

SPORTS

SPORTS BRIEFS

BASKETBALL NBA Refs Out, Replacements Hired

The NBA began a lock out of members of the National Basketball Referees Association Sunday and hired replacement refs. The announcement came after the union rejected a no-strike, no-lockout agreement that the league said it would accept while a new collective bargaining agreement with the referees continues to be negotiated.

The last collective bargaining agreement between the league and referees expired on Sept. 1. The NBA has offered a 10 percent salary increase for the 95-96 season and an overall 30 percent increase over five years. The officials are asking for a 70 percent increase for next season.

The league said that replacement officials have been hired to attend a training camp that will open Oct. 1. They will officiate all NBA games starting with the first pre-season game Oct. 12. A no-strike, no-lockout agreement with the players enabled the 1994-95 season to be played without interruption.

Olajuwon To Miss Preseason

Houston Rockets superstar center Hakeem Olajuwon said he will likely miss the preseason due to a back injury.

The injury forced promoters to cancel Saturday's pay-per-view, one-on-one contest with Orlando Magic center Shaquille O'Neal scheduled for Atlantic City.

Olajuwon suffered the injury while in London promoting the upcoming McDonald's basketball championship. The NBA sends a team to the annual tournament, which features the best teams from various European League. Olajuwon had his back examined in Atlantic City Friday by Doctor Francis Pflum of New York's St. Vincent's Hospital. Pflum diagnosed the injury as a bilateral sprain of the lower back.

Olajuwon and O'Neal were scheduled to compete in a \$1 million one-on-one competition at the Trump Taj Mahal Resort. It was to be distributed by Showtime Event Television. Olajuwon and O'Neal were to play 10 rounds for a total of \$100,000 per round.

FOOTBALL

Rockies Make History In Playoff Run

The Colorado Rockies became the youngest expansion team ever to qualify for post-season play, rallying from a six-run deficit and hanging on to defeat the San Francisco Giants, 10-9.

The Rockies, in their third year, were scheduled to host the National League East champion Atlanta Braves on Tuesday, in a best-of-five series. The Rockies win the NL wild-card berth.

The Los Angeles Dodgers, who clinched the Western Division title with a 7-2 victory over the Padres on Saturday, were to open the playoffs Tuesday at home against the Central Division champion Cincinnati Reds.

Mariners Fall In First Playoff

Ruben Sierra smashed a two-run homer to cap a four-run seventh inning and David Cone pitched eight strong innings as the New York Yankees defeated the Seattle Mariners, 9-6, Tuesday in the first

game of their American League Divisional Playoff series.

The Yankees, who were making their first post-season appearance in 14 years, recorded their first playoff win since Game Two of the World Series on October 21st, 1981, against the Los Angeles

Dodgers.

Game Two is Wednesday night at Yankee Stadium, which drew a record crowd of 57,178 for the first game.

The sellout was the first at Yankee Stadium since the 1994 season-opener and the paid attendance represents the largest crowd since the stadium underwent renovation for the 1976 season.

Tied at 4-4, Randy Velarde was hit by Jeff Nelson to open the seventh.

Bobby Ayala relieved and was

greeted with a single by Wade Boggs that sent Velarde to third. Bernie Williams then lined a double to deep center field that Ken Griffey misjudged, scoring Velarde and sending Boggs to third.

Paul O'Neill's sacrifice fly scored Boggs for a 6-4 lead before Sierra deposited Ayala's 2-1 pitch well over the right-field wall.

Cone (1-0) allowed four runs and six hits over eight innings.

Coe, who is 3-2 in eight post-season starts, struck out five and

matched his season high with six walks. It was the third time this season that Cone has walked six.

Closer John Wetteland struggled in the ninth, but struck out Mike

Blowers, who represented the tying run, to end the game.

Griffey tied the game at 4-4 for Seattle with a two-run homer, his second of the game, in the seventh.

The Yankees took a 4-2 lead in the bottom of sixth, as Don Mattingly singled in Williams to

snap a tie and came around to score on Mike Stanley's single.

Dan Wilson walked with the bases loaded in the sixth to tie the game at 2-2 for the Mariners.

Griffey cut into New York's 2-0 lead with a solo homer off the facade of the right field upper deck in the fourth. Griffey had three hits, drove in three runs and scored three times.

Boggs gave the Yankees a 2-0 lead with a two-run homer to center field in the third. Boggs and Williams had three hits apiece.

Knott Street Boxing Tourney

The best in Knott Street boxing is held this weekend at the Matt Dishman Community Center.

The public is invited to the Clyde Quisenberry Memorial Allstar Amateur Boxing Tournament, co-sponsored by the Police Activities League at 7 p.m. Saturday at the Portland Parks Bureau Center at 77 N.E. Knott St. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$2 for children.

Knott Street Boxing Coaches Ray Monge and Joe Calder and hoping that boxers from the tournament will qualify for the National PAL Boxing Championships, Oct. 28 - Nov. 3 in Texas. The Saturday tournament is a

pre-qualifier for the 1996 Olympic Trials.

Proceeds from ticket sales and a raffle will help offset costs of qualifying boxers to attend the national championships.

"We're excited about any opportunities that involve youth in activities which keep them focused on discipline and commitment," said PAL Activities Coordinator Nicci Johnson. "By working with Knott Street, we may get to help some boxers get a shot at the Olympics."

PAL is a collaboration of kids, cops and the community offering recreational, athletic and educational pro-

grams designed to encourage and develop good citizenship.

During the 1940s, PAL in Portland was founded by police officer Mickey Pease who believed that through boxing and other athletic programs kids could be turned around.

This year, PAL served 1,800 kids in 10 programs.

Tickets for the boxing tournament are available at Catalina Restaurant, EZ & Al's Salon, Geneva's Salon, One Stop Records, the Portland Parks Bureau community centers Matt Dishman and Community Park and the Northeast Precinct PAL office. For more information, call 823-0250.

SAM BOWIE RETIRES AFTER 11 YEARS

Sam Bowie, whose 11 year NBA career was plagued by injuries, announced his retirement today. The 7-foot-1 Bowie was the second player selected in the 1984 draft - behind Hakeem Olajuwon and ahead of Michael Jordan. He played for the Portland Trail Blazers from 1984 to 1989, then spent four seasons with the New Jersey Nets and two with the Los Angeles Lakers.

The 34-year-old Bowie missed the entire 1987-88 season and was sidelined for 438 games during his career because of leg injuries. Bowie played in just five games in 1986-87 and 20 in 1988-89, his final season with Portland. He also missed two full college seasons at Kentucky while recovering from a stress fracture of his left tibia.

Bowie was traded by Portland to New Jersey, along with a first-round draft pick, following the 1988-89 season for Buck Williams. He enjoyed his finest N-B-A season in 1991-92 with the Nets, averaging 15.0 points and 8.2 rebounds. He appeared in a career-high 79 games during the 1992-93 campaign, leading New Jersey in blocked shots (128). He averaged 10.4 points and seven rebounds during his pro career.

Chicago Acquires Dennis Rodman

The Chicago Bulls Monday acquired controversial power forward Dennis Rodman, the NBA rebounding champion each of the last four years, from the San Antonio Spurs in exchange for reserve center Will Perdue and other considerations.

The acquisition of Rodman, the league's premier rebounder, makes the Bulls the likely Eastern Conference co-favorite with the Orlando Magic.

Rodman joins a Bulls team that features All-Stars Michael Jordan and Scottie Pippen and fills Chicago's glaring need for a rebounding forward since the departure of Horace Grant.

"He's the best rebounder in this league," Chicago general manager Jerry Krause said. "We certainly had a weakness in our rebounding situation last year. We think he's going to be an outstanding addition to our basketball team. We spent 36 hours with

Dennis this weekend. Dennis was in Chicago. We had a lot of conversations with him, we felt good about those conversations."

Along with establishing himself as the league's premier rebounder, Rodman has been named to the NBA's All-Defensive Team six times.

But the 34-year-old Rodman is probably better known for his ever-changing hair color, his tattoos and his offbeat behavior.

The 6-8, 210-pound Rodman spent a tumultuous two seasons with the Spurs in which he had been suspended numerous times by head coach Bob Hill for missing practices and "conduct detrimental to the team."

He averaged 16.8 rebounds and 7.1 points in 49 games for the Spurs last year.

"The Spurs won games before Dennis Rodman came here and we'll win games after Dennis Rodman, I

think our fans know that," said Spurs general manager Gregg Popovich. "Dennis is not the point here. The

team is the point."

The last straw for Rodman in San Antonio may have come when he

lashed out at team management and

teammates in a recent interview with

ESPN Radio.

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