

SPORTS BRIEFS

SPORTS

Williams a Unique Heisman Winner

International Team Wins Presidents Cup

MELBOURNE, Australia - International captain Peter Thomson carried the most important piece of local knowledge in the Presidents Cup.

A five-time British Open champion, Thomson was quietly confident all week that when the Presidents Cup left American soil for the first time, the 14-inch sterling trophy would not be returning with the U.S. team.

King defenseman gets three-game suspension

NEW YORK - Rob Blake of the Los Angeles Kings was suspended Monday for three games without pay and fined \$1,000 for slashing Vancouver Canucks center Harry York.

Based on his \$5.27 million salary, Blake will lose more than \$82,000. The defenseman was given a major penalty and a game misconduct for the two-handed slash, which struck York in the forearm in the third period of Los Angeles 3-0 victory on Saturday. York left the game and did not return.

Awake, Alert DiMaggio Says 'No More Press'

HOLLYWOOD, Fla. - Joe DiMaggio must be feeling better. He told his doctors to shut up.

Two days after awakening from a coma, an irate DiMaggio ordered them Sunday to stop giving public updates on his recovery from lung cancer surgery and pneumonia.

Doctors had said Friday that the 84-year-old baseball great was very close to death. Now, he's talking and trying to recapture the privacy he has always cherished.

Giants Stun Broncos, 20-16

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. - Rest easy, '72 Miami Dolphins. The Denver Broncos are no longer perfect.

The Broncos' dreams of becoming the first NFL team since those Dolphins to go undefeated ended Sunday when Kent Graham threw a 37-yard touchdown pass to Amani Toomer with 48 seconds left, giving the New York Giants a shocking 20-16 victory.

Attack on coach

CHARLOTTE, N.C. - The Carolina Panthers suspended Kevin Greene for one game without pay Monday, one day after he attacked an assistant coach on the sidelines during the team's loss to the Washington Redskins.

Greene's suspension will cost him \$117,647.05, the equivalent of one week's pay from his 1998 salary of \$2 million. Upon learning of the team's action, NFL officials said they planned no further sanctions against Greene.

Brown's signing continues Fox's remaking of Dodgers

LOS ANGELES (AP) - When Peter O'Malley decided to sell the Los Angeles Dodgers, he realized the days when a family-run and family-financed baseball team could succeed were drawing to a close. The game was going to big corporations with big bucks.

O'Malley's observations have been clearly illustrated by Rupert Murdoch's News Corp., which bought the franchise from him last March.

NEW YORK - There's never been a Heisman Trophy winner quite like Texas tailback Ricky Williams.

Not only did he become the first Heisman winner with dreadlocks, a stud in his tongue and four tattoos, he also turned college football's ultimate individual prize into a team triumph.

Unique, indeed. "The knock on me winning the Heisman Trophy at the beginning of the year was that I wouldn't play on a team good enough for me to win it," Williams said after running up the fourth largest margin of victory in Heisman history. "But my teammates came through, and we went 8-3. I share this award with them."

Back in Austin, Texas, many of his

buddies gathered to watch the announcement on TV. When the obvious became official, and the Longhorns had their second Heisman winner - Earl Campbell won in 1977 - the crowd jumped to its feet and the party was on.

In New York City, too. After dozens of interviews, Williams and his entourage, including his mother, Sandy, twin sister, Cassie, and younger sister, Nisey, left the Downtown Athletic Club in a white stretch limo and headed for a private party.

On Sunday night, the 6-foot, 225-pound San Diegan who broke Tony Dorsett's career rushing record, was officially welcomed into the Heisman fraternity at a dinner. And on Monday night, Williams receives his trophy - a



With 714 first-place votes and 2,355 points, Williams had the highest percentage of points won with 43 percent.

25-pound bronze statue of a player side-stepping and straight-arming his way to a mythical touchdown - at the formal Heisman dinner.

At Monday's dinner, there also will be a tribute to 1948 Heisman winner Doak Walker, Williams' friend and idol who died a few months ago. Earlier this season, Williams received permission to wear Walker's No. 37 against Oklahoma at the Cotton Bowl, also known as the "house that Doak built." Williams had 139 yards and two TDs in a 34-3 rout of the Sooners.

Williams ran for 2,124 yards and 27 touchdowns this season and made life a dream for new coach Mack Brown, who replaced the fired John Mackovic. Once Williams decided to pass on the NFL

draft and return to school, Brown wanted Williams to reach his goals.

Williams set 16 NCAA records and 44 school marks in leading the Longhorns into a Cotton Bowl matchup against Mississippi State on Jan. 1. Among the career records he set are: yards (6,279), scoring (452 points), touchdowns (75) and all-purpose yards (7,206).

But while Williams was cool during the season, he was nearly overwhelmed by the fraternity he joined.

"I was really relaxed until I walked into the room and saw all the portraits of the Heisman winners," Williams said. "Then, I was really nervous until they called my name. This is overwhelming to think I'm part of all this history."

NBA lockout claims 100 league jobs

NEW YORK (AP) - The NBA has lost more than 100 employees during the lockout and its workforce is expected to shrink even more.

Commissioner David Stern said some of the remaining employees could face layoffs if the season is canceled.

"We're still hoping to make a deal, so we haven't contemplated that yet. But obviously that would affect the situation dramatically," Stern said. "Right now, we're 125 positions reduced from where we were in June through attrition and the elimination of part-time work and the like. We're achieving very successful cutbacks without mandating layoffs."

The league has had a hiring freeze and payroll freeze since July 1, and Stern has not been drawing his salary.

League spokesman Brian McIntyre said those who left their jobs worked in various departments in a variety of positions. All of them, he added, left voluntarily.

The number of league employees is down to about 750. The NBA office draws its budget from a 6 percent cut of gate receipts. The losses represent more than 10 percent of the NBA's employees.

Many NBA employees - some of whom have been lamenting their job security for weeks - planned to attend the league's Christmas party today at the NBA Store in Manhattan.

The store was closed to the public today during the afternoon - sort of a lockout of holiday shoppers.

Another new twist was added to the lockout today as Newsweek re-

ported that some players believe race is playing a factor in negotiations.

The union's leadership and all but two of the players on the negotiating committee are black, while all the owners and the league's top two officials are white.

"I think there is a perception from the owners to even some fans that we're blacks who should be happy with what we've got - fair or not," said Alonzo Mourning of the Miami Heat. "There's a lack of respect given us in large part because we're athletes. I'm not saying it's all about race because it's not - but it plays a factor."

Stern denied race is an issue and pointed out that the league has successfully promoted a sport whose player population is nearly 90 percent black.

"This is a collective bargaining dispute - no more, no less," he said.

The league and the union met Saturday for less than 30 minutes, one of their shortest meetings of the 5 month-old dispute.

Before the session, Hunter said: "What we've put on the table so far is not something they're going to be quick to run away from."

Hunter then put even more concessions on the table, but it wasn't enough. No new talks are scheduled.

The quick end to Saturday's session surprised many around the league, especially some on the ownership side who had been told after Thursday's secret negotiating session that a deal was close.

The union contingent seemed to think the same thing as it walked into Saturday's meeting, hoping the sides

would make enough progress to call back the full negotiating teams Tuesday or Wednesday to perhaps close the deal.

But the league's bargaining team took a different tack, arriving in a gloom-and-doom mode.

The union's offer, which was believed to include an absolute limit on the top salary for any player with less than seven years' of experience, wasn't good enough to keep Stern at the table.

Stern has said the season will cancel itself if a deal isn't reached in the not-too-distant future. The union still thinks he is bluffing.

"No one knows what their schedule is," said union lawyer Jeffrey Kessler. Stern insists he's serious. "Right now it does not look good," he said.

Williams Sets Rebound Mark In Power Home Win



Natalie Williams demonstrating one for the history books

The Portland Power's Natalie Williams set American Basketball League history Friday night and did so on a night when she didn't have even an average game. It was a good thing that four of her teammates chipped in with double figure scoring, as the Power beat the Seattle Reign 76-63 at memorial Coliseum.

Williams finished with a season-low 10 points and seven rebounds, but DeLisha Milton (a game-high 19), Elaine Powell (16), Sonja Henning (12) and Katy Steding (11) each scored in double figures for Portland (6-4).

Despite a lower than average (9.9) rebounding performance, Williams became the first player in ABL history to record 1,000 career rebounds with her first rebound of the second quarter. She finished the game with 1,004 career boards.

Seattle (7-4) was led by Angela Aycock's 15 points.

The Power led 32-20 at halftime, but were keyed by 7-of-10 shooting in the third period and 2-of-3 from three-point range to push the lead to 54-39 going into the fourth quarter. Seattle got eight points from Neisa Johnson in the period, but shot just 36.4 percent as team fell further behind. To open the fourth period Seattle outscored the home team 10-3, to cut the Power lead to 57-49. But Milton notched eight points and four rebounds to push the Portland lead to 61-49 with 5:35 to play. The Power forward had back-to-back buckets in between a three-point basket by Aycock. From there Milton made two more free-throws and a basket in the lane to go with a rebound and basket by Rhonda Smith to get the Portland lead up to 15 points with 2:53 to play.

Milton's double-double was her second in the last three games, and the fourth of her career.



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