

SPORTS

US Women Say, "Bring On Germany"

By BARRY WILNER
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FOXBORO, Mass. - Starters, subs, what's the difference? Not much on the U.S. soccer team.

Backups Shannon MacMillan and Tisha Venturini did the scoring, while regulars Julie Foudy and Tiffeny Milbrett provided the spark coming off the bench Sunday as the United States beat North Korea 3-0 to advance to the quarterfinals of the Women's World Cup.

"My job is to get ready and take whatever time I get," MacMillan said after scoring once and setting up two goals by Venturini in the second half. "Some of us have to step up when we rest some players. I think I sealed my statement that I will give my heart and soul to this team."

U.S. coach Tony DiCicco had the luxury of resting some stars and he used it wisely. MacMillan and Venturini, former starters, played the whole game. Foudy and Milbrett came on for the second half with the match scoreless, and ignited the Americans to their third straight win and first place in Group A.

"We feel we have a strong group

who have not been starting," DiCicco said after the win set up a second-round elimination game with Germany. "This was a chance for them to help us out."

"Shannon played a Shannon MacMillan type of game today. A goal like Shannon's will make any coach look like he said the right things."

DiCicco's decision to rest starters Michelle Akers, Kate Sobrero, Foudy and Milbrett showed in the scoreless first half. Although the Americans dominated the ball and had many scoring chances, their attack wasn't crisp, particularly in midfield.

"I think that Millie creates things. Whatever game she plays in, it's a spark," Foudy said. "We started to go at the defense and then they collapsed and we could go wider on them. We weren't doing that in the first half."

MacMillan's shot from 20 yards, off Foudy's feed, skipped off the grass and past goalkeeper Kye Yong Sun on the short side in the 56th minute. The crowd of 50,584 at Foxboro Stadium, somewhat subdued until then, erupted in cheers as MacMillan slid face-first along the grass.

Spurs Celebrate NBA Title

By KELLEY SHANNON
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SAN ANTONIO (AP) - Spurs fans didn't want the party to end.

All weekend the city cheered the first NBA championship won by its only major league sports team after 26 years of struggle.

The celebration peaked Sunday night with a Fiesta-style river parade attended by 230,000 people and a tribute afterward for the team at the Alamodome.

"It feels good. Everything came together this year perfectly," Spurs center David Robinson told ecstatic parade-goers. "Our team came together. The city came together."

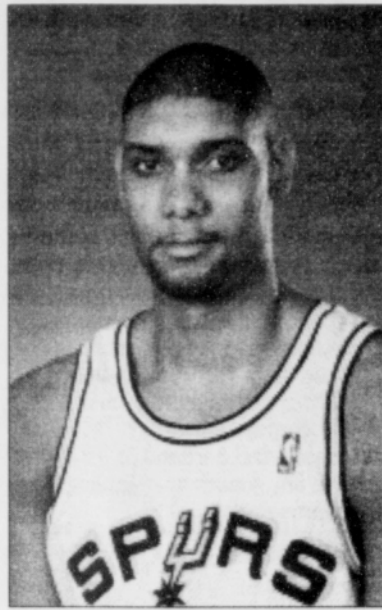
Players, coaches, team executives and a few devoted fans rode decorated, motorized barges along the San Antonio River through downtown as spectators lined the River Walk to watch. It was reminiscent of the city's annual Fiesta celebration each spring.

Avery Johnson, the 5-foot-11 point guard who hit the winning jump shot against the New York Knicks on Friday to capture the title, was the star of the show at the dome.

Johnson introduced his fellow players, cracked jokes about their personalities, made fun of the fact that he was twice cut by the Spurs and led approximately 40,000 fans in chants and cheers.

The Spurs came to San Antonio in 1973 as part of the American Basketball Association and merged into the NBA in 1976. San Antonio is the first old ABA team to win an NBA title.

This was the team's first trip to the NBA Finals. "It's been so fantastic to see David Robinson and Avery Johnson get their due," said 11-year season-ticket



Tim Duncan

holder Kevin Conroy, who rescheduled his cancer radiation treatments so he could attend the NBA Finals.

Spurs coach Gregg Popovich told the fans they were crucial in the team's playoff victories, especially in urging on the game-winning, tippy-toe 3-pointer Sean Elliott sunk to defeat Portland in Game 2 of the Western Conference finals on Memorial Day.

"Without your energy, Sean Elliott can't stand on his toes and he misses that shot," Popovich said. "When he hit that shot, it made it possible for Avery Johnson to hit another shot," the coach said. And everyone knew what came next.

Cards Rookie RHP Jimenez Wins NL Player of the Week

SPORTS TICKET

NEW YORK (Ticker)—St. Louis Cardinals rookie pitcher Jose Jimenez, who threw the first no-hitter of the 1999 season on Friday, today was named National League Player of the Week for the period ending Sunday.

Jimenez, who is 4-7 with a 6.02 ERA overall, walked two and hit a batter as he completed the Cardinals' first no-hitter since 1983 and became the first player in the National League to throw a no-hitter since Kevin Brown threw one for

Florida on June 10, 1997.

The 25-year-old Jimenez also became the first rookie to throw a no-hitter since Wilson Alvarez turned the trick in 1991 and the first to do so in the senior circuit since Burt Hooton hurled one for the Chicago Cubs in 1972.

Other players considered for the award were Michael Tucker, Sean Casey and Pokey Reese of the Cincinnati Reds, Todd Hundley and Gary Sheffield of the Los Angeles Dodgers, outfielder Jeremy Burmitz of the Milwaukee Brewers and Larry Walker of the Colorado Rockies.

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Inkster Took 16 Years To Get Slam With No Hitter

By DOUG FERGUSON
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WILMINGTON, Del. - Winning the career Grand Slam turned out to be a marathon for Juli Inkster.

Of the eight players who have won the four major championships of their era, no one took as long as Inkster - 16 years from the time she won the Dinah Shore as a rookie to her victory in the LPGA Championship as a 39-year-old mother.

But, oh, what a kick. In a span of 21 days, Inkster separated herself from the pack and took her place in history by winning the U.S. Open and the LPGA Championship.

Her finish at DuPont Country Club on Sunday was just as swift.

In a span of three holes, she shot out of a three-way tie for the lead with a staggering display of shotmaking and putting, an eagle-birdie-birdie finish to win by four strokes.

"I can't comprehend this," she said after her 6-under 65. "I kept looking up and the ball was going in the hole. It's just been a phenomenal year."

When she was 23 and playing her first full season on the LPGA Tour, Inkster thought winning the four majors was simply a matter of time. It was hard to blame her for such confidence.

She was Tiger Woods and Se Ri Pak rolled into one, the first player to win three straight U.S. Amateur titles, the first professional to win two majors as a rookie.

"I always thought this is what I

wanted, to win the four majors," she said. "I won two really quick, and didn't think it was going to be that tough."

Compared to the other seven who have won the Grand Slam, it was plenty difficult.

Washington Holds Oregon at Bay In The Northwest Shootout

• The Oregon All-Stars closed a 12-point deficit to 2 before time ran out, losing 84-78 in the Oregonian Northwest Shootout

Portland — The Washington All-Stars won The Oregonian Northwest Shootout for the first time behind the MVP play of Curtis Borchardt and the quickness of Jimmie Haywood, 84-78 at the University of Portland's Chiles Center on Friday night.

Borchardt, 6-11 center from

East Lake High, led all players with 22 points and 9 rebounds. Haywood, a Latrell Sprewell look-alike from Franklin High, chipped in 11 while Jesuit's Mike Dunleavy led Oregon with 18 points. Benson's Terrence Green had 17.

The first half was played evenly, with Washington ahead 44-42 at the break. Washington surged ahead to a 12-point lead with 8:00 remaining before Oregon scrapped their way back into the game. They got within two before Washington seized upon an errant pass with 0:12 left to wrap the game up.

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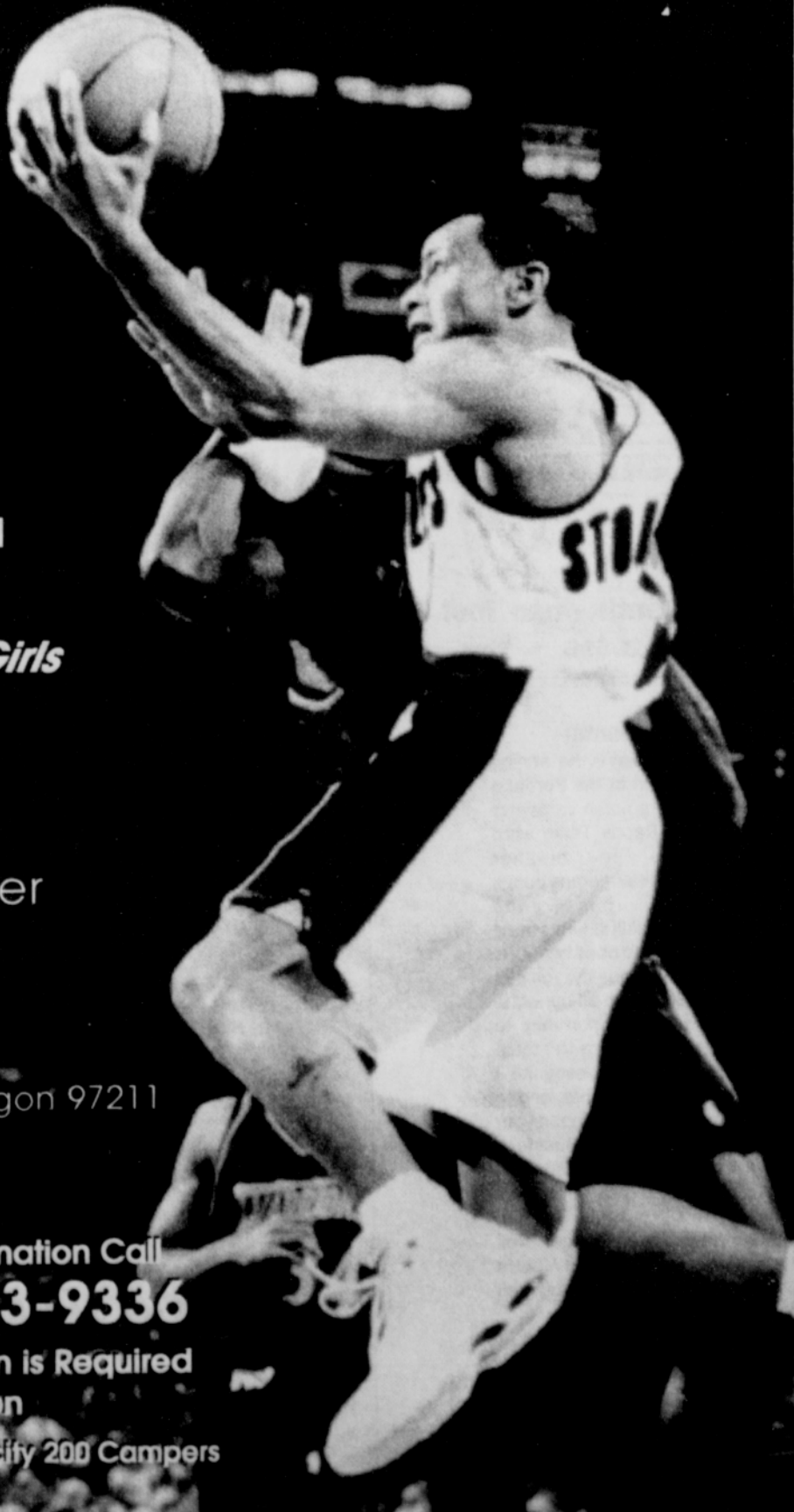
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