for no price," said Stirn, a season-ticket holder who attended the game with his wife, Tracey. "Maybe me and Cal can work some-

thing out," he said.

Stirn's good fortune was a stroke of luck. He said he has been to about 80 games this season and "haven't had a ball come within 10 feet of me."

Stirn wanted to buy one of the commemorative \$20 baseballs made by Rawlings for the historic event, but the collector's items quickly sold out.

Apparently, Ripken is not interested in collector's items.

"It would be nice to have it but if I don't get it back I still have the feeling inside," he said. "It would be nice to have it but I don't need a baseball to remind me that I hit it."

## SECOND FAN SAYS BALL IS RIPKEN'S

A man with a broken thumb who caught Cal Ripken's fourth-inning homer in his record-breaking 2,131st consecutive game Wednesday night said he will give the ball to the Baltimore Orioles shortstop.

Bryan Johnson, a 33-year-old Public Health Service worker who lives in Pasadena, Maryland, had a cast on his right hand but caught the historic ball left-handed. He said he was offered \$5,000 for the ball by another fan but is giving the ball to Ripken because "right is right."

"The ball should be with Cal," Johnson said. "Look at what he stands for and all the memories he has given us. I could use the money but life isn't all about money."

"It makes you feel good as a human being," Ripken said when told of Johnson's decision. "It shows a deeper feeling."

Johnson's catch came one night after season-ticket holder Mike Stirn caught Ripken's homer in Tuesday's record-tying game.

Unlike Johnson, Stirn said the ball he caught is "not for sale, at no price."

Johnson, also a season-ticket holder, said he had never caught a ball in the stands before.

"It hit five rows in back of me and bounced back," said Johnson, who hurt his thumb in a triathlon a couple of weeks ago. "It was one of the luckiest things that ever happened to me."

Stirn, a 32-year-old homebuilder from Sykesville, Maryland, was offered \$2,500 for his ball.

He required a police escort to leave Oriole Park at Camden Yards on Tuesday after corraling Ripken's homer leading off the sixth inning.

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