

SPORTS

NFL All-Star Officiating Crews Scraped

(AP) — The NFL plans to scrap all-star officiating crews for the playoffs, choosing instead to use officials who worked together during the regular season. The decision was designed to eliminate the kinds of gaffes that plagued the postseason.

The move, announced Tuesday at the NFL meetings, is designed to ensure more cohesion within the crews. Until now, playoff crews had been made up of officials who rated the highest at their positions but hadn't necessarily worked together before.

The most prominent mistake in the playoffs occurred in San Francisco's 39-38 win over the New York Giants in an NFC wild-card game.

With six seconds left, the Giants lined up for the winning field-goal attempt, the snap was botched and holder Matt Allen threw a desperation pass downfield. The Giants were called for an illegal receiver downfield, but tapes showed the 49ers should also have been called for pass interference.

That would have resulted in offsetting penalties and allowed New York a second shot at the winning field goal.

Detroit coach Steve Mariucci, who coached the 49ers in the game with the Giants, said the new plan "might make sense."

"They learn to communicate with each other and work with each other from being together all season. There would be more cohesion," he said.

INJURED GUARD LEADS TEAM TO SWEET 16

(AP) — LSU point guard Temeka Johnson has two broken bones in her face after being elbowed in a victory over Wisconsin-Green Bay, but she is expected to wear protective goggles and play in the round of 16 this weekend.

Johnson underwent two CAT scans and saw a facial specialist Tuesday, one day after she was injured in the Lady Tigers' 80-69 win in the West Regional in Eugene.

The doctor found a break in the bone around her right eye and a small break in her nose, LSU athletic trainer Micky Sandy said.


Johnson, the most valuable player of the Southeastern Conference tournament earlier this month, was accidentally elbowed midway through Monday night's game.

She crumpled to the floor, crying in pain, and stayed down for several moments. Johnson then headed to the locker room with the help of a trainer. She returned to the game briefly but quickly went back to the bench, where she kept ice pressed to her head.

Louisiana State's Temeka Johnson puts ice on her head after suffering a minor concussion during the second half at the NCAA Women's West Regional at McArthur Court in Eugene Monday. (AP photo)



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The Oregon mascot shows the message "Support our troops" on the bottom of his foot during Oregon's 60-58 loss to Utah. (AP photo)

Oregon Falls in NCAA Opener

(AP) Nick Jacobson scored 23 points and hit two of three free throws with 14.4 seconds left as the ninth-seeded Utah Utes overcame their worst shooting performance of the season to beat Oregon 60-58 Friday in the Midwest Regional in Nashville, Tenn.

The eighth-seeded Ducks had a

chance to win, but James Davis missed two 3-pointers in the final seconds.

It was a disappointing loss for Pac-10 tournament champion Oregon (23-10), a team ranked as high as fifth in the nation in December. Luke Ridnour, the Pac-10 player of the year, had one of his





worst games of the season - fouling Jacobson on a 3-pointer as the clock ticked down.

After the game, Davis stood near midcourt as Utah cheerleaders celebrated nearby until freshman Adam Zahn hugged him. The Ducks gathered around Davis near their basket before he left the floor.



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