Syd Thrift

Report: Former Pirate GM Thrift to run Yankees

By Bill Madden New York Daily News

FT. LAUDERDALE, Fla.-In what has all the makings of an epic confrontation of super egos, the New York Daily News has learned that George Steinbrenner is set to shake up the New York Yankees' front office by naming flamboyant Syd Thrift as his new chief executive.

Thrift, 60, who was most recently fired as Pirates general manager after engaging in a power struggle with the Pittsburgh owners in September, could be named Tuesday. The Daily News has learned that Bob Quinn, currently serving as Yankee general manager, was informed Sunday by Steinbrenner that Thrift would be coming in to galvanize the front office.

Although it has been learned that Steinbrenner has agreed to three years as Pirates senior vice give Thrift a free hand in reshaping the Yankees, one can only guess how long it will take deals that transformed the Bucs before the Yankee owner, his new from a last-place team to a penhead man and/or the equally nant contender. Among them: strong-willed manager, Dallas Green, begin to butt heads.

As one Yankee insider said Monday: "This is really going to be something. The three biggest egos in baseball and now they all are on the same team."

According to Yankee sources, Steinbrenner has become increasingly impatient with Quinn's cautious approach to trading.

In Thrift he figures to get an aggressive type and more. In his president and general manager, Thrift engineered a series of major catcher Tony Pena to the St. Louis Cardinals for outfielder Andy Van Slyke, pitcher Mike Dunne and catcher Mike LaValliere; pitcher Rick Rhoden to the Yankees for pitchers Doug Drabek and Brian Fisher; pitcher Jose

DeLeon to the White Sox for third baseman Bobby Bonilla.

As Pirates, Van Slyke, Bonilla and Drabek have blossomed into genuine stars and Thrift was quick to take full credit for their success. It was Thrift's seemingly insatiable lust for power and recognition that led to two highly publicized clashes with the Pirates ownership.

Just how Steinbrenner came to select Thrift is a bit unclear, although it is known that Thrift and Clyde King, Steinbrenner's longtime chief adviser, have a long association. Both King and Thrift are disciples of the late Branch Rickey—King as a pitcher for the

Brooklyn Dodgers when Rickey was general manager, and Thrift as a scout for the Pirates in the late '50s when Rickey was running the Pittsburgh club.

King was instrumental in Steinbrenner's hiring of Green as manager, it is a good bet he played a major role in bringing together Steinbrenner and Thrift. It is known that Steinbrenner met with Thrift in Virginia last week.

Thrift did not return telephone calls to his home in Fairfax, Va., Monday, nor did Steinbrenner, who was believed to be in Tampa.

It is believed that Steinbrenner will ask Quinn to stay on as general manager-but in title only.



BASEBALL

ineligible at SMU

By John Gorman

Bears wide receiver Ron Morris was ineligible during the four years he played at Southern Methodist University because he took a car and \$400 a month in violation of NCAA rules, according to a defense attorney in the sports agents trial.

Morris was offered money "under the table" before he came to the Dallas school and took "significant sums of money from representatives of the university, Dan Webb, an attorney for n, contended Monday during the federal trial of sports agents Norby Walters and Lloyd Bloom.

During legal arguments before U.S. District Court Judge George Marovich, Webb also charged that the NCAA "whitewashed" an incident in which former University of Texas running back Edwin Simmons accepted a car while playing for the Austin-based school.

The motions became the focus of the trial Monday when the jury was excused for the day after Walters collided with an evidence cart while on his way to court. Walters was taken to Northwestern Memorial Hospital, where X-rays were negative. He is expected to return to court Tuesday.

Webb argued against a government motion to limit Morris' testimony. Marovich ruled that Webb could ask Morris about the payments and the source, but the judge declined to allow Webb to elicit the amounts paid. Webb apparently hopes to show that Morris had already defrauded SMU when he enrolled at the school in the fall of 1983, long before he ever met Bloom in late 1985. Walters, 58, and Bloom, 29, are charged with defrauding several universities-but not SMU-by convincing athletes to sign representation agreements in violation of eligibility rules and concealing the existence of the agreements. They are also charged with threat-

ening athletes who backed out of the agreements.

SMU's football program was suspended for a year in 1986 after 13 players received \$61,000 as part of the school's recruitment program.

Morris is expected to testify that after he decided to sign with another agent, Bloom said he would have someone break Morris' legs. Webb also told Marovich he wanted to question Simmons about acceptance of a sports car, in apparent violation of NCAA rules.

"I will not accept the NCAA's whitewashing of this. He accepted a sports car," Webb charged. "It doesn't surprise me at all in light of the way they enforce the rules." U.S. Atty. Anton Valukas argued that Simmons had told his coach about the car, the coach had notified the NCAA and that the NCAA "didn't find a viola-

Efforts to reach a spokesman for the NCAA Monday were unsuccessful.

Marovich said he would allow Webb to ask Simmons if he took the car and if he considered the car a violation of the NCAA rules. Marovich also refused to allow Webb to question Simmons about



AP Laserphoto

as basketball coach. Donoher had led the school Don Donoher fields reporters' questions after Dayton officials announced that he had been fired to a 437-275 record over the last 25 years.

Donoher out after 25 years at Dayton

From Chicago Tribune wires

DAYTON-Don Donoher, who won more games than any other basketball coach in Dayton's history and came within a game of an NCAA championship in 1967, was fired Monday after a third consecutive losing season.

"It is my responsibility, but not my pleasure, to announce that the University of Dayton has asked Don Donoher to relinquish his basketball coaching responsibilities and assume other administrative duties with the university," said Tom Frericks, vice president for athletic programs and facilities.

Brother Raymond Fitz, president of each in the NCAA and NIT. The the Roman Catholic-affiliated university. Donoher met on Monday with his coaches and players.

"It isn't really pleasant to have to go through this, from my standpoint or the president's," Donoher said. "That's the way it goes. I've got a

lot to be grateful for. The issue now is, let's get our new coach in here and get Dayton basketball back on track."

Donoher said he's not bitter over his dismissal.

1986 team was the last to play a postseason game, losing in the first round of the NIT. Dayton's last trip to the NCAA tournament was in 1985, when it also lost in the first round.

Donoher's first three teams played in the NCAA tournament, and he was one of just 10 coaches to perform that feat. Six of the eight teams Donoher sent to the NCAA tournament were eliminated by either the top-ranked team or the eventual

Dwane Casey, the principal figure in the NCAA's investigation of the Kentucky basketball program, resigned Monday as assis-tant coach of the Wildcats. Casey's resig-nation came one day after Eddie Sutton resigned as head coach of the beleaguered program. Meanwhile, Kentucky spokesman Bernie Vonderheide said the school was forming a search committee to find a successor to Sutton. "Athletic director-elect C.M. Newton will be on the committee, but other committee members have not been firmed up yet," he said. Newton, the coach at Vanderbilt, officially becomes Kentucky's athletic director April 1. Sutton's other assistants, James Dickey and Jimmy Dykes, could not be reached for comment. Casey was mentioned in 7 of the 18 allegations lodged against the university by the NCAA. But Casey, 31, who played on Kentucky's 1978 national championship team, insisted that he is innocent. "I have never intentionally or knowingly violated any NCAA rule or regulation," he said in a statement. "I have conducted my professional and personal life with dignity, honor and pride. I did not put any money in any Emery package; I did not offer any players money or cars; I have never asked anyone outside the university structure to assist me in recruiting; and I have not provided the university or the NCAA with any false or misleading information. I am confident that the NCAA hearing will vindicate me."

Sonny Smith, head basketball coach at Auburn for 11 years, was hired by Virginia Commonwealth's Rams to replace Mike Pollio. "I left a program that I loved," Smith said. "But I left because I wanted to. I felt that I could win quicker here than I could at Auburn." Auburn was 9-19 this year under Smith. The name of former Kentucky coach Eddie Sutton surfaced immediately as a possible replacement for Smith. Smith 52, has a 203-177 record in 13 years as a head coach, including two years at East Tennessee State. But Auburn failed to make the NCAA playoffs this season for the first time in six years.

University of Tennessee basketball coach Don DeVoe will be fired this week, maybe as soon as Tuesday, sources told Knight-Ridder. "It's a done deal," said a source. "I'm 99 percent sure," another source said. DeVoe, when contacted at his home Monday night, said: "I'm not going to deny or confirm anything. It's news to me." Tennessee Athletic Director Doug Dickey, who said Sunday he would make a decision on whether to retain DeVoe by Thursday, did not return calls to his office or home,

which Simmons was found naked on a lawn in Austin after he allegedly had been smoking marijuana and drinking.

an incident in September, 1986, in

Webb had argued that Simmons had told the police he could not remember his name, where he was and that he thought he was a football player. Webb argued that he should be allowed to question Simmons about this memory loss because he remembered his conversation with **Bloom** several months later "with great specificity."

Valukas successfully argued that Webb was attempting to "bootstrap" one incident into a general conclusion that Simmons' memory was faulty.

In 25 seasons at Dayton, Donoher had a record of 437-275. His most successful season was 1967, when the Flyers were 25-6 and advanced to the championship game of the NCAA tournament before losing to UCLA and Lew Alcindor (now Kareem Abdul-Jabbar) 79-64. The 1968 team was 21-9 and won the National Invitation Tournament.

Donoher had 20-win seasons his first five years and eight overall. His last three teams, however, were 13-15, 13-18 and 12-17.

Frericks said Donoher was told of his firing Sunday afternoon by

"They've given me an awful lot of chances here," he said. "I wish I

could of let us out of the hole we're in, but it didn't happen.

"The last three years have been losing seasons, and that's not in keeping with the goal that we have. It's a tough call for them to make. I'm sure Brother [Fitz] didn't enjoy it. But he has to look ahead."

"I think we want to be competitive to play in a postseason tournament," Frericks said. "I think we want to be competitive in the MCC [Midwestern Collegiate Conference]. And I think we want to have teams that are entertaining."

Sixteen of Donoher's teams played in postseason tournaments, eight

national champion.

"We're hopeful Don will stay with the university," Frericks said. "He requested that he be given some time to think about what he wishes to do into the future."

"I prefer to remember the successes and the over 400 wins in Don's 25 years," Frericks said. "Equally important to the university has been how Don has carried himself in the public and on the bench, and how his players have done likewise during his coaching career. He has been a class act."

The university hasn't yet formed a search committee to find a replacement for Donoher, Frericks added.

Roger Reid, for 11 years an assistant coach at Brigham Young, was named to replace retiring head coach Ladell Andersen. BYU President Jeffrey Holland's announcement came just three days after Andersen, 60, stepped down following a 14-15 season in which the Cougars failed to survive the Western Athletic Conference playoffs. Before getting into coaching, Reid spent four years as a shortstop with the White Sox and Atlanta Braves organizations, advan-cing as far as Triple-A ball.

Bob Knight, who led the Indiana Hoosiers to their ninth Big 10 championship in his 18 years at the helm, has been named Coach of the Year by the United States Basketball Writers Association.

Margolis

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sport claims to be some kind of model for correct behavior, a character-builder for the kids as they approach "real life." Consider the commercials now running in which successful businessmen who played sports in college claim that the experience taught them about teamwork and about playing by the rules.

But in the rest of life, are rules only enforced selectively? Yes, as a matter of fact, they are. The most obvious analogy concerns driving. Were the police to enforce the speed limits by the book, the results would be identical to rulebook enforcement of holding and traveling penalties-paralysis. Like the ref in the Michigan-South Alabama game, traffic cops sometimes issue a warning before calling a foul. And just as there is a fine line between the block and the charge, there is sometimes an unclear zone where luck or shrewdness meets insider trading. Like a referee, a prosecutor is likely to call a foul

only when he's sure.

We're less comfortable admitting it, but there is also selective enforcement of drug laws. William Bennett, the new federal drug czar, said on Meet the Press Sunday that perhaps 70 percent of all cocaine users were proper folk who took the drug as a "recreation," and he suggested putting them in jail, or putting their pictures in the papers or fining them thousands of dollars.

Not likely. There are too many of them, they are too respectable, and no matter what they say, most people don't care all that much, just as many people don't care if cops beat up prisoners or if the building inspector is on the take.

Police and prosecutors are no

Ohio State tops Nebraska; **Michigan State advances**

From Chicago Tribune wires

Grady Mateen tied his career high with 20 points, leading five Ohio State players in double figures, as the Buckeyes defeated Nebraska 85-74 Monday night in a National Invitation Tournament second-round game in Columbus, Ohio. "I did what I do best. That's take the ball and shoot it," said Mateen.

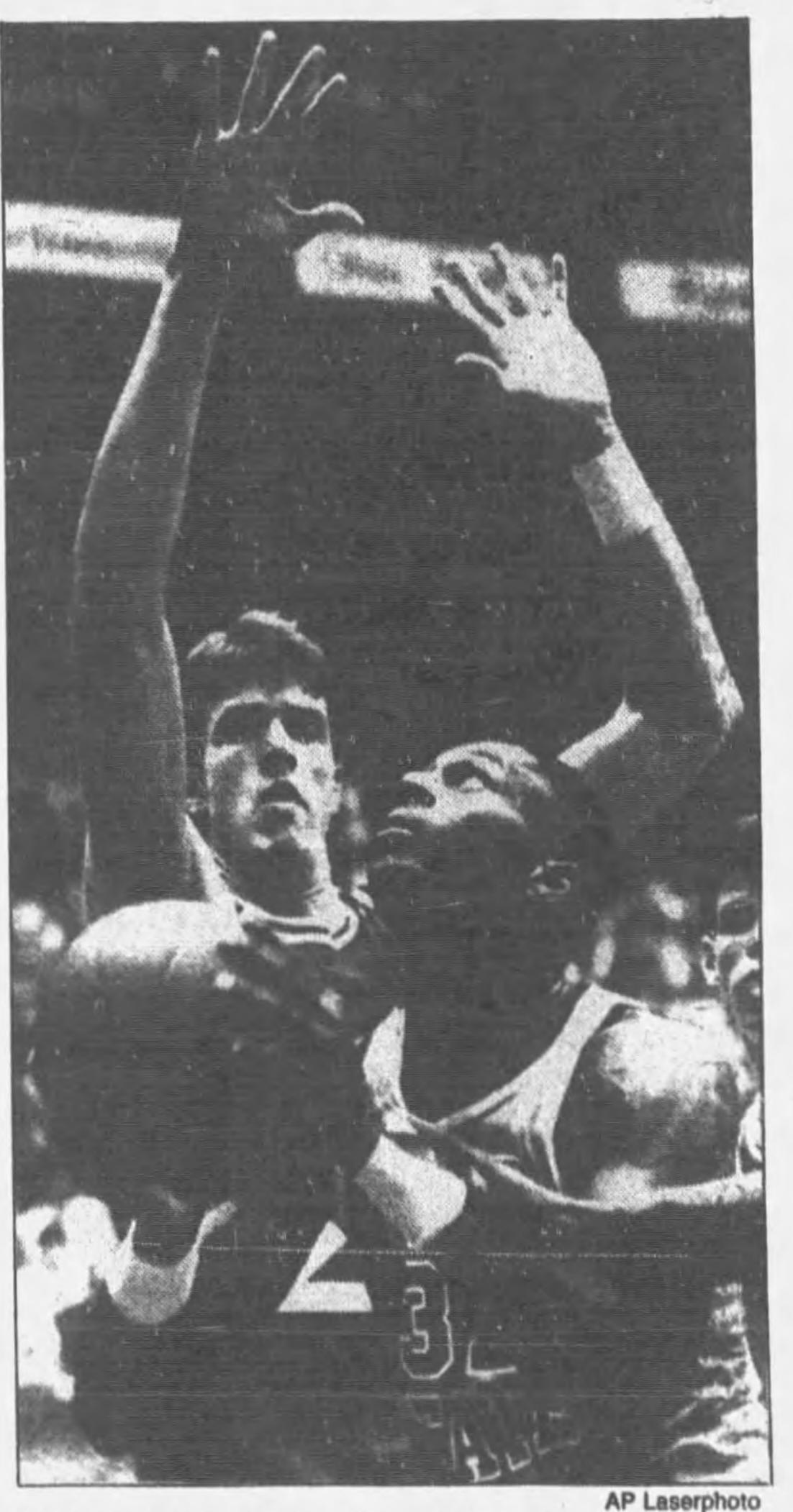
Ohio State advanced to the tournament quarterfinals later this week. Ohio State led 43-37 at halftime and put the game away with a 15-3 run early in the second half that gave the Buckeyes a 58-42 lead.

NIT

10-22 (Bonds 3-5, Dwight Praylow 3-7, Radunovich 2-3, Gutfrovich 1-2, Cooper 1-5), Michigan St. 5-11 (Wolfe 4-4, Manns 1-5, Casler 0-1, Sekal 0-1 Fouled Out-None. Rebounds-Wichita St. 25 (Radunovich 7), Michigan St. 27 (Smith 11). Assists—Wichita St. 13 (Cooper 4), Michigan St. 20 (Redfield, Smith 5). Total fouls—Wichita St. 18, Michigan St. 20. Technical foul— Redfield. A—9,860.

Villanova 76, Penn State 67-Tom Greis scored 24 points and Gary Massey 21 to lead host Villanova past Penn State.

Penn State (20-12) outscored Villanova 20-13 to open the second half and cut the Wildcats' nine-point lead at halftime to 52-50 on Brian Allen's three-pointer with 10:09 left. But Villanova (18-15) answered with a 9-2 run and took a 61-52 lead with 5:52 left.



more incompetent than referees and umpires. In both cases, though, the enforcers know that strict adherence to the rulebook is impossible, so choices must be made.

So it turns out the kids really are getting the right message. Sports are like "real life." Both are played by the rules-not the rules as written, but the rules as actually enforced.

Also in double figures for Ohio State (19-14) were Perry Carter and Jamaal Brown with 13 points apiece, Jerry Francis with 12 and James Bradley with 11. Eric Johnson scored 23 for the Cornhuskers (17-16).

NEBRASKA (74)-Reid 4-11 1-2 9, van Poelgeest 1-3 0-0 2, King 2-6 0-0 4, Johnson 9-15 0-0 23, Scales 2-6 2-2 6, Richardson 3-9 2-2 10, Manning 1-5 0-0 2, Owens 7-11 4-4 18. 29-66 9-10 74.

OHIO ST. (85)-Carter 5-7 3-6 13, Francis 6-15 0-0 12, Mateen 6-9 809 20, Jent 1-5 1-2 4, Brown 3-6 5-6 13, White 3-6 0-0 6, Lee 1-1 0-0 2, Bradley 3-6 2-3 11, Brewster 0-1 0-0 0, Dumas 1-1 2-2 4, Hall 0-0 0-0 0, Robinson 0-1 0-0 0. 29-58 21-28 85.

Halftime-Ohio St. 43, Nebraska 37. Three-point goals-Nebraska 7-19 (Reid 0-3, Johnson 5-8, Scales 0-1, Richardson 2-7.), Ohio St. 6-11(Jent 1 2, Brown 2-3, Bradley 3-5, Brewster 0-1). Fouled out-None. Rebounds-Nebraska 30 (Reid, Owens 7), Ohio St.38 (Carter 12). Assists-Nebraska 17 (Reid, Johnson 5), Ohio St. 15 (Jent 5). Total fouls-Nebraska 20, Ohio St. 13. A-13,276.

IT

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Newberry with 11:26 left.

Wisconsin raised its lead to 51-47 on a 10-foot jumper by Jackson, but St. Louis went on a 14-4 run to take the lead for good, 61-55, on a basket by Vincent Smith.

St. Louis held Jones to just two free throws in the closing 10 minutes to fend off the Badgers the rest of the way. The Billikens got six free throws from Jeff Luechtefeld in the closing minute to ice it.

Wisconsin coach Steve Yoder blamed his team's sloppy passing and poor concentration for the second-half collapse.

"Our guys just passed them the ball and said 'Here it is,'" Yoder said. "To end the season this wayit stings."

Senior Tom Molaski agreed the loss stung more because it was before the home fans.

"We feel we kind of let the fans down," he said. "It's hard to lose your last game, but only two teams in the country don't."

ST. LOUIS (73)—Bonner 4-8 1-2 9, Gray 7-13 1-1 17, Ivester 0-0 0-0 0, Douglass 3-7 3-3 9, Newberry 6-10 4-4 17, Braun 1-2 0-0 2, Luechtefeld 3-5 6-6 13, Smith 1-2 0-0 2, Jones 2-2 0-0 4, 27-49 15-16 73.

WISCONSIN (68) Jones 10-19 4-5 24, Simms 6-16 1-5 13, Schubring 0-2 0-2 0, Molaski 2-4 2-2 8, Jackson 7-13 0-0 15, Douglass 0-0 0-0 0, Portmann 0-0 0-0 0, Locum 3-6 2-3 8, 28-60 7-14 68.

Halftime-Wisconsin 28, St. Louis 16. Three-point goals-St. Louis 4-6 (Gray 2-2, Newberry 1-1, Luechtefeld 1-3), Wisconsin 5-12 (Loom 2-3, Molaski 2-4, Jackson 1-5), Fouled out-None, Rebounds-St. Louis 29 (Gray 8), Wisconsin 31 (Schubring 9). Assists-St Louis 16 (Douglass 5), Wisconsin 18 (Molaski 7). Total fouls-St. Louis 17, Wisconsin 17. A-11,385.

Michigan State 79, Wichita State 67-Todd Wolfe scored 18 points and Steve Smith added 16 to lead Michigan State in East Lansing, Mich.

Wolfe has played through two ankle injuries and a separated shoulder this season, averaging only 5.5 points a game since he first was injured against Wisconsin on Feb. 2.

Kirk Manns hit a three-point shot with 15:27 to play to cap a 13-4 run at the start of the second half and give the Spartans a 47-34 lead. John Cooper scored 15 points for the Shockers, who lost their leading scorer and rebounder, center Steve Grayer, to sprained knee ligaments after he tangled with Ken Redfield with 7:15

WICHITA ST. (67)—Cooper 4-10 6-6 15, Dwayne Praylow 2-5 3-6 7, Grayer 2-3 0-0 4, Guffrovich 1-4 2-3 5, Dwight Praylow 3-8 0-0 9, Bell 0-0 0-0 0, Radunovich 3-7 3-5 11, Davis 2-3 3-4 7, Bonds 3-6 0-0 9, Mendelson 0-0 0-0 0-0. 20-46 17-24 67

left.

MICHIGAN ST. (79)-Redfield 5-7 2-3 12, Smith 7-15, 2-3 16, Steigenge 5-8 0-0 10, Manns 6-13 0-0 13, Montgomery 2-3 4-4 8, Hickman 1-2 0-0 2, Hall 0-0 0-0 0, Casler 0-1 0-0 0, Wolfe 7-9 0-0 18, Mueller 0-0 0-0 0, Sekal 0-1 0-0 0, Sarkine 0-0 0-0 0, 33-59 8-10 79

Halftime-Michigan St. 33, Wichita St 30, Three-point shots-Wichita

PENN STATE (67)-Blake 2-8 3-4 7, Hovasse 4-16 2-2 12, Fogell 3-4 1-2 7, Brown 2-3 0-05, F. Barnes 7-11 1-1 16, J. Barnes 1-1 1-2 3, Degitz 0-0 0-0 0, Johnson 2-2 1-35, Allen 5-12 0-0 12, Appleman 0-0 0-0 0. 26-57 9-14

VILLANOVA (76) Massey 8-10 5-5 21, Taylor 1-4 4-6 6, Greis 9-11 6-7 24, Miller 1-2 0-0 3, West 7-14 1-2 17, Dowdell 0-3 0-0 0, Wilson 1-4 2-2 5, Woodard 0-2 0-0 0. 27-50 18-22 76.

Halftime—Villanova 39, Penn State 30. Three-point goals—Penn State 6-15 (Hovasse 2-8, Brown 1-2, F. Barnes 1-2, Allen 2-3), Villanova 4-8 (Miller 1-1, West 2-6, Wilson 1-1). Fouled out-Hovasse, Fogell. Rebounds-Penn State 34 (F. Barnes 7), Villanova 22 (West 7). Assists-Penn State 12 (F. Barnes, Allen 3), Villanova 20 (West 7). Total fouls-Penn State 20, Villanova 16. A-6.500.

Ala.-Birmingham 64, Richmond 61-Alabama-Birmingham's Barry Bearden scored only 2 points in Richmond, Va., but they were enough to end Richmond's (21-10) season.

"I knew as soon as I shot them that they were going in. I just wanted to get rid of them," Bearden said of his two free throws with 7 seconds to

Reginald Turner scored 24 points for UAB (20-11).

ALA.-BIRMINGHAM (64)—Turner 9-21 6-7 24, Howard 3-5 0-1 6, Ogg 3-6 2-3 8, Bearden 0-1 2-2 2, Kramer 1-2 1-2 3, Kennedy 5-8 1-1 15, Smith 0-0 0-0 0, Lewis 0-1 0-0 0, Rembert 3-6 0-0 6, 24-50 12-16 64.

RICHMOND (61)—Stapleton 7-9 0-0 14, Shields 0-2 0-0 0, Winlecki 6-13 9-11 21, Atkinson 1-5 1-2 3, English 5-12 2-2 13, Taylor 3-4 0-0 7, Blair 0-0 0-0 0, Webb 0-1 0-0 0, Bryant 1-2 -14 3. 23-48 13-19 61. Halftime—Ala.-Birmingham 28, Richmond 23, Three-point goals—Ala.-Bir-mingham 4-9 (Turner 0-1, Bearden 0-1, Kramer 0-1, Kennedy 4-6), Richmond

2-9 (Atkinson 0-2, English 1-6, Taylor 1-1). Fouled out-Turner. Rebounds-Ala.-Birmingham 31 (Howard 11), Richmond 26 (Stapleton 7). Assists-Ala. Birmingham 9 (Bearden 4), Richmond 11 (Stapleton 49). Total fouls-Ala.-Birmingham 19, Richmond 19. Technicals-Stapleton. A-9,423.

Connecticut 73, California 72—Tate George sank two free throws with 5 seconds left to give the defending NIT champion the victory in Hartford, Conn. George scored nine points in the last 2:25 as Connecticut (18-12) rebounded from a six-point deficit to move into the quar-

Nebraska's Rich King tries to intimidate Perry Carter Monday night in Ohio State's 85-74 home-court victory in the NIT.

terfinal round.

Leonard Taylor scored 22 of his 32 points in the second half for California (20-13). Cliff Robinson led Connecticut with 26 points.

CALIFORNIA (72)—Beeuwsaert 2-7 4-4 8, Taylor 8-14 16-18 32, Ortmann 3-4 0-0 6, K.Smith 4-8 2-2 11, Drew 3-5 0-0 7, Reyes 2-2 0-0 4, Walton 1-3 0-1 2, Elleby 1-3 0-0 2, 24-46 22-25 72.

CONNECTICUT (73)—Robinson 12-17 2-4 26, DePriest 0-0 0-0 0, Cyrulik 1-4 0-0 2, C.Smith 4-16 0-2 9, Gamble 5-12 0-0 14, George 4-11 8-9 16, Sellers 3-4 0-0 6, Gwynn 0-2 0-0 0, McCloud 0-0 0-0 0. 29-66 10-15 73.

Halftime-Connecticut 30, California 30. Three-point goals-California 2-8 (K.Smith 1-2, Drew 1-2, Walton 0-1, Elleby 0-1, Taylor 0-2), Connecticut 5-14 (Gamble 4-7, C.Smith 1-7). Fouled out-Beeuwsaert. Rebounds- California 31 (Taylor 7), Connecticut 35 (Cyrulik 7). Assists-California 18 (Beeuwsaert 8), Connecticut 22 (C.Smith, George 6). Total fouls-California, 20 Connecticut 18. A-12,031.