

Fouline

Views from out of bounds



Steve Rosenbloom

Unbeat-a-Bull?

Seems we've entered Phase 3 of the **Scottie Pippen Spin Control**. First, Bulls coach Phil Jackson called Pippen's trade demand a joke. Second, he admitted it was so serious that it's OK to hold it against the star small forward that he tried "to duck out the door." And now comes the buildup, part three,



where Jackson establishes how important Pippen is to the Bulls. "We could win the rest of the season if Scottie came back," Jackson said Tuesday. "We could run the table." Yeah, sure, it's overstatement, but that's part of the image rehab going on. "We were recovering from an addiction to Scottie Pippen," Jackson said. "We were going through withdrawal." So problem is, a 12-step program. They need a Knicks center Patrick Ewing takes all 12 steps in one post move.

Bounce this

It always sounds like a lame excuse when Jackson blames United Center rims for the team's poor shooting, but he swears it's true. "We shoot 5 percent worse at home than on the road," Jackson said. "Fortunately, so do our opponents." Well, what's the deal? Jackson claims the cantilevered bar that extends from the baseline area into the court is a foot longer than in most places

and, with the 24-second clock sitting atop the thing, the whole backboard area shakes too easily, so there's no shooter's roll. Think Tim Floyd will try this story next year? **No game** Last season when Knicks coach Jeff Van Gundy had something to say, he called Michael Jordan a "con man" for the way he bugged up to players he later killed on the court, and Jordan dropped 51 points on →

LOCAL TEAMS AT A GLANCE

Home	Dec.						
Away	Wed. 10	Thur. 11	Fri. 12	Sat. 13	Sun. 14	Mon. 15	Tues. 16
					ST. LOUIS 7 p.m. TV: ESPN		
	ORLANDO 6:30 p.m. TV: SC		CHARLOTTE 6:30 p.m. TV: SC	TORONTO 7:30 p.m. TV: Ch. 9		PHOENIX 7:30 p.m. TV: SC	
	PHOENIX 7:30 p.m.		PHILADELPHIA 7:30 p.m.		SAN JOSE 2 p.m.		CALGARY 8 p.m. TV: SC
	KANSAS CITY 7 p.m.		MICHIGAN 6:30 p.m.		ORLANDO 3 p.m.		

AROUND TOWN

- WEDNESDAY**
Card Shows
 ● Glen Ellyn, Holiday Inn, Finley & Roosevelt Roads, 6-10 p.m., 708-882-8258.
Dog racing
 ● Dairyland, 1 & 7:15 p.m.
- Geneva Lakes, 1 p.m.
Harness racing
 ● Maywood Park, 7:30 p.m.
Thoroughbred racing
 ● Hawthorne Race Course, 1 p.m.
- THURSDAY**
Dog racing
 ● Dairyland, 7:15 p.m.
Harness racing
 ● Maywood Park, 7:30 p.m.
 ● Balmoral Park, 7:45 p.m.

ON THE AIR WEDNESDAY

COLLEGE BASKETBALL	
6:30 p.m.	VILLANOVA AT DUKE • ESPN
8:30 p.m.	MASSACHUSETTS AT KANSAS • ESPN
PRO BASKETBALL	
6:30 p.m.	BULLS AT ORLANDO • SportsChannel, WMVP-AM 1000, WIND-AM 560
7 p.m.	LOS ANGELES LAKERS AT GOLDEN STATE • TBS
HOCKEY	
7 p.m.	KANSAS CITY AT WOLVES • WCBR-FM 92.7
7:30 p.m.	PHOENIX AT BLACKHAWKS • WMAQ-AM 670
RODEO	
10:30 p.m.	PRCA NATIONAL FINALS, SIXTH ROUND • ESPN2 (delayed)
SOCCER	
1:30 p.m.	MANCHESTER UNITED VS. JUVENTUS FC • ESPN2

ON THE INTERNET

Full coverage of the Bulls, plus updated basketball scores, at chicago.tribune.com/go/sports

ON CLTV 'SPORTS PAGE'

The Tribune's Bob Sakamoto discusses local prep sports, 9 p.m.

The Press Box

COMPILED BY JACK THOMPSON

PRO FOOTBALL

Giants decide not to punish player accused of assault

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J.—New York Giants defensive back Tito Wooten won't be disciplined for allegedly assaulting a woman several hours after Sunday's victory in Philadelphia, coach Jim Fassel said. "I've talked to people about it," Fassel said Tuesday. "To the best of what I can determine, I'm not going to take any action." Wooten didn't make himself available for comment, hiding in the team locker room. He could face up to six months in jail and \$1,000 in fines if convicted of the assault charge. Wooten was arrested early Monday in Hasbrouck Heights, N.J., after a woman, who was not identified, called police to a Holiday Inn, saying Wooten had struck her and pushed her to the floor, police said. Hasbrouck Heights Police Capt. Michael Colineri said the woman had cuts on one hand and a small amount of blood under her nose. Wooten, who played in Sunday's 31-21 victory over the Eagles, was released on his own recognizance and ordered to have no contact with the woman, police said.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Robinson accepts Hall honor

NEW YORK—Eddie Robinson, college football's winningest coach who recently retired from Grambling, was among four coaches and 12 players inducted into the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame. The 78-year-old Robinson, with a record of 408-165-15 in 57 years, is the first coach to join the Hall without the usual three-year waiting period. "I accept this enshrinement as one of the truly great moments of my life," he said. South Carolina's George Rogers, the 1980 Heisman Trophy winner, Iowa quarterback Randy Duncan and Notre Dame tight end Ken McAfee were among those inducted. Brooklyn Dodgers and UCLA great Jackie Robinson was posthumously awarded the Gold Medal, the foundation's highest honor.

HOCKEY

Devils re-sign defenseman Stevens

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J.—The New Jersey Devils have signed defenseman Scott Stevens to a multi-year contract extension. Stevens, 33, has six assists and 27 penalty minutes in 28 games during his seventh season with the Devils. He is a two-time All-Star (1987-88, 1993-94), has appeared in eight All-Star games, and participated in the Stanley Cup playoffs in 14 of his 15 seasons. He helped the Devils win the Stanley Cup in 1995. Stevens, New Jersey's captain, had career highs of 18 goals and 78 points in 1993-94. A 1991 acquisition from St. Louis, Stevens has career totals of 162 goals and 590 assists for 752 points and 2,387 penalty minutes in 1,148 games.

BRIEFS

Manning, Woodson, Moss top list

Tennessee quarterback Peyton Manning, Michigan's Charles Woodson and Marshall's Randy Moss head The Associated Press' All-America football team. Also making the team were a trio of North Carolina defenders—end Greg Ellis, linebacker Brian Simmons and cornerback Dre' Bly. Nebraska also had three—guard Aaron Taylor and defensive linemen Grant Wistrom and Jason Peter. Ohio State linebacker Andy Katzenmoyer made it, as did Iowa's Tim Dwight as the all-purpose player. ■ Northern Illinois junior safety Patrick Stephen made the GTE-CoSIDA Academic All-America team for the second straight season. ■ Basketball: Orlando Magic guard Penny Hardaway will be sidelined for up to six weeks after undergoing arthroscopic surgery Tuesday in Houston to repair a small cartilage tear in his left knee. ■ Horse racing: Jockey Chris Emigh will be sidelined for the rest of the year after sustaining a fractured elbow in a spill in Tuesday's seventh race at Hawthorne. Emigh, sixth in the jockey standings, was thrown when his mount, Bill's Dusty, broke down during the race. ■ College basketball: A judge in Charlottesville, Va., upheld a misdemeanor assault conviction against former Virginia guard Courtney Alexander and sentenced him to 48 hours in jail. Alexander transferred to Fresno State after the July 18 attack on his fiancée, Joiel Coleman. ■ Kris Johnson, suspended for violating UCLA athletic department policies on Sept. 29, has been reinstated. The forward will make his season debut Saturday night when the Bruins face Cal State Fullerton.

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PRO FOOTBALL

INSIDE THE BEARS

Jennings on way out; Evan Pilgrim waived

Veteran RB Ronnie Harmon joins team

By Melissa Isaacson
 TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

The Bears said Tuesday they will release veteran tight end Keith Jennings as soon as an injury settlement can be worked out. They also waived offensive lineman Evan Pilgrim, a third-round draft choice in 1995.

They also signed free-agent running back **Ronnie Harmon** and Philadelphia Eagles practice squad running back James Allen to one-year contracts, and signed Michael Hicks from their own practice squad.

Jennings, an eight-year NFL veteran—seven with the Bears after he was a seventh-round draft choice by Dallas in 1989—has been inactive the last two weeks with an injured shoulder. He was replaced in the lineup by rookie John Allred after making 14 catches for 164 yards and no touchdowns.

In 1995 Jennings scored the most touchdowns by a Bears tight end (six) since Mike Ditka's eight in 1963. But the commitment to Allred, their top draft choice, and solid recent performances by Ryan Wetnight, considered more versatile, made Jennings expendable.

As for Pilgrim, he has also been on thin ice all season after failing to impress when he moved from guard to starting center to replace the injured Chris Villarrial for six games.

In shoring up running back after the season-ending broken leg sustained by Raymont Harris, the Bears recently tried out both the 33-year-old Harmon, a former Buffalo first-round pick out of Iowa waived by Tennessee in November, and Allen, an undrafted free agent signed and cut by the Oilers last off-season.

Sauerbrun update: Punter Todd Sauerbrun is likely to face stiff competition for his job in the off-season, but he has worked himself back into the good graces of Bears coaches, particularly after Sunday when he dropped four out of five

punts inside the Bills' 16-yard line.

"It was just his attitude, Todd was great," coach Dave Wannstedt said. "He was a real pro. He went out there, two, three times punting at the 50 and made 20-yard punts. He was not concerned about the extra 10 yards in distance. One time, I said, 'Go ahead and boom it,' they brought a rush on him and that was one he shanked. That was probably why he shanked it, because I said boom it."

Star power: The Bears likely will not have any players going to the Pro Bowl when announcements are made Thursday. But they believe some of their opponents should go.

Bears defensive players, casting their votes for Pro Bowl starters on offense, picked Green Bay Packers quarterback Brett Favre, Detroit Lions running back Barry Sanders, wide receivers Cris Carter of the Minnesota Vikings and Herman Moore of the Lions. On the line they chose Packers tight end Mark Chmura; tackles Willie Roaf from the New Orleans Saints and Todd Steussie of the Vikings; guards Larry Allen of the Dallas Cowboys and Randall McDaniel of Minnesota; and former teammate Jerry Fontenot, now with the Saints, as the center.

Former Bears safety Mark Carrier, now with Detroit, was among the starters picked by Bears offensive players.

Carter case: CNN/SI reported Tuesday that Bears safety Marty Carter turned himself in to authorities in Troup County, Ga., on charges of child abandonment, was released on his own recognizance and faces a Jan. 26 court date in Georgia. The disputed case concerns a 10-year-old son that a Georgia woman claims Carter romanced during a high school romance.

John Mullin contributed to this report.

HORSE RACING

Arlington still in the picture—for televised racing

By Neil Milbert
 TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

Arlington International Racecourse will be out of the live racing picture next year but the track and its off-track parlors will continue to show races from other tracks and take bets on them.

However, in approving Arlington's request for renewal of its intertrack and OTB licenses Tuesday, the Illinois Racing Board also rejected its request to accrue purse money from the simulcasts for future meetings.

Instead, the board earmarked those funds for Sportsman's Park and Hawthorne Race Course, the

tracks that will divide the Chicago circuit's 1998 thoroughbred spoils.

A similar stipulation was applied to Quad City Downs, the East Moline harness track that belongs to Arlington owner Dick Duchossois. Quad City Downs ceased operating after its 1993 meeting because it couldn't cope with riverboat casino competition.

The Illinois racing statute allows a track that has been shut down to continue conducting simulcast betting if it either had 60 live racing cards the previous year or an average of 30 yearly in the five preceding years.

Although the board drafted the 1998 Chicago area schedule in

September, it permitted Fairmount Park in Collinsville to delay finalizing its thoroughbred and harness racing dates until Tuesday's meeting. The board approved Fairmount's request for 116 harness dates (Jan. 1-March 1 and Sept. 19-Dec. 31) and 110 thoroughbred dates (March 27-Sept. 12).

"What we're doing is somewhat of a response to what's happening in Chicago," said Fairmount's vice president and general manager, Brian Zander. "Huge purse money will be offered at the [March 1-June 30] Sportsman's thoroughbred meeting and there will be financial incentives to come north

to the Hawthorne meeting (July 1-Nov. 28). We expect to lose some stables to those tracks so we're shortening our meeting and reducing our schedule to four days a week.

"Because there won't be as many harness racing opportunities in Chicago, by opening our meeting a couple of weeks after the DuQuoin State Fair we'll be able to accommodate Illinois-breds who can't compete in Chicago."

The board also upheld the Fairmount stewards' lifetime suspension of Patrick Boxie, a jockey accused of possessing an electrical stimulating device before an Oct. 4 race.

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