



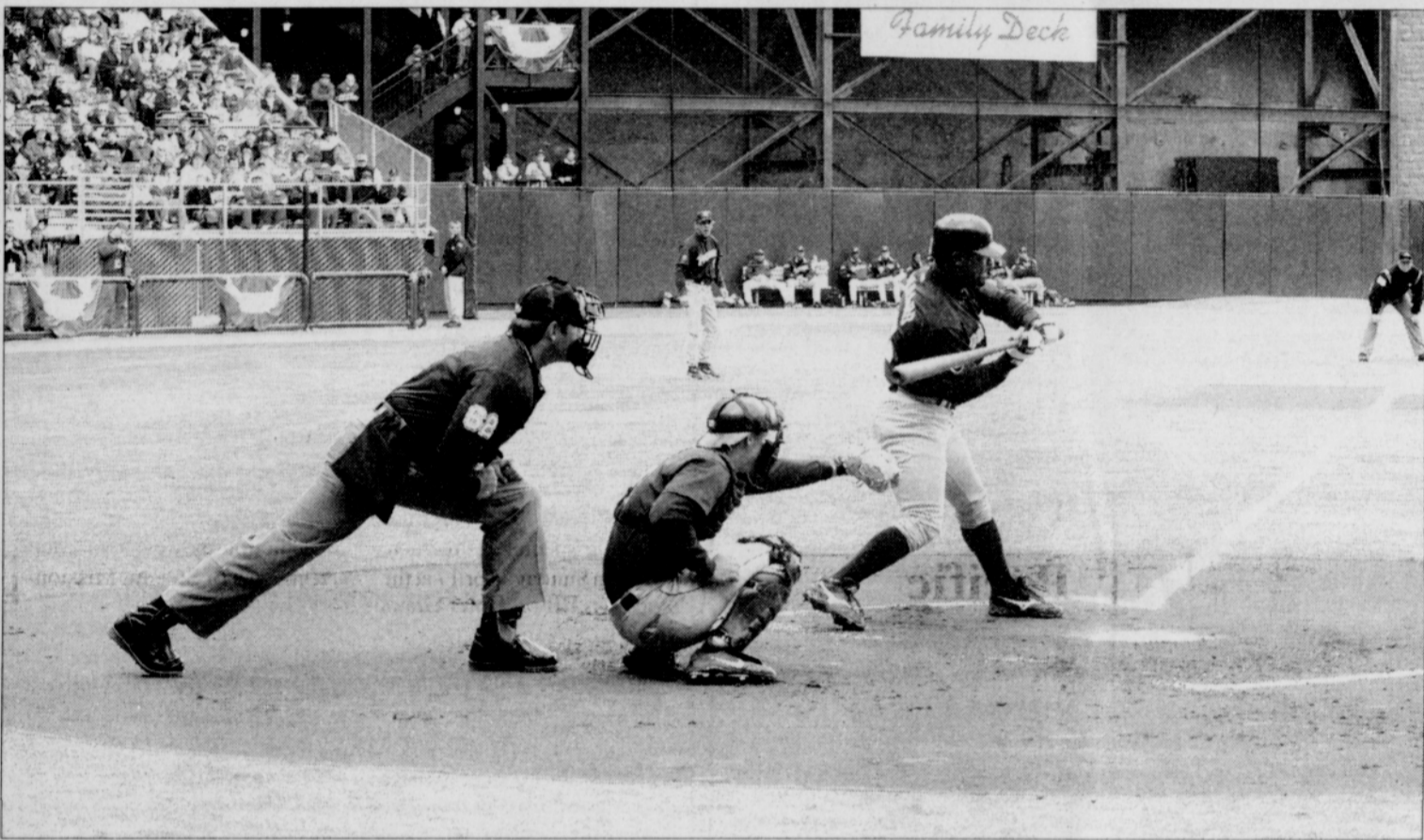
# SPORTS/METRO

## Mariners-Padres Play to Enthusiastic Portland Fans

Major League Baseball finally came to fans in the Rose City when the Seattle Mariners played the San Diego Padres. A sell-out crowd of 19,778 turned out to watch the exhibition game that was held at PGE Park last Friday. This was the second time the Mariners played since 1984, where they beat the Toronto Blue Jays at Civic Stadium.

Japanese star attraction Ichiro Suzuki of the Mariners gets ready to bat. He was last year's reigning American League Most Valuable Player.

PHOTOS BY DAVID GIEZYNG/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER



Portlanders get a taste of major league baseball at PGE Park. The exhibition game ended with the San Diego Padres beating the Seattle Mariners 3-1.

## Maryland Wins NCAA Championship

(AP)—Maryland beat Indiana 64-52 Monday night to win the NCAA men's basketball championship. Maryland didn't play like Maryland until it mattered. Now the Terrapins are national champions.

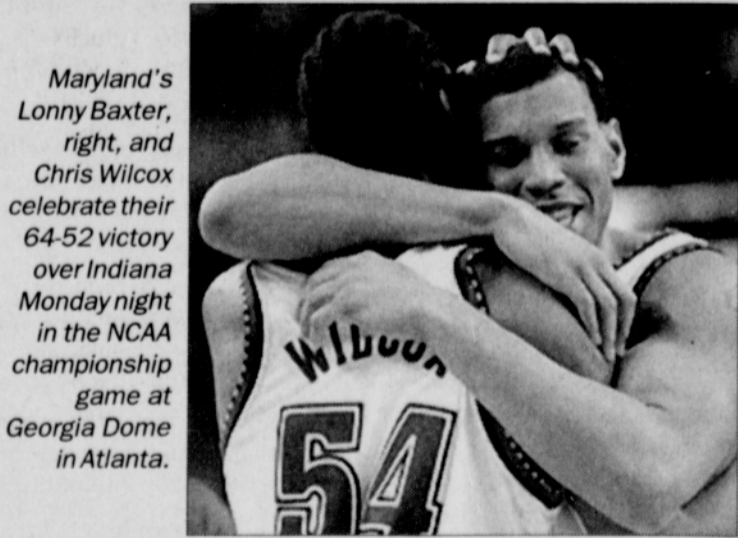
With All-American guard Juan Dixon snapping out of a scoring drought just in time, Maryland ended Indiana's magical tournament run with a 64-52 victory. This was the Terrapins' first appearance in a national championship game and the senior-laden lineup came through over the final 9:42, pulling away from the Hoosiers to become the fourth straight No. 1 seed and eighth in the last 10 years to win it all.

When Dixon and Baxter, who finished with 15 points and 14 rebounds, stepped up, the long shots stopped falling. Indiana made just two of its 11 shots from behind the arc and its dream of being the first No. 5 seed to win a national championship and match Kansas in 1988 for the most losses by a champion started to fade.

Maryland was among the country's highest scoring teams



Juan Dixon, right, gets lost in a sea of Maryland fans after sealing the victory and clinching the Most Valuable Player award.



Maryland's Lonny Baxter, right, and Chris Wilcox celebrate their 64-52 victory over Indiana Monday night in the NCAA championship game at Georgia Dome in Atlanta.

at 85 points per game, but its third-lowest total of the season was good enough to make it the 33rd school to win the national championship and the second straight from the Atlantic Coast Conference following Duke last season.

The loss was the first for Indiana in six national championship game appearances. The last three titles—1976, 1981 and 1987—were won under Knight, who was fired two years ago for violating a zero-tolerance policy. Mike Davis, one of his assistants, was selected to succeed him and in just his second season he almost won it all.

Dixon didn't miss a shot in the first half, going 4-for-4 from the field and 2-for-2 from the free throw line. His last shot came with 10:02 left and the baseline jumper gave the Terrapins a 21-11 lead.

Indiana's first 14 points came on four 3-pointers, two by Coverdale, and two free throws. The Hoosiers couldn't get a shot off in the paint and had to settle for outside shots.

Coverdale's drive at the buzzer brought the Hoosiers within 31-25.

## McKay Bolts for New Mexico

Oregon State coach Ritchie McKay Thursday accepted a five-year deal worth up to \$500,000 a year to take the reins of the University of New Mexico's basketball program.

McKay, who was 22-37 in two seasons at Oregon State, will replace Fran Fraschilla, who resigned March 17.

Oregon State athletic director Mitch Barnhart spoke with McKay for about two hours by phone Thursday. He said that while he is

happy for McKay, he's sorry for Oregon State.

"I thought he did some things that laid a solid foundation for our program to grow from," Barnhart said. "I feel bad for the players. It's a tough transition."

UNM officials said McKay understands the pressure New Mexico fans will place on him to lead the Lobos to a winning season. McKay's late father Joe played for the Lobos from 1960-63.

## Knee Injury May Sideline Jordan

(AP)—Michael Jordan said Thursday he probably won't play next season unless his injured knee improves.

"I would be surprised if I'm back playing next year if I'm going through the same situation that I'm going through right now," Jordan said after the Washington Wizards practice.

Jordan was responding to comments made by coach Doug Collins, who said on ESPN on Wednesday that he'd be surprised if Jordan plays next season.

"Doug gave his opinion. ... I've been saying all season long that physically if I'm going through the same situation that I'm going through, surgery on my knee, I wouldn't play," Jordan said. "It wouldn't be wise for me to play."

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