

SPORTS BRIEFS

Pro Wrestler Killed During WWF Pay-Per-View Event

With thousands of pro wrestling fans watching, a 33-year-old scion of a Canadian wrestling family plunged 50 feet to his death as he was being lowered by cable from Kemper Arena's ceiling into the ring.

Owen Hart, who wrestled under the nickname "Blue Blazer," was given CPR inside the ring as the announcer haltingly told Sunday night's crowd the incident was not scripted.

The event was on pay-per-view national television, drawing an estimated audience of 400,000, but the fall was not shown.

The World Wrestling Federation event resumed about 15 minutes later, after Hart was taken to a hospital and pronounced dead.

"We at the WWF are saddened by the tragic accident that occurred here tonight," federation president Vince McMahon Jr. said. "We have no answers as to how this happened yet. We will shortly."

Bulls Win Top Pick in NBA Draft

After the dismantling of their dynasty and the worst season in franchise history, the Chicago Bulls won the NBA draft lottery Saturday and earned the right to pick first in next month's draft.

"We didn't win a whole lot of times," general manager Jerry Krause said after the Bulls' biggest win in the post-Michael Jordan era. "It feels very good and I'm happy for our fans and owner, Jerry Reinsdorf."

Chicago's fans and owners had very little to cheer about this season following the retirement of Jordan and the departures of Scottie Pippen, Dennis Rodman, Steve Kerr, Luc Longley, Jud Buechler and Scott Burrell.

Dunleavy Voted NBA Coach Of Year

After leading the Portland Trail Blazers to their first division title in seven years, Mike Dunleavy today was voted as the NBA Coach of the Year.

Dunleavy received 48 of a possible 118 votes from a media panel throughout the United States and Canada.

Larry Brown of the Philadelphia 76ers finished second with 23 votes and Jerry Sloan of the Utah Jazz was third with 15 votes.

"It's a little embarrassing to me because our team is a team and this is an individual award," Dunleavy said at a news conference in Portland today. "This is really not about me. I hope my players understand this is a team award and this is really about them."

Tyson released from prison after Indiana approves parole

Mike Tyson was released from prison today after Indiana officials ruled that the embattled former heavyweight champion has completed his probation.

On Friday, the Maryland Parole Commission voted 5-1 to grant Tyson early parole in his one-year sentence on assault charges. The release was contingent upon Tyson completing his probation for a 1992 rape conviction in Indiana and Marion Superior Court Judge Patricia Gifford said today that Tyson had satisfied those requirements.

"We are happy to report that Mike is ecstatic to return home to be with his wife Monica and their children," said Peter Seligman, a spokesman for Tyson. "We will be announcing very shortly plans on Mike's return to the ring."

SPORTS

Browne Wins Colonial by One Stroke

By DOUG FERGUSON
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FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — The night before the final round at Colonial Country Club, Olin Browne celebrated his 40th birthday and then tried to imagine himself making up three strokes and wearing the plaid jacket awarded to the champion.

"I went to sleep thinking that, and I woke up thinking that," Browne said. "But the reality is, there was a lot of steps to get there."

Even after closing with a 4-under 66 for a one-stroke victory Sunday in the MasterCard Colonial, Browne had a hard time explaining the road he took to his second PGA Tour victory.

For starters, he was 3-over par after the first round. The last time a Colonial champion started with a round that high was when Mike Souchak opened with a 4-over 74 in 1956.

And Browne is not exactly a picture of health. He had surgery in October to repair a torn tendon in his left elbow and didn't so much as grip a club until the second week of February. Even now, he is not allowed to hit more than 50 balls a day.

Blazers Attempt to "Close Door"

PORTLAND, Oregon (Ticker) — The Utah Jazz have the experience when it comes to pulling out crucial playoff games. Tonight, the Portland Trail Blazers looked like the postseason veterans down the stretch.

Isaiah Rider scored seven of his 24 points in the final 30 seconds as the Trail Blazers pushed the two-time defending Western Conference champions to the brink of elimination with an 81-75 victory.

Utah fell into a 3-1 deficit in this semifinal series with Portland, which can clinch its first trip to the conference finals since 1992 when it visits the Delta Center on Tuesday for Game Five.

The Jazz had a golden opportunity to even this series on the road, but failed to take advantage of a questionable call and committed a pair of turnovers in the final minute.

With Utah down 72-70, John Stockton drove the lane and Greg Anthony stepped in front to take the charge with 49 seconds left.

Rider blew past Adam Keefe and floated a lay-in over Shandon Anderson with 30 seconds remaining to give the Blazers a 74-70 lead. Karl Malone, who was virtually invisible for much of the game, answered with a jumper from the top of the key.

But Portland made its free throws down the stretch, including a pair by Jim Jackson with 21



Greg Anthony, Guard for the Trailblazers, may be the difference.

seconds remaining. Stockton came back and slid around Jackson for a layup, with Jackson getting called

for a foul despite replays showing no contact.

Stockton sank the free throw to

make it 76 - 75, but Portland got the in-bounds pass to Rider, an 82 percent free throw shooter in the postseason. Rider stepped to the line with 14.7 seconds left and made both attempts.

Bryon Russell looked for Stockton on the ensuing in-bounds play but his pass ended up in the hands of Rasheed Wallace. He got the ball back to Rider, who made Blazers fans nervous by missing his first free throw before hitting the second to make it a two-possession game with 8.6 seconds left.

Stockton then forced a 3-pointer that was well off the mark and Rider sealed the victory with two free throws.

Rider made 10-of-12 free throws and the Blazers sank 33-of-42 overall, compared to a 16-of-26 effort by the Jazz. The team that has gone to the line more has won each game of the series.

Malone managed just seven points through the first 40 minutes before finishing with 17. He also added 11 rebounds, but Arvydas Sabonis grabbed 15 and led the bigger Blazers to a 44-34 edge on the glass.

Russell scored 17 points and Stockton had 16 and 10 assists for the Jazz, who faced a 2-1 deficit against Sacramento in the opening round. This time, they will have to win three straight games facing elimination to get back to the conference finals.

De La Hoya Wants Trinidad in Ring

By TIM DAHLBERG
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LAS VEGAS (AP) — Oscar De La Hoya can't wait to get Felix Trinidad into the ring.

He should get his way Sept. 18, assuming Trinidad does a little work with both his gloves and a pen.

"Let's get it on," De La Hoya said. "It will be the fight of the century."

After finding out his hand was merely sprained and not more seriously injured during Saturday night's win over Oba Carr, De La Hoya will get some time to rest and recuperate before beginning training for the megafight that will earn him \$15 million.

About all that remains in the way of the clash of welterweight champions is Trinidad winning his IBF title fight next Saturday against Hugo Pineda and officially signing a contract that his promoter, Don King, has already agreed to.

"The fight is on," promoter Bob

Arum said Sunday. "The fight will happen, assuming Trinidad wins his fight."

De La Hoya stopped Carr in the 11th round to retain his WBC welterweight title, but caused Arum some tense moments until X-rays at a hospital after the fight showed the left hand wasn't badly injured.

De La Hoya's hand was put in a splint, and he will not be able to use it for four weeks. But his doctor said it will be healed in plenty of time to begin training for the Trinidad fight.

"I think he'll be just fine," said Dr. Tony Daly, an orthopedic surgeon. "It's a sprain in the base of the hand, not really in the wrist. It's pretty common in boxers."

While De La Hoya did enough to make sure the fight with Trinidad comes off, Trinidad's, King will have to settle some differences with the fighter's father before finally getting a signature on the contract.

Felix Trinidad, Sr., said in Puerto Rico that the fighter will not sign

until King forks over some of the extra \$500,000 he negotiated from Arum this week for the fight. As it now stands, Trinidad would get \$8

million and King \$2.5.

Arum, though, said he had King's word the fight would happen, and said Trinidad would never

risk the huge payday over a relatively small amount.

"Nobody is that crazy," Arum said. "Don will handle it."

Kansas City Spoils the Party

KANSAS CITY, Missouri (Ticker) — Carlos Febles and Rey Sanchez stroked consecutive run-scoring singles in the eighth inning as the Kansas City Royals rallied for a 5-4 victory over the Seattle Mariners, snapping their six-game winning streak.

Jermaine Dye, who scored the winning run, added four hits and has recorded multi-hit games in six straight contests. It was his third career four-hit game and extended his hitting streak to a career-high 12 games.

"It's mainly just in my head," said Dye of the reason for his success. "I am having fun and trying not to overdo it. I'm seeing the ball well, really all year."

After Scott Service blew Kevin Appier's opportunity for a victory, Matt Whisenant (1-0) got the final out in the eighth. Jeff Montgomery recorded the final three outs for his fourth save in six opportunities.

Following the game, Royals first baseman Jeff King, who has been plagued by chronic back problems

throughout his 11-year career, announced his retirement.

Jose Paniagua (2-4) surrendered both singles in the eighth for Seattle, which had won the opening two games of the series.

"I felt pretty good," said Appier. "All my pitches were working pretty well. The slider was breaking and running and the fastball had velocity."

Ken Griffey Jr. had an RBI single in the eighth to extend his hitting streak to a career high 12 games. He has reached 12 games on five occasions in his illustrious career.

"We played good and they played good," said Seattle manager Lou Piniella. "Appier is still a real dominant pitcher."

Kansas City trailed 4-3 to begin the eighth. Mac Suzuki walked Mike Sweeney and Paniagua came on in relief. After a groundout moved Sweeney to second, Dye reached on an infield single. Chad Kreuter popped out but Febles singled to right to knot the game. Sanchez followed with a single to right for a 5-4 edge.

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