ACROSS THE BOARDS

Jazz forward Kirilenko plans to leave NBA, according to report

Utah Jazz forward Andrei Kirilenko is set to walk away from the US\$63-million remaining on his NBA contract, the Salt Lake Tribune reported yesterday. After translating an interview given to Russia's Sport Express newspaper, the Tribune reported Kirilenko said he is ready to leave the NBA and would most likely play in Moscow, leaving behind his big-money deal for his homeland. "I am prepared to go without it," the Tribune quotes Kirilenko as say-

ing. "This is a lot of money, even for an NBA club. So what? Maybe this money could go to pay for more players or for something else. I have never been unfair and I don't want to enjoy something that I don't deserve. Big money is obviously good but I'm prepared to make less. The size of my salary doesn't mean that much to me. The main thing is to play with a spark. I am ready for anything. I just need to leave Utah Jazz." Agence France-Presse

Ex-mobster scares rookies straight

NBA GAMBLING LECTURER

BY HOWARD BECK

Michael Franzese has never had much trouble spooking athletes about the perils of gambling and the insidiousness of organized crime. After all, he lived the story, as a former mobster who used players' gambling debts to entrap them.

But Franzese, who makes a living on the lecture circuit these days, got an unexpected assist this summer: the arrest of Tim Donaghy, a veteran NBA referee. Donaghy had a gambling habit, which led to involvement with professional gamblers, which led to him providing inside information that broke federal laws and severely scarred a league.

To Franzese, it was a familiar story line. To the young NBA players that Franzese addressed Thursday afternoon, it was a spectacular, tangible example of everything that he warns them against.

"It definitely hits home, because it's somebody that's in our league," Sean May, a Charlotte Bobcats forward, said in a telephone interview after attending the lecture. "I definitely think it made it

easier for them to understand." May is among nearly 70 players, most

of them drafted in June, who are attending the NBA's annual rookie transition program this week in Rye Brook, N.Y. Franzese has been lecturing athletes for 12 years, and has been part of the NBA's

program since 1996. The Donaghy scandal was not the focus of Thursday's session, although Franzese discussed it, because "it would

The session was closed to reporters. ranzese spoke by telephone afterward.

be irresponsible not to mention it."

Franzese, 55, has long relied on his experiences in the mob to educate players at both the collegiate and professional levels. He is also a fixture in Major League Baseball's rookie program and has worked with some NFL teams.

His message to players is always the same — that professional gamblers are "always on the hunt and on the lookout to make targets out of these guys."

"That's what I did when I was on the streets," he said. "And really make them understand that there's no upside for them to get involved in gambling."

In the past, Franzese illustrated his point by talking about the athletes he ensnared in the 1980s, when he was a member of the Colombo crime family. Players who could not pay their gambling debts were threatened with phys- to commit fraud in the player's name. ical harm unless they complied with Franzese's orders.

But those players remain anonymous,

and those examples remain trapped in a pre-Court TV era. The Donaghy case provides a vivid new portrait of the consequences of associating with gamblers. An entire league's integrity is now in question.

"Look at the cloud it puts over the game, because you got one guy who went off-kilter like this," Franzese said. But based on his experience, and his familiarity with the NBA, Franzese is convinced that the scandal will end with Donaghy.

"In my opinion, this guy is an isolated incident," he said. "He got himself involved with the wrong people. I don't think you're going to see much more of it."

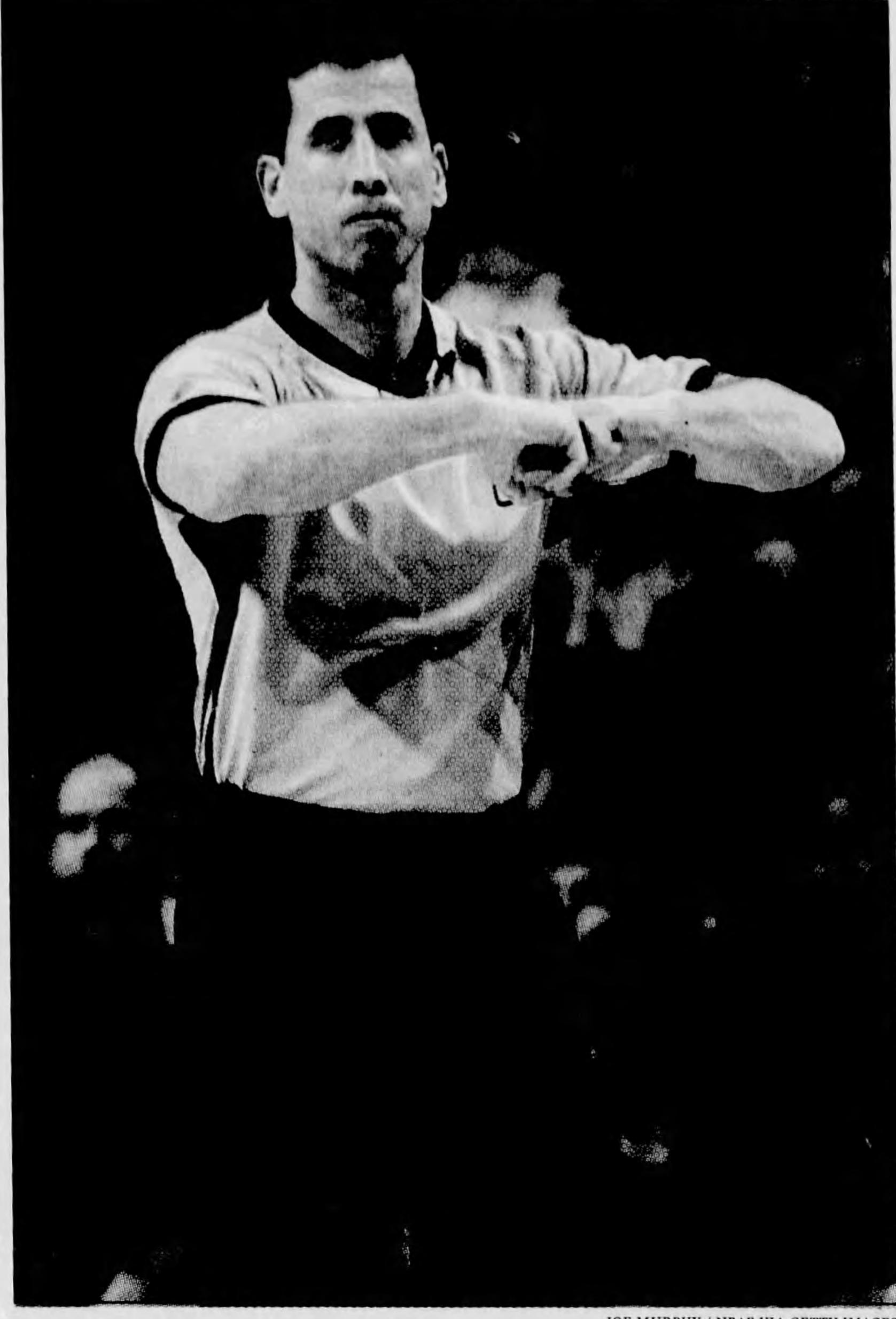
Franzese also said he was not shocked when the case came to light in July — "because my experience with gambling in general is that nobody is immune from it."

Franzese commended the NBA and other professional leagues for their antigambling efforts. He cited the extensive background checks and educational programs the leagues all conduct. But, he said: "At some point, you've got to rely on the integrity of the person. Unfortunately, this guy, he didn't have that kind of integrity."

Gambling education has been part of the NBA's rookie program since its inception in 1986. Veteran players get refresher courses at least every other season.

The challenge of steering players, or anyone, away from gambling has only increased in recent years, Franzese said. He cited the proliferation of online gambling sites and the explosion of competitive poker, which is now marketed as a sport. He told the story of a professional athlete who had his identity stolen while gambling online. That player soon "got a visit" from a professional gambler who threatened to use that information

Those are the kinds of stories that grab a young athlete's attention. The New York Times



JOE MURPHY / NBAE VIA GETTY IMAGES

Former mobster Michael Franzese said the gambling controversy surrounding Tim Donaghy scarred the entire NBA. "Look at the cloud it puts over the game."

NATIONAL POST

For updated weather reports check out National Post Online

www.nationalpost.com

LEGEND

Abbreviations for 4 day forecast: daytime high, overnight low and conditions

USA

All temperatures in Celsius

	Today	Sun.	Mon.	Tue.
Atlanta	29/18pc	31/18pc	28/18pc	30/17t
Boston	24/17pc	23/145	22/17s	28/18pc
Buffalo	24/11s	22/13s	25/15s	25/12r
Chicago	25/13s	28/19s	30/18pc	23/11r
Dallas	33/21s	30/22t	32/22t	31/21t
Denver	27/15w	24/11pc	16/6pc	19/7s
Honolulu	30/24pc	30/23pc	30/23pc	30/23pc
Houston	35/21s	32/21t	33/20t	33/21t
Los Angeles	21/12r	22/13s	25/15s	26/15s
Miami	31/25t	30/24t	30/25t	31/24t
Myrtle Beach	30/21t	31/21t	29/21s	29/21t
New Orleans	28/23r	29/23t	29/23t	28/23t
New York	26/18pc	25/16s	24/17s	28/20pc
Orlando	31/22t	31/22t	31/22t	30/22t
Philadelphia	30/18pc	28/13s	29/16s	30/20pc
Phoenix	30/22t	33/21s	34/215	35/23s
Salt Lake City	23/11t	17/6t	18/7pc	21/10s
San Diego	20/16r	20/16pc	22/16s	23/17s
San Francisco	15/11r	16/13pc	20/15s	20/15s
Seattle	15/10r	16/9pc	17/11pc	17/11r
Washington	29/20pc	28/15s	28/175	31/20pc

INTERNATIONAL

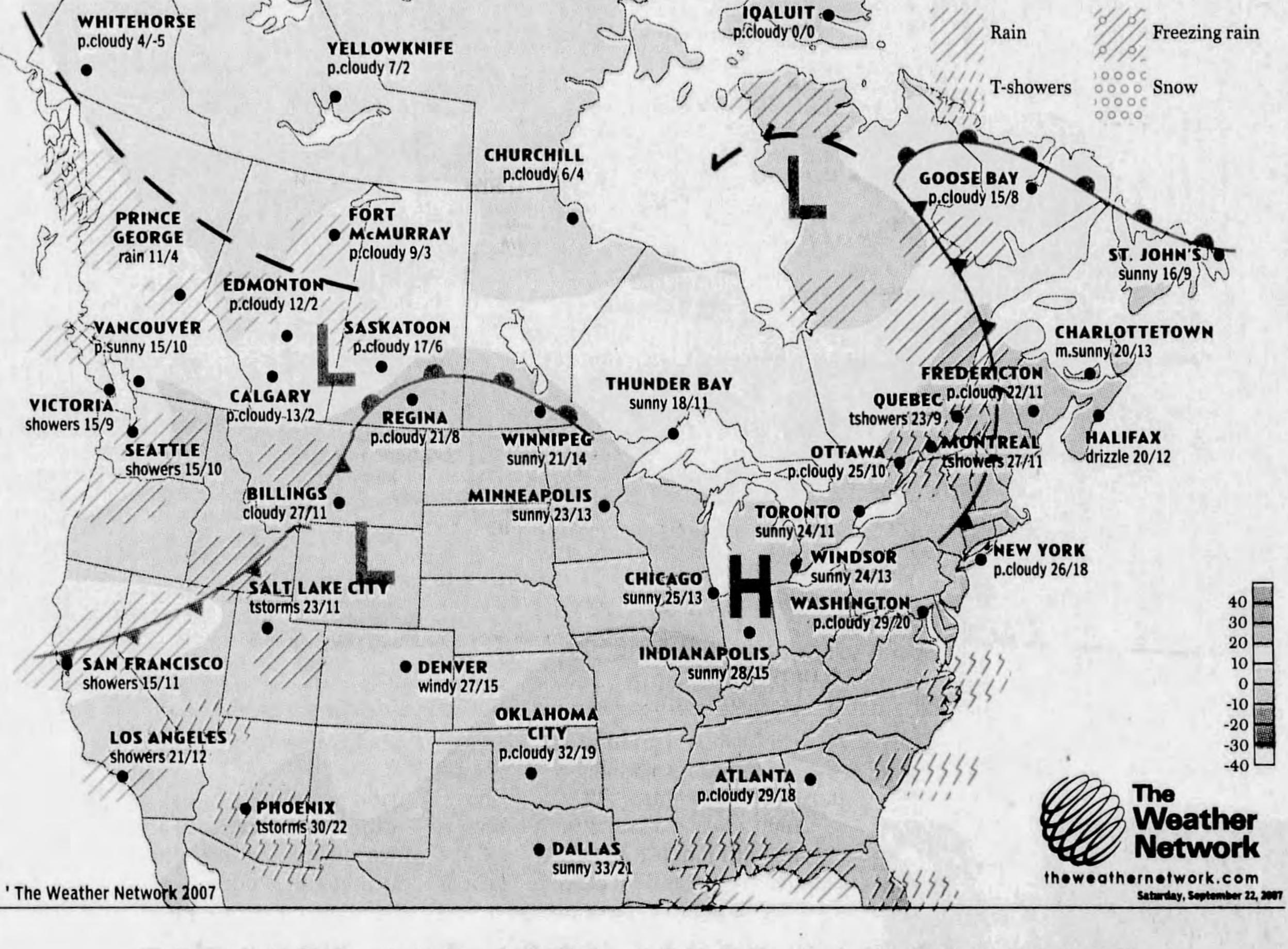
	Today	Sun.	Mon.	Tue.
Amsterdam	18/13r	21/13s	20/15r	15/10r
Athens	26/16s	26/15s	27/16s	30/16s
Auckland	19/15r	20/15r	18/8pc	16/11r
Bangkok	30/24pc	31/25pc	31/25c	31/27t
Barbados	31/25pc	31/25pc	31/24t	32/26t
Beijing	23/19s	22/20s	23/21s	23/22pc
Beirut	27/245	27/25s	26/26s	26/245
Berlin	19/10pc	22/11s	23/13pc	17/13r
Brussels	19/11pc	21/12pc	19/16r	15/11c
Budapest	18/35	21/45	20/7s	21/5s
Buenos Aires	18/13pc	13/11c	12/8s	14/115
Cairo	32/215	29/225	28/20s	29/20s
Cape Town	14/9c	13/6pc	15/6s	21/8s
Dublin	17/10pc	18/15r	14/11r	15/11c
Edinburgh	16/10r	17/13r	14/11c	16/9pc
Geneva	22/14pc	23/15pc	23/14pc	17/12r
Hong Kong	32/27c	32/27t	32/27t	32/28pc
Jerusalem	27/15s	26/14s	25/15s	25/145
Johannesburg	26/11s	27/145	26/13s	19/125
Kingston	32/27t	33/26t	34/26pc	32/26t
Lisbon	24/185	25/18s	26/19s	25/19s
London	21/14pc	22/14pc	18/15r	16/11c
Madrid	26/13pc	26/15pc	28/15pc	27/155
Manila	28/25t	27/25r	28/24r	26/24r
Mexico City	21/85	21/7s	22/6s	21/65
Moscow	15/35	16/4pc	14/7pc	13/45
Nairobi	23/14pc	26/13pc	28/14pc	30/125
Nassau	33/27t	32/26t	32/26t	32/26pc
New Delhi	32/25s	31/245	31/23pc	24/23r
Paris	21/8pc	22/10pc	200 12 3	18/10pc
Prague	18/8c	20/8s	20/125	16/13r
Rio de Janeiro	30/25pc	33/28s	28/23r	19/19r
Rome	26/145	26/16s	26/15pc	27/16pc
Singapore	31/27pc	32/27pc	Since and and	33/27pc
Stockholm	14/11r	15/7c	17/10s	16/12r
Sydney	15/11pc	17/10s	22/15pc	26/18pc
Tokyo	31/26pc	24/221	27/23c	29/23pc
Vienna	19/8pc	21/95	21/125	23/10pc
Warsaw	13/7c	13/7pc	12/85	16/95

AIR QUALITY

For 2 p.m. Friday. A reading of less than 32 is acceptable; More than 100 is dangerous:

Toronto Downtown: 25 East: 26 Mississauga: 25 Oakville: 23 Hamilton: 34 Niagara: 44 Kitchener: 35

London: 36 Sarnia: 43 Oshawa: 27 Kingston: 29 Sault Ste. Marie: 14 Sudbury: 22 Thunder Bay: 22 Windsor: 37



TORONTO AND AREA SEVEN-DAY FORECAST

TODAY	TOMORROW	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
				ANNEXAMENT OF THE PARTY OF THE	SATINGMENT OF THE PARTY OF THE	Control of the contro
24/11 Variably cloudy in the morning, becoming sun- ny in the after-	23/ 12 Sunny. Winds light.	27/ 15 Sunny. Winds light.	25/ 12 Cloudy with light rain 70% POP. Winds moderate.	20/ 9 Sunny. Winds light.	19/10 Sunny. Winds light.	21/ 12 Sunny. Winds light.

	ONTA	RIO				
			Today	Sun.	Mon.	Tue.
and the same		Hamilton	24/10s	23/125	27/13s	24/11r
HORTH BAY		Kingston	23/10s	21/10s	22/16s	23/13r
p.cloudy 17/8	OTTAWA	Kitchener	22/75	23/10s	27/10s	23/9r
picroudy 2770	A cloudy 25/10 1	London	22/9s	24/115	27/125	23/11r
in with		Muskoka	17/75	21/85	25/11s	21/9r
~~ ~		Niagara Falls	24/115	22/13s	26/145	25/12r
7	KINGSTON	North Bay	17/8pc	19/12s	24/105	19/7r
4	m.sunny 23/10	Oshawa	23/10s	21/11s	26/14s	24/12r
MAZKOKY -	A	Ottawa	25/10pc	21/11s	25/13s	25/10r
Sunny 17/7	2 6/7	Owen Sound	16/9s	21/115	27/135	22/12r
1 1	7	Parry Sound	17/9s	21/125	25/13s	21/11r
KITCHENER	• TORONTO	Peterborough	23/85	22/10s	26/13s	23/11r
sunny 22/7	Suprry 24/11	St. Catharines	24/125	23/13s	26/15s	26/13r
	HAMILTON	Sarnia	22/115	22/145	29/125	23/12r
3/2	sunny 24/10	Sault Ste. Marie	14/95	21/145	24/11r	17/8pc
. LONDO		Sudbury	18/9pc	20/12s	22/9pc	19/6r
sunny 22/	Sunrise Moonset	Thunder Bay	18/115	19/12pc	20/8pc	13/65
SARNIA		Timmins	16/6pc	20/10s	24/8r	16/4r
sunny 22/11	7:05 a.m. 1:40 a.m.	Toronto	24/115	23/12s	27/15s	25/12r
WINDSOR	Sunset Moonrise	Trenton	23/85	22/105	25/155	23/12r
sunny 24/13	7:16 p.m. 5:21 p.m.	Windsor	24/135	24/15s	28/165	24/13r

COTTAGE COUNTRY

Bobcaygeon: Variably cloudy in the morning, becoming sunny in the afternoon. High 22. Humidex 24.

noon.

Collingwood: Mainly sunny with cloudy periods in the morning, becoming sunny in the afternoon. High 22. Humidex 23.

Goderich: Sunny. High 21. Humidex 21. Winds westerly 30km/h becoming northwesterly 20km/h.

Gravenhurst: Mainly cloudy with scattered showers ending in the morning, sunny in the afternoon with 40% pop.

High 19. Humidex 20. Huntsville: Mainly cloudy with scattered showers ending in the morning, mainly sunny in the afternoon with 40% pop.

High 19. Humidex 19. Parry Sound Mainly sunny with cloudy periods in the morning, becoming mainly sunny in the afternoon. High 21. Humidex 22.

EAST-WEST 7/-2pc 9/1pc 13/2pc 10/-1pc 14/2s Calgary Charlottetown 20/135 19/9pc Churchill 6/4pc 7/4pc 12/2pc 10/-2pc 14/3pc Edmonton 24/12pc 21/65 Fredericton 22/11pc 23/95 22/9pc 20/12r Halifax 3/-3pc 4/-3c Igaluit 15/3r Kelowna Moncton 22/115 25/15s 25/12r Montreal 19/85 20/12s 22/10r Quebec City 23/9t 14/41 13/3pc 17/6pc 21/8pc Regina Saint John 17/11r 22/75 20/95 22/13pc 17/6pc 13/1pc Saskatoon St. John's 16/9s 13/10s 14/6pc 15/10pc 15/12c Vancouver Victoria 16/10pc 15/11pc 17/11pc 4/-5pc Whitehorse 15/4pc 16/8s Winnipeg 21/145 7/2pc 4/2pc Yellowknife

TORONTO ALMANAC

YESTERDAY TODAY'S RECORDS High: 28 High: 31.7 in 1941 Low: 13.1 Low: -0.6 in 1974 Precipitation: Precipitation: Rain to 2 p.m. 41.9 mm in 1938

Barometer: 102.33 Kpa, falling at noon

0 mm

Last year: High 17, low 6.4 Precipitation: 0 mm

CANADIANS HOPING TO FINISH WITHAWIN

RUGBY WORLD CUP

BY BARNABY CHESTERMAN

BORDEAUX, FRANCE · Canada team ambassador Al Charron said the extra rest his side has had ahead of its match against Japan here on Tuesday should count in its favour.

Canada has been resting and training this week while Japan were thrashed 72-18 by Wales on Thursday night.

And Charron believes that should give his squad the edge in the match to avoid the Pool C wooden spoon.

"They're always quite shifty, a little erratic in their play but I imagine with [coach] John Kirwan things are going to be a little more stable," he said of Japan.

"Certainly the schedule favours us in that we have nine days between our games."

New Zealander Kirwan, a World Cup winner in the inaugural tournament in 1987, had admitted before the Wales match that there was not enough time to recover ahead of the Canada game. However, he is remaining positive.

"It is important we learn that lesson [from the Wales match] and take it forward to our final match against Canada, which is our most important game in this World Cup," he said.

"We came here aiming to win two games and we should have won the Fiji game (a 35-31 defeat). Now it is taking what we can out of this game and getting out there and beating Canada. It will be a positive World Cup if we finish with a win."

Canada, too, believes it will be a positive World Cup if it finishes with a victory, despite setting their sights much higher before the tournament began.

Charron said they had hoped to reach the knock-out stages.

"If we say we want to go there and just perform that's a loser's attitude. We wanted to at least get to the quarterfinals," he said.

"It was a somewhat realistic goal, obviously we were playing against three teams in our pool ranked ahead of us ... so if you go by that textbook, we should only come out with one [win], but its quite possible we won't have any.

"Our goal was to advance to the quarter-final, that's no longer the case now but we're trying to get the win that we're seeking against Japan.

"It's easier said than done, it will be a hard game for us, then we'll take the Australia game [on Sept. 29] as it comes.

"As long as we're developing the players and the players are learning from the experience ... We've picked a young squad, a lot of these guys will be around for 2011.

Agence France-Presse