

Rangers' Playoffs Not on Cablevision

By Stan Isaacs

The Rangers are in a volatile situation, fumbling and bumbling as the world of hockey looks on to see how Phil Esposito and his team fare in the playoffs. But the season-long blackout of Rangers games continues on Cablevision systems in the metropolitan area.

SportsChannel America, Cablevision's subdivision, will show a full slate of out-of-town games and Rangers playoff games in areas outside of New York. It is permitted to show three-minute inserts of Rangers games here.

Cablevision systems here will open the playoff schedule tomorrow night with the Capitals-Flyers game on SportsChannel, followed by the Oilers-Kings game. The Whalers-Canadiens game will be on SportsChannel Plus.

Madison Square Garden Network, whose Rangers games are available to all local systems but Cablevision, an-

nounced this schedule when there are conflicts among Knicks, Rangers or Yankees games:

When a Knicks game and a Rangers game conflict, the team at home will be seen on MSGN and the other will move to Channel 9. If Channel 9 has scheduled a program with a higher priority, the Knicks or Rangers game will be moved to a second MSGN channel, MSGN II. MSGN will make announcements on its various systems locating MSGN II. It also has two hot lines — (212) 563-8980 and (212) 563-4946 — to provide that information.

When a Yankees game conflicts with the Knicks or Rangers, the Yankees will be on MSGN, the Knicks or Rangers on MSGN II.

Tomorrow night's schedule: Yankees-Twins on MSGN I; Rangers-Penguins on MSGN II. Thursday night: Rangers-Penguins on Channel 9 on a half-hour delay; Knicks-Bucks, MSGN I.

ARENA

King Assails Cayton Pact

Promoter Don King yesterday fired another salvo in his continuing battle with Bill Cayton for control of heavyweight champion Mike Tyson.

King asked the State Athletic Commission to revoke Cayton's managerial license for "serious violations of state law and commission rules."

King alleges that Cayton employed a "fraudulent" scheme to become Tyson's manager by convincing him to sign a contract that assigned him Tyson's managerial contract in the event of Jimmy Jacobs' death, which occurred six weeks later.

Previously, Cayton asked the commission to revoke King's promotional license, alleging that King had signed Tyson to a contract without Cayton's managerial consent. Commission chairman Randy Gordon said he is considering combining both complaints into a single hearing. — Wallace Matthews

3 Head Coaches Named

Wade Houston, an assistant at Louisville, was named Tennessee's new basketball coach, agreeing to a five-year contract worth a guaranteed \$850,000 — an \$85,000 annual base salary and an equal amount each year in radio and television income. Houston replaces Don DeVoe, who was forced to resign last week after 11 years in the job.

In other basketball coaching changes, Rick Majerus resigned as Ball State's coach to take the head job at the University of Utah and Lynn Nance, who coached St. Mary's to a West Coast Athletic Conference championship and a 25-4 record this season, became the new head coach at the University of Washington, his alma mater.

Vouchers Challenged

Rich Daly, the University of Missouri basketball recruiter who took over the team after coach Norm Stewart became ill, turned in vouchers for Detroit-area recruiting trips that bore many similar names, the Kansas City Star reported. The newspaper said it was unable to locate most of the persons named on the vouchers, saying they were neither listed in the telephone directory nor known to athletic officials in the area.

David Berst, NCAA assistant execu-

tive director for enforcement, said: "It would concern us if somehow the monies were used for recruiting purposes or used to provide cash to individuals who can't receive it."

North Stars Lose Gagner

The North Stars will be without their leading scorer, Dave Gagner, during the NHL playoffs. He was to undergo surgery today for a knee injury suffered when he blocked a shot last week against the Red Wings. . . . The Blues have signed Rod Brind'amour, their top choice in last summer's NHL draft. The 6-1, 200-pound center was the Central Collegiate Hockey Association rookie of the year this season, scoring 26 goals and 30 assists for Michigan State in 40 games. He will report today.

Columbia Fencers Lose

The Columbia women's fencing team lost to Wayne State, of Detroit, in the finals of the NCAA championships at Northwestern. The two teams tied 8-8, but Wayne State won on total touches, 65-56. Columbia, seeded first, had defeated Ohio State and Notre Dame. Jill Tobia, Amy Manges and Darlene Pratschler of Columbia will compete in the individual tournaments starting today.

Furthermore . . .

Jim Perduto had four goals and an assist but Maritime (2-4) suffered a 14-10 lacrosse loss to FDU-Madison (2-4). . . . The Houston Oilers have matched the 5-year, \$4.7-million offer sheet that defensive end Ray Childress signed with the Chicago Bears. . . . Closing arguments are scheduled today in the federal trial of sports agents Norby Walters and Lloyd Bloom, accused of luring college athletes to sign clandestine contracts and using threats to keep them from breaking them.

Tony Sharpe told a Canadian inquiry into drug use by athletes that he and Ben Johnson took steroids together while training for the 1984 Olympics in which they competed on the Canadian 400-meter relay team that won a bronze medal. . . . The West Side Tennis Club is seeking boys and girls 13 and older to work as ball boys and ball girls during the Eagle Tournament of Champions April 29-May 7. Tryouts will be held at the Forest Hills club at 9 a.m. Saturday. For further information, phone 212-980-0660.

Edited by Parker Smith

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103