

Valvano Might Stay For Another Season

One member of the North Carolina State Board of Trustees said basketball coach Jim Valvano is willing to set aside a five-year contract with a \$500,000 buyout clause if he is allowed to coach another year, the Greensboro (N.C.) News & Record reported.

"I do believe Jim Valvano would be amenable to tearing up his present contract and signing a one-year contract," said Daniel C. Gunter, one of three trustees who voted to support the embattled coach at a closed-door meeting last week.

Va. Women Stop Tennessee

Dawn Staley scored 25 points, including six of Virginia's nine in overtime, and the Cavaliers snapped a five-game losing streak against Tennessee with a 79-75 victory in yesterday's NCAA East Regional women's basketball championship game in Norfolk, Va.

The Cavaliers (29-5), who had been knocked out of the past three NCAA Tournaments by Tennessee, gained their first trip to the Final Four.

Virginia led 68-63 with 1:34 left in regulation and 70-67 with 40 seconds to go. But Tennessee's Tonya Edwards made the first of two free throws with 27 seconds left and Daedra Charles rebounded the second and scored on a layup that tied the score at 70 with 23 seconds to play.

Carolyn Jones scored 19 points as Auburn beat Washington, 76-50, in the Mideast Regional championship game in Iowa City to advance to the women's Final Four for the third straight year. Linda Godby scored 12 points and Evelyn Thompson had 11 for Auburn (27-6).

Three Tied for Lead at Nestle

Scott Hoch double-bogeyed the 17th hole to drop

into a tie for the lead with Greg Norman and Curtis Strange after the third round of the Nestle Invitational in Orlando.

Hoch, who led by a stroke at the start of the round, shot a 2-under-par 70 and was at 9-under 201. Norman shot a 65, matching the day's best score by South Africa's Fulton Allem, and Strange had a 68.

Allem used a hole-in-one on the 192-yard second hole as a springboard for his round, which also included six birdies and a bogey, and was in a four-way tie at 208.

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Pat Bradley celebrated her 39th birthday by shooting a 5-under-par 68 to take a one-shot lead after three rounds of the Turquoise Classic in Phoenix. Bradley, who is \$15,232 shy of \$3 million in career earnings and needs to finish sixth or better to reach the mark, was at 209 after 54 holes, one shot ahead of Ayako Okamoto, who had a 69.

Seles Tops Wiesner in Final

Monica Seles beat Judith Wiesner, 6-1, 6-2, in the final of the International Players Championships in Key Biscayne, Fla. Seles, seeded third, breezed through the 96-player field without losing a set in her six matches. Because of upsets, the highest-seeded player that Seles had to face was No. 9 Nathalie Tauziat.

Wiesner, competing in the final of a major tournament for the first time, was serving with a 2-2, 30-0 lead in the second set. But she lost four consecutive points, the final two on unforced errors, and never got back into the match.

Jager Sets World Swim Record

Tom Jager set a world record of 21.81 seconds while beating Matt Biondi in a 50-meter match race at the U.S. Swimming Sprint Championships in Nashville. Jager won \$10,000 for beating Biondi, the 1988 Olympic gold medalist, and picked up another \$2,000 for the world record.

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Defending champion Mike Barrowman of Michi-

gan wiped out the oldest American men's swimming record, winning the 200-yard breaststroke in 1:53.77 at the NCAA men's swimming and diving championships in Indianapolis. Texas won the team title for the third consecutive year.

U.S. Runner Takes World Title

American Lynn Jennings took an early lead and ran away with the women's race at the World Cross Country championships in Aix Les Bains, France, becoming the first American woman to win the title in 15 years.

Jennings raced to a 19-minute, 21-second clocking over the 3.6-mile course to become the first American to win the race since Doris Brown in 1975.

Furthermore . . .

Heavyweight champion **Buster Douglas** said he's willing to meet privately with **Don King** to try to settle the pending lawsuits between his camp and the promoter . . . Argentina's **Juan Martin Coggi** held off a strong challenge from **Jose Luis Ramirez** of Mexico to retain his WBA super-lightweight title with a unanimous decision in Ajaccio, Corsica . . . The Chargers agreed to terms with running back **Ronnie Harmon**, a former first-round draft choice of the Bills from Bayside . . . Oklahoma State clinched its second consecutive NCAA Division I wrestling championship in College Park, Md. . . Texas sophomore **Patrik Boden** set an apparent world record of 292 feet, 4 inches in the javelin during the Texas Quadrangular Meet in Austin, Texas. The International Amateur Athletic Federation will wait 24 hours and require that Boden pass a drug test before certifying the record . . . All Hallows' standout **Shawnelle Scott** scored 18 points to lead Children's Aid Society to a 70-59 victory over Phipps Plaza in a Yorkville Basketball Tournament semifinal game. **Crafton Ferguson**, a junior from Jackson High School, helped Aim High to a 70-68 overtime victory against The Dome Project in the other semifinal.

Compiled From Staff and Wire Reports

50 Years of Stanley Cup Frustration

RANGERS from Page 29

Dryden with Bunny Larocque but Larocque was dazed by a shot on his mask. Dryden started. He allowed two early goals but only five more after that in the series. Esposito said, "We just died. We stopped. We went in reverse. Not to put the blame on one guy, but Davidson ran out of gas."

The Rangers had a chance to even the series in Game 4 at the Garden when Esposito's goal put them ahead 3-2 4:26 into the third period. But Gainey tied it at 6:27 and Savard's goal won it for Montreal 7:25 into overtime. "A two-on-one," Davidson said. "I'd still bet 1,000 to one he was going to pass. I started to move, he went to his backhand and shot. It drove me nuts."

Game 5 in Montreal was tied at 1 after a period. Davidson allowed goals by Lemaire, Gainey and Lemaire again in the second. "On one of Lemaire's," he said, "I went down on my knees and the fluid popped. I was in such pain I jerked my head back and shut my eyes."

After going 11-7 with a 2.28 goals-against average in the playoffs, Davidson learned he had bone spurs in the back of his kneecap and had one-third of it removed.

1974: Hammered by Flyers

The Rangers finished in third place in the East Division in 1973-74 with a 40-24-14 record but upset second-place Montreal in six games in the first round and next met first-place Philadelphia, "The Broad Street Bullies."

The Rangers had better balance than in 1972. Park had 25 goals, 57 assists. They had three good lines: Vic Hadfield-Ratelle-Gilbert; Ted Irvine-Stemkowski-Bruce MacGregor and Vickers-Tkaczuk-Bill Fairbairn.

What they lacked was a goon. "Emile Francis didn't believe in that," Stemkowski said. "We were a little intimidated . . . Park would go [fight], Ron Harris would. But we didn't have that killer." Philadelphia did: Dave (The Hammer) Schultz.

The Flyers won Games 1 and 2 at home. The Rang-

ers took 3 and 4 at the Garden, the latter on Gilbert's goal 4:20 into overtime. The Flyers won Game 5 in Philadelphia, 4-1. The Rangers won Game 6 at the Garden, 4-1.

Game 7 was at the Spectrum. At 11:55 of a then-scoreless first period, Schultz beat up Rangers defenseman Dale Rolfe. "Hadfield couldn't fight because he broke his thumb in the last game of the regular season," Francis said. "And Harris wasn't on the ice."

"That was the absolute key," former Flyers center Bill Clement, now a hockey television analyst, said of the fight. "Rolfe was their best player in that series. Schultz not only took him down but took his team down with him."

The Rangers got a goal from Fairbairn at 13:43. Philadelphia got unanswered goals from Rick MacLeish in the first period and Orest Kindrachuk and Gary Dornhoefer in the second to go ahead 3-1. In the third, goals by Vickers and Stemkowski sandwiched another by Dornhoefer. The Rangers trailed 4-3 with 5:26 left.

Francis later pulled Giacomini for an extra skater but the Rangers were penalized at 19:09 for having too many men on ice. The Flyers won, then beat Boston to win their first of two Cups.

1986: Montreal Redux

The Ted Sator-coached Rangers were 36-38-6 in 1985-86 but surprised Philadelphia in five games and Washington in six in the playoffs.

The Rangers had no superstars. Mike Ridley was their leading point-getter with 65. The goal-scoring was balanced. Tomas Sandstrom had 25, Ridley 22, Bob Brooke 24, Mark Pavelich and Ron Greschner 20 apiece. After a stint in the minors, Pierre Larouche got 20 in 28 games and 17 points in 16 playoff games. John Vanbiesbrouck won the Vezina Trophy as the NHL's best goalie.

But then the Rangers ran into the Canadiens again. "Montreal had more available healthy bodies," said Sator, now a Bruins assistant coach. "To get out of the Patrick Division required a tremendous effort and we took a beating. We lost Greschner and Tom Laidlaw

with injuries and Ridley got hurt in the last game against Washington and never got back to form. We didn't have enough."

The Rangers lost the first two games in Montreal and the third, 4-3, in overtime on Claude Lemieux' goal at 9:41 at the Garden. They won Game 4, 2-0, but lost Game 5 in Montreal, 3-1.

"It might've been different if we could've tied the series at 2-2," Sator said, adding of Lemieux' goal, "Willie Huber had the puck hop over his stick along the boards. Then he tripped over linesman Ray Scapinello. You can say, 'Why did it happen?' But it did."

Larouche said of the Cup, "Sure we thought about it. The third game turned the series. If we would have won it . . ." If is a big word in Rangers' history.

1981: Sweeping Isles

It was no big achievement beating the Kings and Blues in the first two rounds. But if the Rangers had edged the Islanders, they would have played soft-touch Minnesota for the Cup.

The Islanders were in the middle of their dynasty and swept the Craig Patrick-coached Rangers 5-2, 7-3, 5-1 and 5-2 to win their second of four Cups. "They were just too good for us," Nilsson said. "To be successful, you have to have the best role players . . . that's what they had."

In the next decade, the Rangers tried coaches Herb Brooks, Patrick again, Sator, Esposito, Michel Bergeron and Roger Neilson and had as many changes in philosophy.

"The problem with New York," Nilsson said, "is people are spoiled. There's no tomorrow. It's only today that counts. You cannot build a team overnight. Look at the teams that win. They build long-term. They have a strategy and stick to it. That's what I tell fans. They say, 'Hey, we've waited 50 years.'"

The current Rangers' hierarchy shares Nilsson's opinion. But it has assembled a club that is on the verge of its first divisional title since 1942 and might make a run at the Cup *this* year. Despite 50 years of nightmares, Rangers' fans cannot stop dreaming.