

SPORTS BRIEFS

A Dark Day for German Soccer

BERLIN—Some called it a debacle. Others were stunned. Franz Beckenbauer said the loss points to a generational crisis in German soccer.

Swift and undisguised anger across Germany followed the national team's 3-0 loss to the United States on Saturday in Jacksonville, Fla.

"After I heard that the score is 3-0 I thought this can't be true," said German captain, Oliver Bierhoff, who didn't accompany the three-time world champions on their U.S. tour. It was the U.S. team's first win over Germany in four games between the nations.

Ethics Report Targets Welch, Johnson

SALT LAKE CITY—The top two officials of Salt Lake's Olympic bid were condemned today for ethical violations by an internal investigation of the biggest corruption scandal in the history of the games.

The report focused on Tom Welch, who directed the successful bid for the 2002 Winter Olympics, and Dave Johnson, his top lieutenant. It also singled out Craig Peterson, the former finance chief for the Salt Lake Organizing Committee.

The investigation by the independent panel, headed by a former Utah Supreme Court justice, found no evidence of criminal conduct, said SLOC attorney Beth Wilkinson. "This is an ethical dilemma, and we did find several instances in which individuals stepped over the line," she said.

Hingis reclaims top spot from Davenport

STAMFORD, Conn.—Martina Hingis regained the world's No. 1 tennis ranking 17 weeks after she lost it.

Hingis earned the top spot during her victory at the Pan Pacific Open in Tokyo on Sunday. Her semifinal win over No. 3 Jana Novotna on Saturday assured the 18-year-old Hingis of moving up from No. 2 after top-ranked Lindsay Davenport was beaten by Amanda Coetzer in the quarterfinals.

Bure Signs Deal to Play in Florida Through 2003-04

SUNRISE, Fla.—Pavel Bure was willing to give up hockey to get away from the Vancouver Canucks. Now he wouldn't mind spending the rest of his playing days in South Florida.

"I'm really enjoying it here," the three-time 50-goal scorer said after signing a contract extension Monday that will keep him with the Florida Panthers through at least the end of the 2003-04 season.

"It's nice to have a long-term contract. I've always felt comfortable here. It feels good to be around the guys and playing the game."

Falcons Receiver Charged With Money Laundering

MIAMI—Another Atlanta Falcons player is taking a legal hit. Receiver Tony Martin, 33, who caught five passes in the Falcons' 34-19 Super Bowl loss to Denver, returned to Miami Monday, appearing in court in shackles to face money laundering and conspiracy charges.

Pro Bowl safety Eugene Robinson was arrested the night before the Super Bowl on charges of soliciting oral sex from a female undercover police officer.

Robinson is due back in court March 2, but Martin is potentially in much deeper legal trouble.

"I'm not guilty of anything," Martin said after being released on \$250,000 bond. "This whole thing is ludicrous. After this trial is over, I will be cleared."

Check out next week in Sports Briefs

SPORTS

Trailblazers Triumph over Grizzlies

VANCOUVER—British Columbia The Portland Trail Blazers aren't sure what they have in Jimmy Jackson yet. They certainly like what they've seen so far.

Jackson, who signed a three-year deal as a free agent last week, scored 17 points in 26 minutes to help the Trail Blazers to a 95-76 win over the Grizzlies in Vancouver's NBA home opener on Monday night.

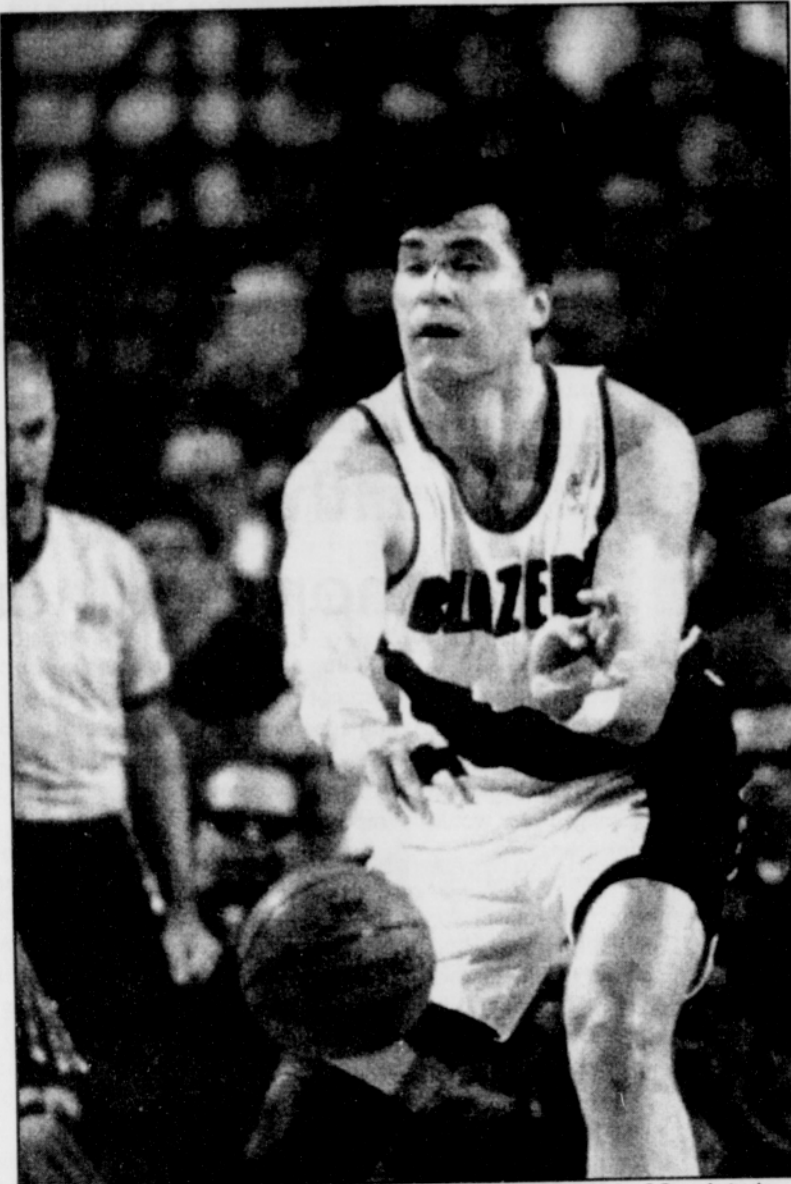
"Jimmy played great for us," said coach Mike Dunleavy, who used Jackson just 17 minutes in the Trail Blazers' season-opening 91-88 loss to Seattle the previous night.

"The thing is, yesterday was the first game we had with Jimmy. I'm trying to learn about him and feel him out and what the best positions are to put him in, but he certainly showed his all-around game tonight."

Jackson, once a member of the highly touted Dallas Mavericks' Triple-Js (Jackson, Jamal Mashburn and Jason Kidd) in the mid-1990s, is now playing with his fifth team in less than two years.

He's happy to have found a home. "I just wanted to play an all-around game," said Jackson, who had three more minutes of court time — and scored 11 more points — than starting off-guard Isaiah Rider. "I think I can take a lot of pressure off (point guard Damon) Stoudamire and allow him to run around."

Jackson helped Portland put the game away in the third quarter, when the Trail Blazers outscored the Griz-



Center Arvydas Sabonis led Portland, scoring 10 of his 22 points in the third quarter and grabbing 11 rebounds.

zlies 22-10. During a 14-1 Portland run, Jackson and Walt Williams made consecutive 3-point shots as the Trail Blazers opened a 64-52 edge.

Center Arvydas Sabonis led Portland, scoring 10 of his 22 points in the third quarter and grabbing 11 rebounds.

Tony Massenburg, filling in at the starting center role for overweight Bryant Reeves, led the Grizzlies with 24 points.

Vancouver small forward Shareef Abdur-Rahim continued to struggle, finishing with 14 points.

Coupled with his 4-for-14 outings in Sunday's season-opening 109-87 loss in Sacramento, Abdur-Rahim is 9-for-29 from the floor and has just 26 points.

"He's playing as hard as he can play," Vancouver coach Brian Hill said of his young star. "He's doing a great job at the defensive end. And quite honestly teams are able to tee-off on him. They're not worried about a lot of other guys out there. And they're just keying their defenses at him."

Abdur-Rahim said it's not time to get frustrated yet.

"It's just something I have to adjust to and deal with it and do a better job of handling them," said Abdur-Rahim, who finished tied for sixth among all NBA scorers last season, and has led the Grizzlies in points during his two seasons with the club.

Vancouver set a franchise low for

field-goal percentage in the third, finishing 3-for-24 (12.5 percent). The previous low for a quarter was 2-for-15 (13.3 percent) recorded twice, the last time against Chicago on Jan. 27, 1998.

Massenburg hit his first nine shots a franchise record before missing with four minutes left in the second quarter. Combined with his 4-for-4 outing in Sacramento, Massenburg hit 13 straight shots — another franchise best — to open the season. He missed his last five shots of Monday's game.

Doug West played his first game with the Grizzlies since being acquired last Feb. 18 in a deal with Minnesota. West, however, irritated a right hamstring injury he suffered in training camp and was forced to leave the game in the second quarter.

West did not play for the Grizzlies last year after entering a rehab clinic for alcohol abuse.

The Trail Blazers return to Portland to play their home opener against Indiana on Wednesday. The Grizzlies, 1-3 all-time in home openers, had only one starter (Abdur-Rahim) that was among the starting five that opened the season a year ago. The Trail Blazers, who went 2-0 in the preseason, beat the Grizzlies 109-89 in Vancouver on Jan. 29. ... Prior to the game, Grizzlies GM Stu Jackson, speaking from center court, welcomed back the fans and thanked them for their patience.

Mike Tyson may be History

LAS VEGAS—It was five days before Mike Tyson's return to the ring against Francois Botha when the former heavyweight champion sat on a couch at the MGM Grand hotel and talked about his troubled life outside the ring.

"I'm Mike, and Mike is going to be Mike," Tyson said. "I'm not what people portray me to be, but it's easy to portray me."

The talk turned to the three years in prison Tyson served for a rape conviction and the possibility he might go to jail again for attacking two men following a traffic altercation in Maryland. It was a defiant Tyson who spoke, seemingly without remorse.

"If you're going to send me to jail, send me to jail," Tyson said.

"I've done that. I'm ready for anything."

On Friday, a judge did just that, sentencing Tyson to a year in jail. It was a sentence Tyson took stoically even as his wife, Monica, wept quietly. It was a sentence that may have pushed an already teetering career to the brink of collapse.

The man who once terrorized the heavyweight ranks is beset by problems both inside and outside the ring, and his third enforced absence from the ring leads some to question whether his future will be as a contender or a mere curiosity.

"I think he's pretty much history," veteran promoter Bob Arum said. "It may very well be we've seen the last of Tyson as a major fighter."

Exposed by Botha only a few weeks ago as a rusty and aging fighter, Tyson's skills figure to deteriorate even further if he spends his 33rd birthday in jail. Barring a successful appeal, he figures to spend at least six months in jail. And even then his troubles are far from over.

Indiana officials could give him further prison time for violating his probation. And embarrassed Nevada boxing authorities may not be in the mood to allow him to fight again even when he is free.

Even if Tyson is allowed to fight once more, he is growing older and there are real questions about how much fight he still has left in him.

"At the age of 32, you're on the down side, not the up side of your career," Tyson manager Shelly Finkel said. "You have about another year or



Tyson may be a thing of the past for boxing

so."

The fighter whose mere presence intimidated most opponents in his heyday is long gone, dealt a final blow by two losses to Holyfield.

Tyson has slipped so much that Botha was taunting him in the ring and easily outboxing him before Tyson landed a single right hand that temporarily, it turns out, rescued his latest comeback. It may be time for Mike Tyson to look away from boxing. The taunting would have been unthinkable to a Tyson in his prime. (against Botha), he had the mindset, but nothing was happening."

Tyson's ability to sell tickets may also be slipping, even though the fight with Botha did enough business for him to make some \$20 million. The pay-per-view sales were half what they were for his first comeback fight against Peter McNeeley, and the MGM Grand hotel-casino had to give away a few thousand tickets to fill up the arena.

It's an indication Tyson's act is wearing thin, even on his devoted fans. And that could be catastrophic to a fighter who spends freely and remains heavily in debt despite making some \$130 million in the ring in the last 41 months.

"People were fascinated with his whole story, and there was this whole Tyson phenomenon," Arum said. "But that is pretty much gone now, and people really don't care about him anymore."

Tyson was supposed to fight again April 24, against an unnamed opponent at the MGM Grand. That fight is in jeopardy, even if Tyson gets out of jail on bond and files an appeal.

More Pebble Beach Rain Means Victory for Payne

PEBBLE BEACH, Calif. — Golf shoes still on, rain pants over his knickers, Payne Stewart remained ready to prove that another 18 holes would not stop him from winning for the first time in four years.

He should have listened to David Duval, who knew the final round of the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am would be rained out shortly after he made eagle from 142 yards out on the first hole.

He could have taken a cue from former Eagles drummer Glenn Frey, who was asked whether he was going to play Sunday.

"Cards?" Frey responded. After all, this is Pebble Beach. Or is that Puddle Beach?

Rain wreaked havoc on Bing Crosby's old clambake for the third time in four years. Stewart was declared the winner by one stroke over Frank Lickliter when the final round was canceled because of standing water on the course and no hope for better weather.

"I had a feeling it would be good to be leading after 54 holes," said Stewart, who managed that with a 5-iron within a foot for birdie on the 18th hole at

Spyglass Hill on Saturday to put him at 10-under 206. "I have seen what's happened here before, and I guess I was right. I did want the opportunity to prove I could win in 72 holes, but I'm going to take this and run."

"I was low after 54 holes, and that was good enough this week."

It usually is at Pebble.

In 1996, only 36 holes were completed by Sunday and the tournament was canceled, the first time that had happened on tour since 1949. Last year when only 36 holes were in after four days, the tour asked players to return in August to play the final and third round. Prize money can only be awarded if 54 holes have been played.

Stewart earned \$540,000 for his 10th career victory, but only his second since winning the 1991 U.S. Open. He also picked up valuable points for his quest to make the Ryder Cup team for the first time since 1993.

"I have won again," Stewart said. "I think it will be easier this year when I get in position, and I'm going to be in position again because I'm playing good."

Lickliter liked his chances, but the forecast didn't agree with him. He

actually was tied for the lead on Saturday until a bogey on his 17th hole at Spyglass, and then Stewart dropped in the birdie that meant more than he realized.

"I'm just sorry the weather was so bad we couldn't play," said Lickliter, who earned \$302,400 for his best finish in four years on tour. "I was looking forward to seeing what I could do out there."

Nearly every hole at Pebble Beach was unplayable because of overnight rains that left puddles all over the course, particularly on the greens. CBS Sports analyst David Feherty measured the speed on one green at 3.5 on the Stimpmeter. Before the rain, the speed had been about 11.

Duval never had to worry about that. His 8-iron took one hop and went into the hole, but he could hear his feet squish as he walked across the green to get the ball from the cup.

"You could tell it wouldn't be long before we were done," he said.

"What goes around comes around," Stewart said. "I've been on the other side of the 54-hole deal, and today I'm on the right side of it."

Top To Bottom

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