

ARENA

290 Nabbed for Drugs In Soviet Crackdown

Nearly 300 Soviet athletes were punished for using forbidden drugs in the three years preceding last summer's Olympic Games, a Moscow newspaper reported yesterday. "In the three pre-Olympic years, the anti-doping laboratory of the Sports Committee had to work hard — 290 of our athletes and trainers were punished for doping," Leninskoye Znamya said.

The paper reported that the Soviet sports establishment is expanding its spot-testing and introducing new punishments. "The struggle against doping is entering a new phase," said Vasily Gromyko, deputy chairman of the State Sports Committee. "Now we're starting to spot-test athletes during training," not just before competitions.

A new agreement with the U.S. Olympic Committee will grant Soviet and American monitors the right to test each other's athletes. A Soviet delegation will fly to the United States for the first round of testing within days, Znamya said.

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Dionne Warwick: No Threats

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Singer Dionne Warwick and her manager testified they never received threats, implied or otherwise, from a reputed New York mobster who the government contends helped sports agent Norby Walters keep clients under contract.

Warwick was among the first witnesses called as attorneys for Walters and fellow sports agent Lloyd Bloom began their defense against fraud charges. The government contends that Walters and Bloom relied on the reputation of reputed organized-crime figure Michael Franzese, now in prison for racketeering and tax violations, to keep certain clients in the fold.

Warwick and Joseph Grant, her manager for the past eight years, testified they had never met Franzese or been threatened by him. Grant said that when they decided to fire Walters as Warwick's booking agent in 1982 because they were disappointed with his work, the parting was amicable.

Viking Denies DWI Arrest

Vikings All-Pro defensive tackle Keith Millard denies he was arrested for drunk driving last week in Redmond, Wash., but police said they're sure it was he whom they apprehended. "He certainly was big enough and he bragged about it to the officers that he was a Viking," police Sgt. Rich Moothart said, adding that Millard matched the photo on the suspect's license. But Millard said he was out of town when the charges of drunk driving, reckless driving and malicious mischief were filed. "You've got the wrong guy," he told the Star Tribune of Minneapolis. "I was in California last week. I just got back. There's a few of us out here named Keith Millard." The malicious mischief charge was added when Millard, handcuffed in the back seat of a squad car, kicked the car door out about five inches, Moothart said. The arrest took place after police received a complaint of a driver speeding and being "irrational" and a later report of a man screaming and being "belligerent" outside his car, which had a flat tire. The Vikings have had seven other drunk-driving incidents since the fall of 1986.



Evert Pressed to Win

Second-seeded Chris Evert was forced to a thirdset tiebreaker before beating No. 11 Helen Kelesi in the quarterfinals of the International Players Championships in Key Biscayne. Evert rallied from a service break down in the final set to win, 6-3, 4-6, 7-6 (7-0), in 3 hours and 17 minutes. The other semifinalists are top seed Gabriela Sabatini, who has won every set in her five matches; No. 3 Helena Sukova, who rallied from a set down to beat No. 15 Rafaella Reggi, and No. 5 Zina Garrison, who needed three sets to oust Jana Novotna.

Furthermore . . .

Olympic gold medalist Greg Louganis, stating that he "feared for his life," sued in court to keep his fired business manager from having any contact with him. A Los Angeles judge ordered R. James Babbitt to stay away from the diver, but did not order Babbitt out of the Malibu home he and Louganis have shared for four years . . . Maryland basketball coach Bob Wade is back on the job, 17 days after collapsing from dehydration during the Atlantic Coast Conference tournament. He refused comment on an NCAA preliminary inquiry into admitted recruiting violations.

Edited by Parker Smith

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