

TV-RADIO / LARRY STEWART

Holtz-Dockery II: Reporter Gets No Worse Than a Tie

Notre Dame Coach Lou Holtz tore into sideline reporter John Dockery pretty good. But Dockery stood his ground.

It happened in front of millions of viewers last Saturday, but it wasn't the first time. It also happened in 1989.

"The other time, it was much more volatile," Dockery recalled this week.

When USC played at Notre Dame in 1989, a fight broke out among the players before the game. As the Trojans were leaving the playing field after warming up, Notre Dame players, preparing to come onto the field, blocked their way and the fight was on.

Dockery, then working for CBS, witnessed the whole thing. He reported that a Notre Dame player hit a USC player.

Four weeks later, Notre Dame was playing at Penn State, and CBS was televising the game.

When Holtz came to a production meeting in a hotel room to speak with the CBS people, the first person he spotted was Dockery.

Holtz started screaming at Dockery, "How dare you report one of our players hit one of theirs!"

Said Pat Haden, a member of the CBS crew and an eyewitness: "John didn't back down. He gave it right back to Holtz, saying: 'Hey, I'm just doing my job. You can't tell me how to do my job.'"

Said Dockery this week: "Yeah, that's pretty much the way I remember it."

Dockery, a former defensive back with the New York Jets and Pittsburgh Steelers who played at Harvard, didn't back down Saturday, either.

The first thing television viewers wanted to know after the 17-17 tie between Notre Dame and Michigan was: What in the world was Lou Holtz thinking?

Dockery, who works the sidelines for NBC, corralled Holtz as he walked off the field. "What were you thinking late in the game?"

Holtz shot back: "When late in the game?"

Dockery knew right then the battle lines were drawn. He continued.

"The last minute," he said. Holtz said he was trying to see what defense Michigan was in.

Said Dockery: "But couldn't you have done that by passing the ball?"

Holtz, stealing a line from George Bush, barked, "Read my lips," and tried to explain again that he was simply checking out Michigan's defense and that he definitely had not been playing for a tie.

What he should have said was, "I blew it."

Holtz called Dockery on Monday to apologize.

Said Dockery: "That showed a lot of class. He didn't have to do that."

No, but considering that Notre Dame makes more than \$7 million per year off NBC, it wasn't a bad idea.

the Raiders on NBC at 10 a.m., as required by the NFL, couldn't get a second game because the Rams were at home.

Normally in this case, CBS would have shown a 1 p.m. game. But CBS had the U.S. Open tennis men's final scheduled for 1 p.m. So CBS showed a 10 a.m. game, Atlanta at Washington, then the tennis.

NBC showed the Raiders, then a movie.

One might wonder if the NFL, by limiting the number of telecasts in NFL cities, is looking ahead to pay-per-view.

The answer is probably no. More than likely, it's simply a case of the conservative NFL owners unwilling to change anything, even something that would please the fans.

The NFL's thinking is, one fewer televised game may mean a better gate for the game being played in the area. What silliness.

The NFL's no-doubleheader policy is discriminatory toward people who live in NFL cities. It's doubly discriminatory for people who live in two-team NFL cities, such as Los Angeles, where either the Rams or Raiders are at home almost every weekend.

It sure looks like an open-and-shut case, an easy victory for the fans. Particularly when you consider the NFL's record in court.

The Rams are playing at Miami on Sunday and CBS will televise that game at 1 p.m., with Tim Ryan and newcomer Matt Millen calling the action. Early indications are that Millen is on his way to stardom.

Someone else getting early rave notices is Bill Parcells, whom Los Angeles will get for the second Sunday in a row. He and partner Marv Albert will work NBC's 10 a.m. game, Denver at Philadelphia.

Parcells, who worked the Raiders' game at Cincinnati last weekend, was pretty good, particularly when you consider his lack of experience. He actually made fewer mistakes than Albert, who had an off day.

Parcells spent most of his rookie season with NBC in the studio.

"I like being out at the games, talking to the players and coaches," Parcells said in a phone interview this week. "That's what NBC wanted me to do originally, but because of my health I wanted to limit my travel."

Parcells underwent coronary artery bypass surgery in June and says he is feeling fine.

Asked about the Raiders' switch in quarterbacks, Parcells said: "After talking with Al Davis and the coaches last week, I had a sense they might make a change if things didn't go well, but there was nothing definite."

TV-Radio Notes

With Al Conin and Bob Jamison out as the Angel radio announcers, speculation on their replacements has begun. Bob Starr, now with the Boston Red Sox, is said to be among the leading candidates. Another is NBC's Joel Meyers. Geoff Wither is a longshot, as is Channel 2's Rory Markas, who does Milwaukee Brewer television. Don Drysdale, unhappy about his lack of air time under the Dodgers' one-announcer-at-a-time format, will probably throw his name into the hat, but it's unlikely flagship station KMPC could afford him. Long-time KMPC disc jockey Johnny Magnus, a self-proclaimed baseball fanatic, says he will apply. Here's a likely scenario: Television announcers Ken Wilson and Ken Brett will double up, doing both radio and television. A third announcer would be needed to help out on radio when Wilson and Brett are on television. This would be more economical than hiring two new radio announcers.

XTRA, after drawn-out negotiations, has finally made a deal with KWNK (670) to have the Simi Valley-based station carry its signal, beginning Monday. . . . Chet Forte is close to a deal with Prime Ticket to direct Laker telecasts. He would also continue doing his XTRA morning show with Steve Hartman. . . . Channel 2's "L.A. Football Company" pregame show, off to a dreadful start, is being completely revamped, with more emphasis on football and less on shtick. "It will be football, football, football—and no shtick," Channel 2 program director Jay Strong said. Guests on Sunday's 9 a.m. show will include Al Davis, Eric Dickerson and agent Leigh Steinberg. Cyndy Garvey Truban is being dropped after Sunday. "Not because we don't like her, but because she doesn't have a role in the new format," Strong said. "We'd still like to use her, but on a different show."

NEWSWIRE

Expansion of NFL, World League Halted

From Staff and Wire Reports

Expansion was postponed and the World League was put in mothballs for at least a year Thursday by NFL owners meeting in Grapevine, Tex., to discuss the fallout from last week's antitrust verdict in Minneapolis.

Commissioner Paul Tagliabue said that if the World League is revived—1994 was mentioned as a target year—it will be oriented more to Europe, where it was more popular than in the United States.

As for expansion, scheduled to be determined Oct. 20, Tagliabue did not rule out the league sticking to its timetable to expand in 1994, and added:

"Right now, the priorities are labor and a new television contract. It's a matter of priorities."

On labor, Tagliabue was more conciliatory than he has been since the verdict. He said that the league would have some plan in place by next Feb. 1, when more than 500 players are due to become free agents, and that he hoped it would be through the first collective bargaining agreement since the players' strike five years ago.

Basketball

Portland Trail Blazer guard Clyde Drexler underwent arthroscopic surgery on his right knee Thursday with an early prognosis saying he should be playing basketball in three to six weeks.

Drexler injured the knee in a game against New York on March 29. He was bothered by soreness throughout the remainder of the

season, the playoffs and his play with the U.S. Olympic team in Barcelona.

Walter Davis, a six-time All-Star who is 18th on the all-time NBA scoring list, announced his retirement after 15 seasons.

Ma Jian, a member of the Chinese Olympic men's basketball team, did not meet academic requirements to enter UCLA, said Judith Holland, senior associate athletic director.

Ma, a 6-foot-6 forward, told reporters during the Barcelona Games that he would enroll at UCLA this fall.

The NCAA ruled that Corie Blount, a center at Cincinnati, has used up his college eligibility, although Executive Director Richard Schultz indicated he would permit an appeal to the NCAA Council.

Blount, from Monrovia, played four games early in the 1988-89 season at Rancho Santiago Community College before suffering a season-ending injury, received a medical hardship waiver from the California Community Colleges Assn., and later transferred to Cincinnati.

The university contends that 1988-89 should not be counted toward his eligibility because it amounted to a medical redshirt season.

Jurisprudence

Sports agent Norby Walters, accused of using cash and threats of violence to recruit college athletes as clients, was sentenced in Chicago

to 18 months in prison for mail fraud.

U.S. District Judge Harry Leinenweber also sentenced Walters, who had pleaded guilty to two counts of mail fraud, to five years' probation, 250 hours of community service and ordered him to pay a \$25,000 fine.

Walters' partner, Lloyd Bloom, was sentenced in August to 500 hours of community service after pleading guilty to one count of mail fraud.

Defensive end Shane Curry of the Indianapolis Colts was shot by a gunman who walked up to the window of his truck after an argument in the parking lot of a Cincinnati nightclub, according to court testimony.

Maurice Calhoun, a friend of the player, identified the gunman as Artise Anderson, 15, who is charged with the May 3 killing of Curry.

Anderson, of Capitol Heights, Md., is charged with aggravated murder. He is being tried as an adult in Hamilton County Common Pleas Court, where the case was transferred from Hamilton County Juvenile Court.

Hockey

Cam Neely, who played only nine games for the Boston Bruins last season after undergoing knee surgery last Feb. 3, had an arthroscopy on his left knee. General Manager Harry Sinden said the procedure should set Neely back only two or three days.

Defenseman Ken Sutton broke an ankle in a scrimmage and will be lost to the Buffalo Sabres for at least two months.

Football

Rocket Ismail of the Toronto Argonauts agreed to make a \$10,000 charitable donation rather than be suspended and fined for kicking an opponent in a Canadian Football League game against the Calgary Stampeders.

Ismail will donate his fine to the Special Olympics chapter of Ontario. He was given the choice by CFL Commissioner Larry Smith of a one-game suspension and a \$1,000 fine or the donation.

Boxing

Victor Rabanales of Mexico won the World Boxing Council bantamweight title by stopping champion Joichiro Tatsuyoshi of Japan in the ninth round at Osaka, Japan.

Tatsuyoshi was returning from a one-year layoff after an operation on his left eye. Referee Richard Steele stepped in at 1:19 of the round as Rabanales pounded Tatsuyoshi with body blows.

Equestrian

More than 200 horses and riders from around the country will be competing for titles in 15 divisions at the AHSA U.S. National Dressage Championships, to be held Sept. 25-27 at the Los Angeles Equestrian Center in Burbank.



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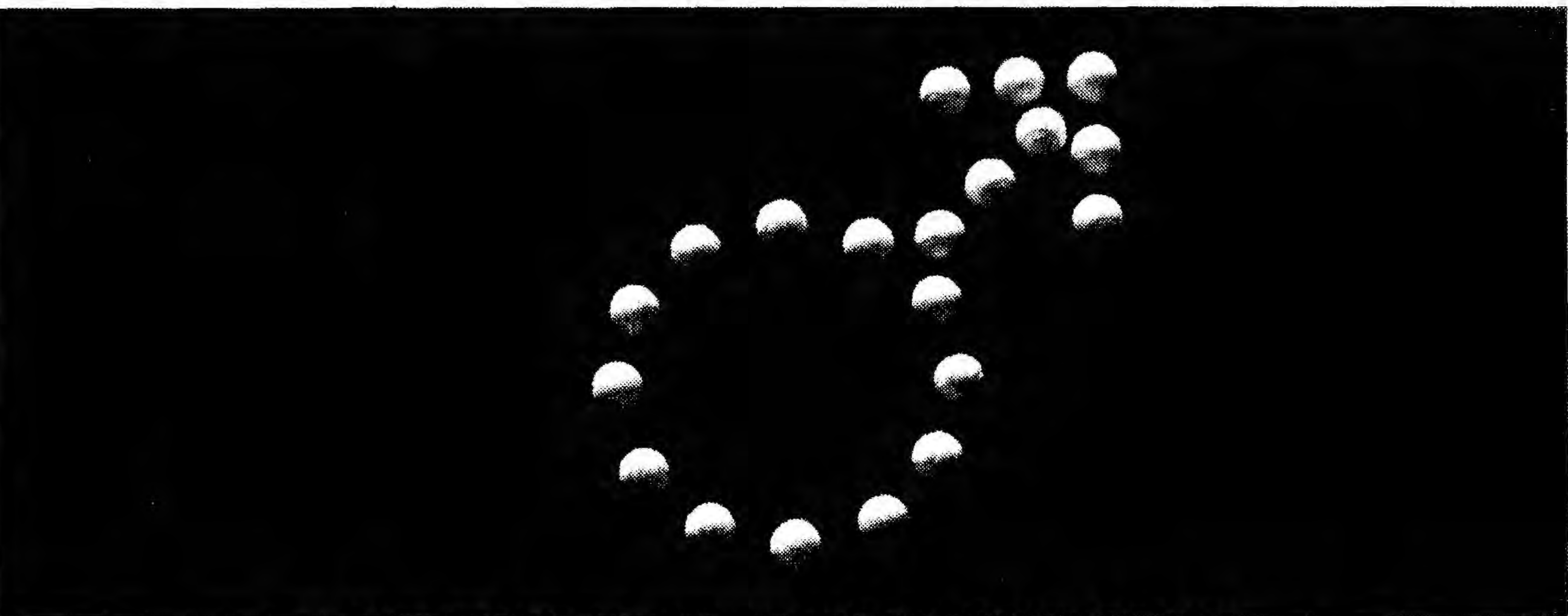
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