

THE NHL / STEVE SPRINGER

For North Stars, Won Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest

The Minnesota North Stars beat the Kings Tuesday night at the Forum. But off the ice, it was a different story. North Stars won is lost. Confused? It's really pretty simple. Minnesota owner Norm Green, seeing the success the Kings and other teams have had with private jets, decided to get one, too. That was the simple part. From there, it got difficult. While King owner Bruce McNall bought his jet, Green leased his. And while the Kings have a 727 aircraft with reconfigured seats to allow more comfort, Green got a DC-9 and left the seats as he found them, tight and cramped. Minnesota's plane was named North Stars Won, but it soon became a losing proposition. The primary purpose of a team plane is to avoid the long delays that can plague winter travelers, particularly in the Midwest. But the North Stars found themselves no better off. And maybe a little worse in what became the not-so-friendly skies. Because of airport problems, one trip from Calgary to San Francisco, normally no more than two hours, took nearly seven. The worst nightmare came, fittingly, on Halloween. After a night

game in Pittsburgh, the North Stars boarded their plane for the flight home. But weather had tied up their airport in Minnesota. And the North Stars discovered that charter flights in such trying circumstances get sent to the back of the line. Hockey team or no hockey team. So the North Stars waited in Pittsburgh where they sat and sat and sat. Finally, at 3 a.m., it became obvious they weren't going home. The North Stars found an all-night coffee shop, checked into a hotel and tried again the next morning. Still more delays. The North Stars eventually made it back to Minnesota. At 3 p.m. the next day, nearly 24 hours after their game. For this I need a private plane? Green started thinking. Finally, when North Stars Won was grounded because of an engine problem, Green decided enough was enough and gave the order: "Lose North Star Won." The North Stars came to Los Angeles on a commercial airliner. And that's the way they will travel, from here on.

have been quiet on the labor front, but that's not because of any movement by either the NHL Players Assn. or the league. The next meeting on a new collective bargaining agreement won't happen at least until mid-January in Philadelphia at the All-Star Game. Neither side reports much progress on replacing the old CBA, which expired in September. Rumors persist that the players are considering a strike at the end of the regular season. That wouldn't hurt them since their playoff money, in most cases, is minuscule compared to their salaries. But it would cripple the owners, who bank heavily on playoff revenue. Many players doubt that enough of them would actually vote to go out at that point, especially those who feel they have a shot at the Stanley Cup. But they don't mind keeping the rumors afloat to perhaps scare the owners into making some concessions on such key issues as free agency and the pension plan. One thing seems certain: In the midst of a deep recession with more and more people losing their jobs, their homes and their chances for a decent future, there would be

little sympathy for millionaire athletes going on strike. On the contrary, all the strides the league has made in popularity could be decimated. There's a time to talk and a time to walk. For the sake of the league, the powers that be better know the difference. Flameout in Calgary: In his last season as coach of the Calgary Flames, Terry Crisp had a minor revolt on his hands. Players whispered to the media that they couldn't play for him, that he had become too overbearing. Just help get rid of him, they said, and watch what happens. All Crisp had won in his three seasons at the helm was three division titles and the only Stanley Cup in franchise history. A Calgary newspaper called for Crisp's resignation during the 1989-90 postseason in the middle of a series against the Kings. The critics had their way, Doug Risebrough took over and is now both coach and general manager. The result? A second-place finish for the Flames in the Smythe last season

and a first-round playoff elimination. And, so far this season, fifth place in the Smythe wouldn't even qualify for the playoffs. But at least the players are happier. Add Crisp: He's temporarily employed as an assistant coach on the Canadian Olympic team and loves it. "I was diagraming a practice drill at rinkside one day," he told the Toronto Star, "and I suddenly realized there were 18 pairs of eyes riveted on me. I was dumbfounded because nothing like this had happened since I'd coached junior hockey." These guys were paying attention because they wanted to learn. "What I realized at that moment was, 'I'm finally coaching again.' For me, that's fun and satisfying." "With a pro club, hey, you're just a glorified baby-sitter." Quotebook: The Chicago Blackhawks have color pictures of themselves above their lockers. "That's so when I forget how to spell my name," Stu Grimson said, "I can still find my clothes."

College Hockey Tournament Begins Tonight

No. 1-ranked Maine plays sixth-ranked Michigan State in the first round of the third Great Western Freeze-Out Collegiate Hockey Tournament tonight at 8 in the Forum. In the other first-round game, Waterloo, the No. 3-ranked team in Canada, plays No. 8 Calgary at 5 p.m. The winners meet Friday at 8 p.m.; the consolation game will be at 5 p.m. Two-time defending champion Michigan State (7-2-4) features defenseman Michael Stewart, a 1990 first-round draft pick of the New York Rangers. Maine (11-1) has won eight consecutive games behind goaltender Garth Snow. Calgary (13-7-2) is led by the Triple K line: Sean Krakiwsky, Tracey Katelnikoff and Matt Kabayama. Krakiwsky is a former Los Angeles King draft pick who played one season with the team's former minor league affiliate in New Haven, Conn. Waterloo (10-2) has won five consecutive games. —THERESA MUNOZ

NEWSWIRE

Beauty Pageant Official Drops Tyson Lawsuit

From Staff and Wire Reports J. Morris Anderson, the founder of the Miss Black America Pageant dropped a \$607-million lawsuit against Mike Tyson Wednesday, saying several contestants lied when they accused the former heavyweight champion of fondling them. Anderson said two of the women "were telling outright lies specifically for the purpose of obtaining publicity." Anderson said he also had "second thoughts about participating in the crucifixion of a black role model." Anderson said he met with Tyson's attorneys and agreed to settle the suit. He would not say whether any money was involved. His lawsuit, filed in August in U.S. District Court in Philadelphia, called Tyson a "serial buttocks fondler" and accused the fighter of molesting the 1990 Miss Black America and 10 of 23 contestants at the 1991 pageant, held in July in Indianapolis. This case is separate from the one in which Tyson faces criminal charges of raping an 18-year-old contestant in his hotel room. That trial is set to start Jan. 27 in Indianapolis.

school because of poor grades. Gary Barnett, offensive coordinator at Colorado, was named head coach at Northwestern. Barnett replaces Francis Peay, fired at the end of the season after posting a six-year record of 13-51-2.

Indiana Coach Bill Mallory has told athletic officials he has no interest in leaving the Hoosiers to coach at Arizona State. The Ivy League, the last holdout against freshmen playing varsity football and varsity teams conducting spring practice, has approved both concepts.

Former North Carolina State coach Jim Valvano has only talked with the New Jersey Nets about possible employment, said Valvano's lawyer, Art Kaminsky, in response to reports that Valvano has been signed to replace Coach Bill Fitch.

World Cup champion Germany gained the final spot in the European Championship finals with a 4-0 victory over Luxembourg.

All intercollegiate sports at the state's NCAA-sanctioned colleges will be dead in August if a new state law isn't rescinded or modified, a University of Nebraska official said.

World Cup champion Germany gained the final spot in the European Championship finals with a 4-0 victory over Luxembourg.

Former New York Giant Coach Bill Parcells was released from a hospital after having a blockage removed from a heart artery.

Sports agent Norby Walters pleaded guilty to two counts of mail fraud, avoiding a trial on charges that he illegally signed contracts and made payments to college football stars.

Troy Murray of the Winnipeg Jets will miss at least one week because of a leg injury sustained against Calgary Tuesday night.

Winston Tires Ho! Ho! Wholesale Prices Every Tire, Every Day. Wholesale price is the same price we charge service stations, car dealers, and other re-sellers. Now these everyday low wholesale tire prices are also available to you.

SPECIAL! OIL and LUBE \$9.99 Most Cars. ADD \$4.50 FOR FILTER. INCLUDES UP TO 5 QUARTS QUAKER STATE MULTI-WEIGHT OIL AND FRONT END WHERE NEEDED.

TOP VALUE FOR IMPORT CARS \$18.98. Winston Metric. BUILT TO DELIVER OVER 40,000 MILES.

TOP VALUE FOR DOMESTICS \$28.40. Winston Californian I. BUILT TO DELIVER OVER 40,000 MILES.

Winston Californian I. STEEL RADIAL. SMOOTH RIDING. LONG WEARING. TOP VALUE, LOW PRICE!

SALE + 10% REBATE. WINSTON 75. YOUR COST AFTER MAIL-IN REBATE \$39.95.

FOR IMPORT CARS \$31.86. Winston Metric 260. BUILT TO DELIVER OVER 45,000 MILES.

FOR DOMESTICS \$35.70. Winston Californian II. STEEL RADIAL. ALL-SEASON TRACTION.

4x4s, TRUCKS, VANS \$57.56. Winston Truck. ALL-SEASON TRUCK STEEL RADIAL.

FREE INSTALLATION. WINSTON 65. YOUR COST AFTER MAIL-IN REBATE \$32.45.

Winston Performance \$58.26. Winston Winner 60. BUILT TO DELIVER OVER 40,000 MILES.

FREE! \$24.95 VALUE. TOYO 70 Series. BUILT TO DELIVER OVER 40,000 MILES.

LA KINGS SILVER ANNIVERSARY VIDEO YEARBOOK & COMMEMORATIVE PUCK. WITH THE PURCHASE OF 4 TOYO TIRES AT YOUR SO. CALIF. WINSTON STORE, OFFER ENDS 12/31/91.

NO INTEREST & NO PAYMENTS 'TIL MARCH 1992. WINSTON CREDIT CARD. INSTANT CREDIT AVAILABLE.

STOP ON A DIME. SAM WINSTON'S SIGNATURE DISC BRAKES. LIFETIME WARRANTY ON ALL SIGNATURE BRAKE PARTS.

COMPARE OUR SIGNATURE DISC BRAKE LIFETIME WARRANTY. PARTS COVERED: WINSTON COMPETITION.

Winston/TOYO KINGS SILVER ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION & SWEEPSTAKES 25 FREE PRIZES! YOU CAN WIN A GRAND PRIZE TRIP FOR TWO TO THE 75th NHL ALL-STAR GAME.

NHL ROUNDUP

Oilers Beat Fuhr, Maple Leafs

Kelly Buchberger scored the tiebreaking goal with 8:17 left and the Edmonton Oilers beat the Toronto Maple Leafs and former teammate Grant Fuhr, 7-5, Wednesday night at Toronto. Craig Simpson added a goal, beating goaltender Fuhr, a star on Edmonton's Stanley Cup championship teams who was facing the Oilers for the first time since being traded in September. The Oilers have lost only one of their last 10 games. Washington 2, Buffalo 2—Kevin

Hatcher's slapshot through a screen with nine seconds left in the regulation got the Capitals even at Buffalo, and the Sabres set a team record by going 11 games without a victory. Buffalo is 0-8-3, breaking the record set in 1971. New York Rangers 6, Philadelphia 3—Brian Leetch set up two goals, tying a team record with assists in nine consecutive games, and the Rangers beat the Flyers at New York. Leetch tied the record held by Jean Ratelle and Darren Turcotte.

OPEN SUN. 9 AM - 4 PM. OPEN MON., TUES., WED. & FRI. 7:30 AM-6:00 PM THURS. 7:30 AM-8:00 PM SAT. 7:30 AM-5:00 PM. LISTING OF WINSTON STORES ACROSS THE COUNTRY.