

# SPORTS

## Buy me some peanuts and aluminum bats

Ah, spring training. The "POP!" of gloves, the "PING!" of bats.

Ping? That's right, the Korean National team were allowed to use aluminum bats in an exhibition game against the New York Mets today. Major league teams are not allowed to use aluminum bats, which are popular in college and Little League.

Mets manager Bobby Valentine doesn't care what kind of bats the Koreans use.

"I don't think that there's any doubt that this team won't get many hits," Valentine said as he perused a scouting report. "They shouldn't. They have to fill in a lot of good hitters to be the kind of team that's going to win the Asian tournament."

Mets Korean pitcher Jae-Weong Seo, who is slated to pitch against his former teammates in another exhibition on Thursday, said hitters are definitely more fearsome when wielding aluminum.

"You can tell the type of hit with a wooden bat's crack," Seo said through an interpreter. "With the aluminum, you can't tell if it's a solid hit or not. It could be a bloop single or a home run - same sound."

The Korean team knows Seo, but they may not recognize his pitches. The 20-year-old right-hander has added something to his arsenal of pitches during spring training.

"I'm going to throw in some forkballs and change-ups," Seo said.

Valentine planned to use six pitchers in each of the games against the Koreans.

"I hope the only cutoffs and relays we work on are in practice," Valentine said.

At Fort Myers, Fla., Jeff Frye's knee punctuated Boston's spring training camp with a big, loud pop.

In the middle of a rundown drill, the second baseman fell to

pitched two hitless innings in an intrasquad game Tuesday, using a two-seam fastball that he hopes will keep his home-run totals down from last year.

Although struggling with his curveball, Irbu threw 17 of 31 pitches for strikes and didn't allow a hit or a run to a lineup of Yankees regulars.

Irbu gave up two walks and struck out none.

Andy Pettitte also went two innings, allowing one run and three hits. The lefty, who had experienced back pain late last season,

sailed through his 34-pitch, 22-strike performance.

"My back felt good and my arm feels great," said Pettitte, who struck out two and walked none.

David Cone's next hurdle following offseason shoulder surgery comes today when the Yankees play another intrasquad game.

With spring training well under way, Cuban defector Orlando Hernandez is getting anxious about signing a major league contract.

"Hopefully something will result soon, in two or three days," Hernandez told reporters after a training session in Costa Rica. "I feel a certain uncertainty over the wait."

Hernandez, older brother of Florida Marlins World Series MVP Liván Hernandez, fled Cuba on Dec. 26. The Cuban government banned him from competition for making contact with professional baseball scouts.



## BASEBALL

## TIGER WOODS PRAISES CHARLIE SIFFORD

When Charlie Sifford is honored this weekend for winning the Los Angeles Open 29 years ago, Tiger Woods will have a very personal reason to shake his hand - and thank him.

Woods, whose mother is Thai and father is black, fully realizes that his friend helped break golf's color barrier almost three decades ago.

"Charlie, in my opinion, is one of the most courageous men ever to play this sport," said Woods, who will compete this week in the Nissan Open, formerly called the Los Angeles Open.

"To deal with the things he had to deal with, society and the racism, he kept fighting and fighting to the point where he knocked down the Caucasian clause. If it wasn't for him, his strong will, who knows, I might have never had the chance to play golf. My dad might not have picked up the sport."

Woods, 22, considers Sifford and Lee Elder, another black golf pioneer, like grandparents.

"They're awesome. They call me, I call them, we just talk. We have a great relationship," he said.

Although Woods is from a different generation than Sifford and Elder, he also has experienced discrimination at times in his life.

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"I had to deal with a lot of the things they had to when I was growing up and I wasn't allowed to play in a lot of places," Woods said. "My dad explained to me what these two gentlemen did and I just kept going."

"I learned at a very early age." The learning experience included his first day of kindergarten.

"Some sixth graders tied me to a tree and threw rocks at me and yelled 'nigger' at me the entire time," Woods said. "The teacher came and let me

go but didn't walk me home, and I only lived across the street.

"The sixth graders chased me all the way home. I had my own friends that were cool; it was just one of those deals. We grew up middle class or a little above that. We were the only minority family in our block."

Sifford, 75, was 39 before blacks were allowed on the tour. He became the first black tour member to win a tournament, the 1967 Greater Hartford Open.

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Benson-JM,J	16	0		
Jefferson-W,B	12	4	B,L,R,R	
Cleveland-L,M	10	6	B,B,J,J,L,W	
Wilson-J,JM	10	6	B,B,C,G,J,R	
Roosevelt-F,L	9	7	B,B,C,C,G,L,W	
Grant-M,F	8	8	B,B,C,C,J,J,R,W	
Lincoln-C,R	7	9		
Franklin-R,G	4	12		
Madison-G,C	4	12		
Marshall-B,W	0	16		

GIRLS - FINAL BASKETBALL		W	L
Jefferson	17	1	
Wilson*	14	4	
Benson**	13	5	
Lincoln**	13	5	
Grant	11	7	
Franklin	9	9	
Madison	5	13	
Cleveland	4	14	
Marshall*	3	15	
Roosevelt	1	17	

BOYS - FINAL SWIMMING		W	L	I
Lincoln	8	0		
Benson	7	1		
Wilson	6	2		
Grant	5	3		
Cleveland	4	4		
Franklin	3	5		
Madison	2	6		
Roosevelt	1	7		
Jefferson	0	8		

GIRLS - FINAL SWIMMING		W	L	I
Lincoln	8	0		
Grant	7	1		
Wilson	6	2		
Roosevelt	5	3		
Cleveland	4	3		
Benson	3	5		
Franklin	2	6		
Madison	1	7		
Jefferson	0	8		

FINAL WRESTLING		W	L
Grant	8	1	
Benson	8	1	
Madison	7	2	
Wilson	6	3	
Franklin	5	4	
Jefferson	5	4	
Cleveland	2	7	
Roosevelt	2	7	
Lincoln	1	8	
Marshall	1	8	

Update 2/24/98

## College Sports Hire Few Minorities

The grades are in for minority hiring in college sports, and they're lousy. A new study released Tuesday by Northeastern University's Center for the Study of Sport in Society found that while the record for minority hiring in pro basketball, football and baseball is poor, it's even worse at the college level.

The "Racial Report Card" covering the 1995-96 academic year showed that college sports have the worst record for hiring women and minorities; the percentage of black players decreased in college and pro sports; and that majority ownership in sports for minorities does not exist.

"There has been very little progress in the patterns of hiring people of color and women in pro and college sport," said Richard Lapchick, author of the report and director of the center.

The center conducts an annual study of the racial composition of players, coaches and front office employees in pro basketball, football and baseball. This year, it widened its focus to include colleges.

"Despite well intentioned efforts, white males still control most of our teams, front offices and athletic departments," Lapchick said.

The center found that in 1996, 71.4 percent of the NCAA's top executives were white and about 21 percent were black. About 92.1 percent of the organization's chief aides were white; 5.3 percent were black and 2.6 percent were Latino.

More than 80 percent of the NCAA's office managers were white; 9.4 percent were black; and 1.9 percent were Latino.

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