

Orioles are decisive favorites

by David Zucchino
Sports Writer

The Pirates finished off San Francisco Wednesday in Pittsburgh in the fourth game of the best-of-five NL play-offs. The Giants, notorious for their sloppy infield play and their near-do-well pitching staff, should have gone down in three straight.

Pittsburgh's pitching was less than could be expected of a pennant-winning team. The three Pirate wins versus San Francisco were the direct result of vicious, timely hitting, the only department in which Pittsburgh can match the Orioles.

The Pirates, as Giant manager Charley Fox mumbled after the play-offs, are

"savagely with the bat." Pittsburgh's team batting average of .274 topped the National League.

Outfielder Willie Stargell, although he went 0-for-16 in the play-offs, led the NL in homers with 48 and was second in RBI's.

Muscular first baseman Bob Robertson slammed four homers during the play-offs, while catcher Manny Sanguillen, second baseman Dave Cash, and All-Star rightfielder Roberto Clemente passed the .300 mark during the regular season.

All will be rendered helpless by the almost legendary Oriole pitching staff, the best baseball has seen since the Koufax, Drysdale, Podres days of the mid-1960's.

Dave McNally, Mike Cuellar, Jim Palmer and Pat Dobson all won over 20 games during the regular season, only the

second time such a feat has been accomplished. That kind of pitching can't be beaten in a seven game series.

The pitching staff didn't win all those games by itself, and plenty of help was available. None of the Orioles had what could be called an outstanding season, but all put in solid campaigns. Herein lies the formula for Baltimore's dynastic success.

The Orioles led the AL in hitting with only one player, outfielder Merv Rettenmund (.318), over the magic .300 mark. The talent is spread around.

Frank and Brooks Robinson, Boog Powell and Paul Blair are easily capable of breaking open tight games and all are deadly hitters under pressure.

The Orioles, riding a fabulous 14-game winning streak dating back to the regular season, have decided on lefty Dave McNally in today's opener.



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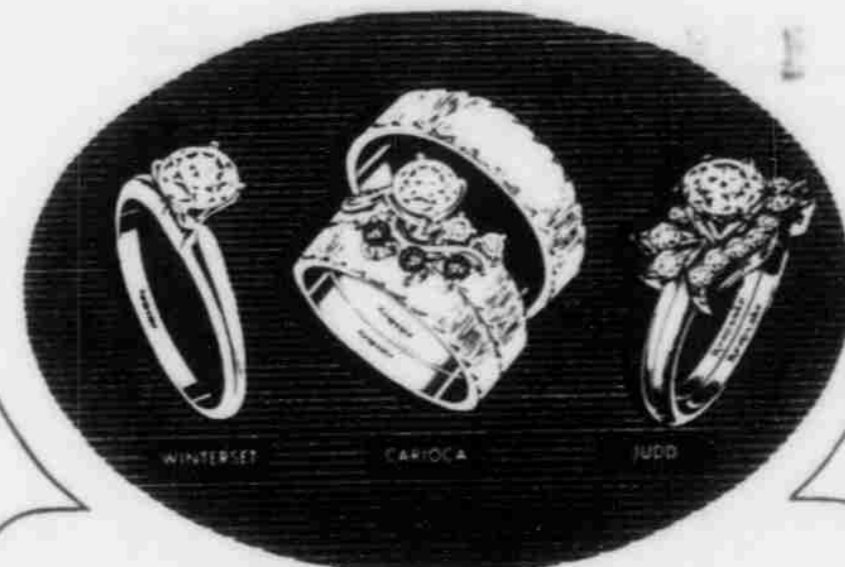
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Soccer team stunned by N.C. State, 2-0

by David Zucchino
Sports Writer

WOLFPACK to play defense for the entire second half.

State, bolstered by goalie Ron Lindsey and some rough-house fullback tactics, successfully met the challenge.

The Tar Heels took 12 second half shots and outshot the Wolfpack 19-8 for the game, but the Carolina forwards were unable to penetrate the well-guarded State goal.

Carolina also held a commanding 10-3 edge in corner kicks, but Lindsey came through with nine important saves. Jones made three saves for UNC.

Neither of Vixaysouk's goals was hit solidly, but the two points were enough to lower UNC's record to a 3-1 over-all and to a painful 0-1 in the ACC, thus spilling what had been a glorious start for Coach Marvin Allen's Tar Heels.

Vixaysouk, a superb halfback from Laos, connected first when he picked up a loose ball within a tangle of players in front of the UNC goal and drove it home to hand the Wolfpack a quick 1-0 lead.

Vixaysouk's second score came as he took a corner kick from teammate Mike Nkanda and headed it through the outstretched hands of Tar Heel goalie Nick Jones.

The Tar Heels, outthusted and confused during the first half, mounted a concentrated scoring drive at the outset of the third period and forced the

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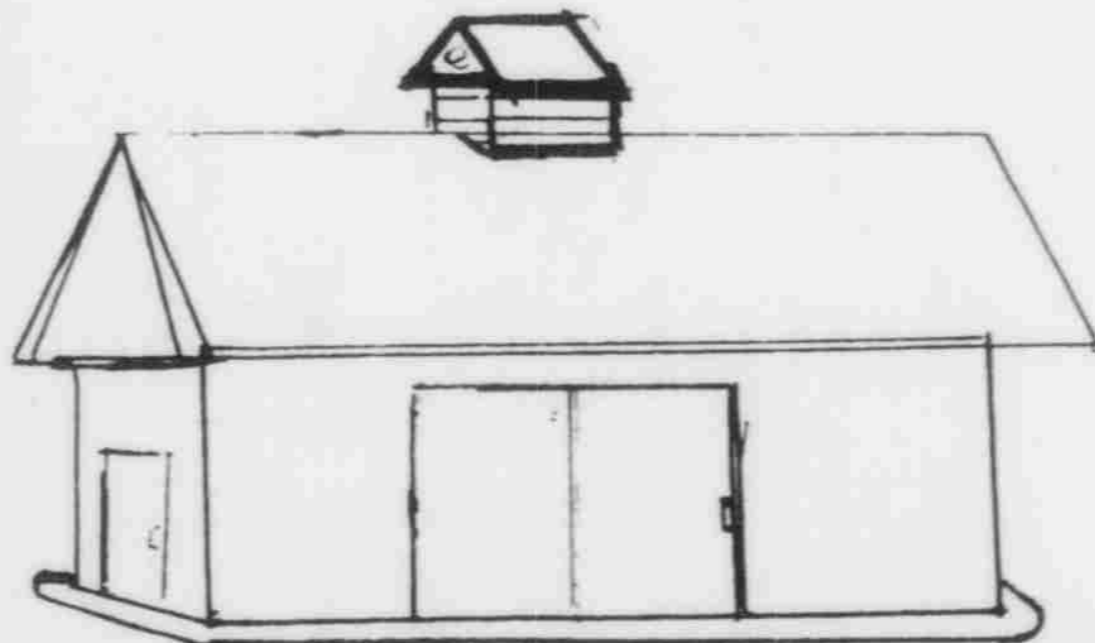
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