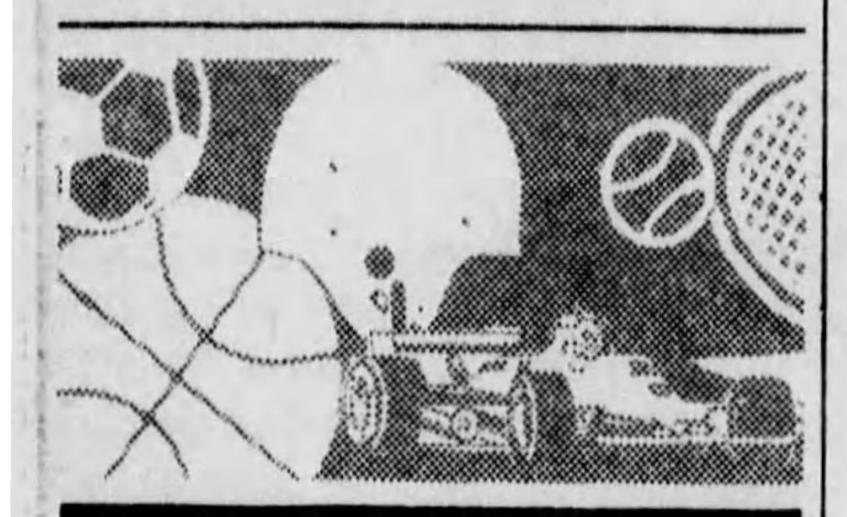


SPORTS VIEW

Thursday, May 12, 1988



A hockey puck for a president

By LEIGH MONTVILLE

1988 Boston Globe BOSTON, MASS. — He was a slick man who had lost his slickness. John Ziegler resembled one of those Watergate defendants, one of those Iran-Contra warriors, one of those traders of inside stock tips. His suit still was perfect. His story was not.

"Where were you?" reporters asked the president of the National Hockey League in 78 different ways. "Why weren't you on the job?"

He seemed like a damn fool.

"I was on a personal errand," he replied again and again. "I don't have to explain my personal life to the public."

His answers were so weak that snickers could be heard from the re-

The tardiness of John Ziegler was the issue.

porters in the small room at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel early Tuesday night.

"When did you see your last hockey game?" a reporter asked.

"Oh, I've seen a number of them," Ziegler said.

He did not like hockey. That was the undeniable thought you had, watching this man who has been the president of this league for 11 seasons. He was a 54-year-old hockey businessman, a corporate suit, a boardroom bargainer, a lawyer.

Hockey was product, not sport. He could work the same job anywhere in any industry. Does Iacocca put rivets into those greasy new Chryslers coming down the line? Darn right he doesn't. You won't find John Ziegler hanging around any blue lines, either. "Are you going to the game to-

night?" a reporter asked. "I'd like to," John Ziegler said. "I

wanted to, but now I have this decision to write."

Incredible. He was a pretty girl telling the louts in her class that she just couldn't make it to the sock hop. Incredible. He was 2 miles, tops, from this game that had the entire city turned on its head and he wouldn't travel the distance.

"Are you worried about your safety in Boston Garden?" a reporter asked. "I hadn't even thought of that," John Ziegler said.

Doughnut Weekend" had the people of two continents thinking the NHL was on the same level of television seriousness as G.L.O.W. (the Gorgeous Ladies Of Wrestling) and the Home Shopping Network. Strangers were saying, "Have a doughnut, you fat pig," to other strangers, and everyone was laughing. Not with the NHL. At the NHL.

A Stanley Cup playoff game was played with two guys in yellow sweatshirts as referees. The guys didn't even tuck the shirttails inside their New Jersey Devils sweatpants. The guys couldn't even skate. Everyone was laughing.

The NHL president couldn't even be reached.

He was back now and he wasn't even going to the game. Not even a period.

Forget about the parts of his decision, the one-game suspension of Devils Coach Jim Schoenfeld and the assorted fines that were levied and precedents that were being set. That was the busywork that should have been done late Friday night or early Saturday as NHL officials — the big NHL officials — watched the tapes and figured out what there was to figure. The tardiness of John Ziegler was the issue. "Don't you realize how people want to know where you were?" a reporter asked.

The television reporters had pulled out their lights by now, taken away their microphones. Ziegler talked with his back to the Ritz-Carlton wall,

"I was taking a couple of days' holiday," he said. "I'd been working for a long string of days on the TV negotiations, flying back and forth. I looked at my calendar, and it wasn't until June 18 that I would have another chance. I knew that when I got back, it would be constant negotiations, then there'd be the finals and the budgets to finish ... this was the only space I saw."

Taking a few days off? In the middle of the semifinals during his sport's showpiece production? Taking a few days off and couldn't even be reached by telephone? In 1988? When limousines and airplanes and farthest equatorial outposts have telephones? Did not understand.

He did not seem to be a man who

liked hockey.

Marc Hansen is on vacation

Report: Knight heading for New Mexico

Feud hinted with president

From Register Wire Services Indiana basketball coach Bob

Knight has agreed to a five-year, \$350,000-a-year contract with New Mexico, the Dallas Times-Herald has reported.

But Knight didn't confirm he had accepted an offer, and the Albuquerque Journal reported the school has not officially offered him the job. Neither was there confirmation from athletic officials at either school nor from any Indiana player.

Wednesday, Knight told Indianapolis TV station WTHR he had talked with New Mexico officials about the job, which was no secret.

"I think it's one of the really outstanding coaching situations that there is, particularly for a person that would enjoy the Western part of the country," said Knight, 47, one of the top coaches in college basketball. Since 1972, his teams are 385-129 with NCAA titles in 1976, 1981 and 1987.

The Times-Herald based its report on an anonymous source in Albuquerque. "It's a done deal. Knight's coming," the newspaper quoted its source as saying. "All he has to do is sign the contract."

But New Mexico President Gerald May denied the contract details. "It's incredible," May said. "Of course, it's absurd."

The Albuquerque Tribune reported Knight and New Mexico officials discussed a five-year contract with salary and other job-related income worth close to \$250,000 annually. The Tribune said additional benefits and income boost the overall salary close to \$500,000 a year.

New Mexico Athletic Director John Koenig said he was negotiating with two finalists for the job Gary Colson resigned from under pressure last month. He didn't say if Knight was one of them. Dave Bliss, a former Knight assistant now coaching at Southern Methodist, is reported to be one.

The Times-Herald said Knightmet with his Indiana players Wednesday afternoon but that none of them would comment.

Upon his return Wednesday, Knight, who has nine years left on his contract, met with Indiana Athletic Director Ralph Floyd. Floyd said that if Knight left it would not



Bob Knight, who may not need a sweater if he takes a coaching job in sunny New Mexico, has coached Indiana to three NCAA titles since 1976.

be because of pressure. "Everyone at Indiana University wants Bob to stay here," Floyd said.

Indiana University President Thomas Ehrlich said he also hoped Knight would remain.

"In my view, he is an outstanding coach and I certainly want him to stay at Indiana University," Ehrlich said. "He is an outstanding teacher. I don't think there's a conflict."

But there may be.

"There have been some things that have changed here," Knight said on TV. Newspapers in Indiana have re-

ported indications of a conflict even before Knight pulled his team from the floor in protest during a Nov. 21 game with a Soviet team at Indiana's Assembly Hall. Knight was privately reprimanded.

Another sore point was a Jan. 24 incident in which Knight shoved Hoosiers senior forward Steve Eyl during a time-out in a game with Michigan.

Knight's ire was further raised

when Ehrlich failed to defend the coach over Knight's comments on an April 25 NBC television special, "Stressed to Kill."

Knight told NBC correspondent Connie Chung, "I think that if rape is inevitable, relax and enjoy it."

Though Knight said he was not referring to the act of rape but using the comment as an analogy, it resulted in at least two demonstrations and Ehrlich's assessment that Knight's comment was coarse.

But Knight's major and most recent concern with Ehrlich stems from a 200-page report on the university. In it, Ehrlich puts a priority on establishing an identity separate from the basketball program.

In a March 24 speech in Richmond, Ind., Ehrlich said: "It seems paradoxical that you cannot walk down the streets of this town without meeting people who have either gone to IU or have brothers and sisters going there. But, except for basketball, we do not have a clear identity."

The master of diversion

By RICK BOZICH

1988 Gannett News Service

BLOOMINGTON, IND. — Interviewing Indiana University basketball coach Bob Knight on the subject of stress is like consulting William "The Refrigerator" Perry on the issue of weight control. The credibility gap is considerable, unless, like many Indiana fans, you accept tossing chairs and pulling your team off the floor as the poised work of a man in control.

Media manipulation, however, is another arena. When it comes to

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twisting the cameras to the angle he prefers, the coach is a master. Just watch him work.

Within two weeks of Knight's foolishly insensitive and ignorant comments about rape that aired on an NBC telecast about stress, the man has worked relentlessly to put other topics in the headlines.

First, the Indiana University camp shifted the spotlight from Bloomington to the serious and ongoing Chris Mills/Videogate controversy at the University of Kentucky with some inflammatory comments about Mills' recruiting visit to Indi-

And now the coach has the Bloomington faithful wondering if he'll pick up his ball and dribble off to the University of New Mexico as its new head coach.

There is evidence that both situations are creating considerable stress in Bloomington.

Concerned that this time the coach might actually depart, a group of Knight's fervent friends bought a full-page advertisement in Wednesday's Bloomington Herald-Telephone to show their support. Readers were asked to clip a coupon and mail it to Knight's office, to prove to him one more time how indispensable he truly is.

Tip No. 1 to apprehensive Indiana fans feeling the stress of losing their beloved mentor: Relax and enjoy it.

Tip No. 2: To get to Albuquerque, take I-70 west out to Indianapolis to St. Louis. From St. Louis take I-44

> KNIGHT Please turn to Page 4S

3B-Sandberg, S-G. Maddux, Law McCullers L, 0-3 G. Maddux W, 6-2 libler, Quick, Gregg, Pallone, T-2:47, A-12,600.

Book calls Cosell The events of the past "Have A bughnut Weekend" had the people Ornery man who drank

NEW YORK, N.Y. (AP) - In another of the kiss-and-tell books making the rounds, former ABC executive on this planet." Jim Spence lowers

the boom on former sportscaster Howard Cosell and former ABC Sports chief Roone Ar-In "Up Close &

Personal: The Inside Story of Network Television Sports," Spence writes Cosell drank

HOWARD COSELL before, during and after telecasts and once threw up on Don Meredith's cowboy boots during "Monday Night Football" after too much vodka. Ar-

ledge, Spence says, was dishonest. A woman answering the phone at Cosell's home said he was visiting his wife at a New York hospital, where she is recovering from surgery. Arledge, president of ABC News and Sports, declined to comment.

Spence describes Cosell as an insecure, overbearing man who became impossible to work with.

"He had made millions of dollars, traveled the world, been applauded and honored time and time again," Spence wrote. "Yet, today, I think he is one of the unhappiest human beings

Spence said that during a Monday Night Football telecast from Philadelphia in 1970, Cosell "got so drunk he couldn't pronounce the name of the city he was in without slurring."

Cosell left the booth after throwing up on Meredith, one of his broadcasting partners. At Arledge's request, Spence said, ABC publicist Irv Brodsky told reporters Cosell became ill after one drink because he had a reaction to medication. Spence said Cosell again got out of

control during the 1984 American League playoffs when he kept kept interrupting colleague Al Michaels.

Spence, senior vice president of ABC Sports from 1978 until he left the network in 1986, is president of a production and marketing company.

Although he calls Arledge the most significant figure in the history of television sports in America, Spence says Arledge's "human qualities . . do not match his professional achievements."

"His system was to pit one executive against another, one production person against another, one announcer against another," he wrote.



Headed to the finals

Edmonton's Craig Simpson celebrates one of his two goals in the first period Wednesday night while Detroit goalie Greg Stefan and defenseman Harold Snepsts can do little about the puck deep in the Red Wing net. The Oilers won, 8-4, to advance into the Stanley Cup finals.

gamble nips Padres, 1-0 From Register Wire Services

CHICAGO, ILL. - The difference

between genius and failure for Don Zimmer on Wednesday was the width of Vance Law's bat.

The Chicago Cubs manager called for Vance Law to execute a suicide squeeze bunt in the 10th inning with

✓ I-Cubs lose, 3-2: Page 3S

two strikes against him. Law bunted toward first base with Mark Grace on the run. Grace scored easily, and the Cubs beat San Diego, 1-0.

It was a big gamble. If Law had missed the pitch for strike three, Grace would probably have been out at the plate to end the inning. If Law had fouled it off, it also would have been strike three and a none-out, man-on-third situation set up by Ryne Sandberg's leadoff triple would have been nearly squandered.

"If he misses the ball, I'd have been a dummy," Zimmer said. "As for now, I'm real smart."

The other smart thing Zimmer did Wednesday was hand the ball to starting pitcher Greg Maddux. The young right-hander gave up just three hits in pitching the 10-inning complete game — the first Cub to work 10 innings since Rick Sutcliffe on June 13, 1986, in a 1-0 loss to St. Louis.

In pitching his second shutout and fourth complete game, Maddux (6-2) allowed three hits and retired the last 20 batters. He walked none and struck out eight.

"When you're pitching that good and you're a young guy, you can't wait until your next turn," Zimmer

But the victory was costly — the Cubs lost Sandberg for a couple of

CUBS

Please turn to Page 3S SAN DIEGO ab r h bi CHICAGO ab r h bi R. Alomar 2b 4 0 0 0 Sandberg 2b 4 0 1 0 Grace 1b Templeton ss 4 0 1 0 Palmeiro I 4 0 0 0 Law 3b 0 0 0 0 Berryhll c

Moreland I Ma. Davis p 4000 3 0 0 0 Jackson cf 3 0 0 0 Dunston ss 3 0 0 0 Salazar ss 3000 McCullers p 0 0 0 0 G.Maddux p 34 1 8 1 32 0 3 0 Totals Game-winning RBI-Law (3), E-Ready, Temcago 12. 2B-Kruk, Ready, Berryhill, Dawson

Bruins to NHL: Play it again

© 1988 New York Times

NEW YORK, N.Y. - The Boston Bruins asked the National Hockey League Wednesday to order that Sunday night's game against the New Jersey Devils be replayed. That was one of several options the

Bruins suggested to NHL President John Ziegler in a letter that sought redress. The Bruins lost, 3-1, to the Devils after Jim Schoenfeld, New Jersey's coach, obtained a court order that enabled him to ignore a league directive suspending him for the

Bruins General Manager Harry Sinden called Schoenfeld an illegal participant in Sunday's game.

'We asked for some sort of relief - the possibilities go from forfeiture to whatever," Sinden said. "We're asking Mr. Ziegler to consider if any of those are forthcoming."

The other options suggested by Boston officials include awarding the Bruins a victory and declaring them the winner of the playoff series, or giving the Bruins financial restitu-

A league spokesman said Ziegler had received the letter but would not comment on its contents or what action, if any, he planned to take.

MORNING REPORT

■ CBA TO C.R.? Businessman David Brownworth says Cedar Rapids could have a Continental Basketball Association team next season if talks with the owners of the Five Seasons Center today go well. Brownworth wouldn't disclose the names of his six other partners who want to buy into the development league for the NBA.

RUNNING SHOWDOWN II. The last time they raced in the same 100 meters, at the World Championships in Rome last September, Carl Lewis matched the world 100-meter record of 9.93 seconds — but lost when Ben Johnson streaked down the track in an astonishing 9.83. They'll renew the rivalry June 27 near Paris.

HOIST THE FLAGG. The University of Iowa has nominated football tight end Mike Flagg for the Big Ten Conference's Medal of Honor. The award, recognizing excellence in scholarship and athletics, is given to a male and female athlete at each Big Ten school. Flagg, who lettered four years, leads all lowa tight ends in career recep-

tions with 86. He graduated in December with a 3.56 grade-point average and is working on his master's degree in business administration.

RACE TRACK OFFICIALS PROBED. Louisiana investigators allege that telephones in the Fair Grounds race track suite of the former state racing commission chairman were illegally used to contact bookmakers during horse races. In a statement, the ex-commissioner, Albert Stall, said, in part, "I've never knowingly done anything unethical or wrong." Gov. Buddy Roemer last month tossed Stall and nine other members appointed by former Gov. Edwin Edwards off the commission.

NO LAP DOG. Indy driver Mario Andretti wasn't a good sport about losing a day-long game of cat and mouse with Rick Mears. Andretti claimed he actually drove his final Indy 500 practice lap Tuesday in 220.399 mph rather than the 219.995 in which the Indianapolis Speedway timer clocked him. This would have been a shade

quicker than Mears, who toured the oval in his Pennzoil PC-17 Chevrolet at 220.048 mph, the fastest unofficial lap in Indy history. "[Mears' sponsors] probably gave the timers a couple of quarts of Pennzoil," an angry Andretti said.

REPORT STILL PENDING. Even though Zola Budd left Britain Tuesday for her native South Africa, a British panel will still report this month on her eligibility to the national track federation. The issue is whether she should be suspended for at least 12 months for violating the spirit of international rules barring contact with her racially divided homeland.

AGENT SUED. The University of Alabama had to return \$250,000 in NCAA tournament money in 1987 after it was discovered sports agent Norby Walters loaned money to basketball player Derrick McKey, violating rules. Wednesday, the university sued Walters for \$3 million. Walters also faces misdemeanor charges in the incident.

TV Today

Noon (ESN) Hockey Campbell Conference Final, game five: Detroit at Edmonton. (R)

3 p.m. (WGN) Baseball San Diego at Chicago. (Live) 6:30 p.m. (ESN) Hockey Wales Conference Final, game

six: Boston at New Jersey. (Live) 8 p.m. (USA) Boxing Craig Bodzianowski vs. Alfonso Ra-

tliff, Heavyweights. (Live) 9:05 p.m. (TBS) Pro Basketball NBA Playoffs, conference semifinal: Dallas at Denver. (Live)

11 p.m. (ESN) Auto Racing Mickey Thompson's Off-Road Championship Grand Prix. (R)

2:30 a.m. (ESN) Hockey Wales Conference Final, game six: Boston at New Jersey. (R)

Quote of the Day

"The Pete Rose supsension was absolutely, positively way too much. You know why he got that much? Because [National League President A. Bartlett Giamatti] can't handle making baseball decisions." — Former major-league umpire Ron Luciano.