

## Sports scores

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### Around the world

#### PRO BASKETBALL

Bird says three years as coach enough

Larry Bird said yesterday he plans to step down as coach of the Indiana Pacers at the end of the 1999-2000 season when his three-year contract expires.

"Do I expect Larry to coach after next season? No," club president **Donnie Walsh** said of Bird's statement, adding that he hasn't discussed Bird's future since last season.

"Speaking to broadcasters to promote his book, 'Bird Watching: On Playing and Coaching the Game I Love,' Bird confirmed he had no plans to coach past the upcoming season.

"I said that to Donnie when I came in. Three years is enough for a coach in any one place. After the three years I told him I'd probably be done," Bird said in a satellite interview from Naples, Fla., with Indianapolis television station WTHR.

"It's been a great experience for me. It's not something I dreamed of doing," said Bird, named NBA coach of the year in his rookie season on the Indiana bench when the Pacers reached the seventh game of the Eastern Conference playoffs before losing to eventual champion Chicago.

The Pacers followed up by winning the Central Division championship last year, but were upset in the Eastern Conference finals by the New York Knicks.

Bird said he didn't expect to change his mind, no matter what happens in the upcoming season.

When asked by Indianapolis TV station WVRT whether he would accept a front-office job with the Pacers, Bird didn't rule it out, but said he has no current plans to do so.

Former NBA star **Dennis Rodman**, arrested last month in Newport Beach, Calif., following a disturbance at a waterfront restaurant and bar, won't face misdemeanor drunkenness charges in connection with the matter. **Tori Richards**, a spokesperson for the Orange County district attorney's office, said the decision was made because evidence did not show Rodman was so drunk that he would not be able to care for his own safety — a standard that had to proven to a jury in court. Newport Beach police originally recommended Rodman be charged because he was offered a chance to leave the restaurant after an altercation with other patrons and didn't.

#### HOCKEY

Yzerman signs three-year extension

Steve Yzerman, the longest-serving captain in NHL history, signed a three-year contract extension with the Detroit Red Wings. Yzerman's contract, which had been in a holding pattern since February, now runs through the 2002-2003 season. Financial terms of the contract were not disclosed. The 34-year-old center is entering his 17th season, all with Detroit. He has been the Red Wings' captain since the 1986-87 season.

Among NHL career leaders, Yzerman ranks 11th in goals (592), 10th in assists (891) and ninth in points (1,483). He is eight goals shy of becoming the 11th player to reach 600.

The Buffalo Sabres signed coach **Lindy Ruff** to a three-year contract extension, reportedly worth more than \$2 million. Ruff, 39, who has one season remaining on a three-year deal, is entering his third season with the Sabres after guiding the team to its first Stanley Cup final in 24 years. The new salary puts him on par with the NHL average for coaches.

Hockey Hall of Famer **Bill Quackenbush**, who spent 13 years as an NHL defenseman, died Sunday at a hospice in Newtown, Pa. He was 77. An eight-time all-star, Quackenbush was the first defenseman to win the NHL's Larry Byng Trophy for sportsmanship after playing the entire 1948-49 season without a penalty. At his family's request, hospice officials wouldn't release the cause of death.

#### FOOTBALL

Houston bank in NFL expansion picture

The NFL's original six-month deadline for receiving an acceptable stadium proposal from Los Angeles passed yesterday, with the league keeping its options open. None of the three groups actively seeking an expansion team for the L.A. area has been able to put together a deal suitable to the league. The NFL now will evaluate Houston's proposal while continuing talks with the L.A. groups. NFL spokesman **Greg Aiello** said that league headquarters in New York. The 31 team owners are scheduled to meet early next month in Atlanta. NFL commissioner **Paul Tagliabue** recently said a decision on the expansion franchise may be made then.

Denver Broncos running back **Terrell Davis** (injured wrist) and Green Bay Packers quarterback **Brett Favre** (thump sprain and muscle bruise) both say their injuries have improved and won't keep them out of action this weekend.

Tight end **Tony Gonzalez** returned to practice with the Kansas City Chiefs for the first time since injuring his right knee in an exhibition game three weeks ago and hopes to be ready for Kansas City's home opener against Denver on Sunday.

Former Washington State starting running back **Kevin Brown**, who was kicked off the team this season after pleading guilty to a felony residential burglary charge but had been expected to return next year, has enrolled at UNLV, according to news reports.

### Around the Northwest

#### Murray wins Northwest Open

**Brent Murray** of Oswego Lake (Ore.) Country Club beat **Jeff Coston** of Semiahmoo CC in Blaine with a birdie on the second hole of a sudden-death playoff to win the 1999 Northwest Open in Redmond, Ore. Murray carded six birdies and an eagle en route to an 8-under-par 64 in the final round while Coston shot a 70 as both men finished the 54-hole tournament at 12-under 204.

Recreational camp and oyster season opens today, and will remain open until further notice, at Pollack State Park and Wolfe Property State Park on Hood Canal, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife announced yesterday.

University of Montana quarterback **Drew Miller** suffered only a minor injury to his shoulder Saturday practicing by today, coach **Mike Denney** said. Miller, a junior from Tacoma, has completed 36 of 66 passes for 596 yards and five touchdowns in UM's two games.

Seattle Pacific's volleyball team scored the first point of the match and never looked back as the Falcons bowled over Pacific Lutheran 15-7, 15-12 for their ninth straight home win. **Stephanie Huffman** paced a balanced attack for SPU (9-1) with 11 kills and **Michelle Phelps** boosted the defense with 11 digs.

Kory Leadon connected on a 30-shot 3-pointer in the final three minutes and **Drake Hudgins** pointed in 34 points as Seattle Pacific opened its five-game basketball tour of Brazil by beating Alitaco Paulistano 88-82 yesterday in Sao Paulo.

UW junior **Elisha Au** finished fifth overall at 6-over-par 219 to lead the Washington women's golf team at the NCAA Fall Preview tournament at the Crosswater Club in Sunriver, Ore., which will be the site of next May's NCAA Championships. Defending NCAA champion Duke took the team title and Arizona State's **Nagle** took medalist honors at 211.

# Scorecard

by Jeff Miller and Bill Hinds

## TANK McNAMARA

NFL PROPERTIES CLAIMS AN INTEREST IN TRADEMARK RIGHT TO ANY INFORMAL NAME A FAN GIVES A SEATING AREA IN AN NFL STADIUM.



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### Deals

WEDNESDAY'S TRANSACTIONS

Baseball  
Tommy Boy Devil Rays — Exercised their 2000 option on OF Jose Canseco.

National League  
Atlanta Braves — Activated reliever Word from the 15-day disabled list.

National Basketball Association  
Seattle Superstars — Activated RB Ryan Stangor.

National Football League  
Atlanta Falcons — Activated WR Jamari German from the practice squad.

Carolina Panthers — Signed LB Kory Almon to the practice squad.

Volvo DT Harry Delmonico from the practice squad.

San Diego Padres — Signed RB Tremaine Plutsky.

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### Soccer

MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER

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