



**World Briefs**

**Greek employees strike in nationwide protest**

**ATHENS, Greece** — Thousands of private and public employees began a 48-hour nationwide strike Wednesday to protest the conservative government's economic austerity program.

Many government offices were closed, and about 6,000 protesters rallied in central Athens.

Employees of state-controlled banks, telecommunications operations, postal services and the public power corporation have been on strike for the past two weeks.

The expanded general strike was organized by the Socialist-controlled General Confederation of Greek Workers and the Civil Servants Union. Together they represent more than a million employees.

The Labor Ministry said only about 30 percent of public utility company and bank employees took part in the walkout. About 20 percent of private employees stayed away nationwide, the ministry said.

The turnout was similar during a one-day strike a week earlier.

The walkout coincides with a parliamentary debate on a government proposal to revise the deficit-ridden Social Security system by raising the pension age and increasing employee contributions.

Greece has been hit by widespread labor unrest since the government privatized the Athens bus company last month.

Employees of the company have staged daily marches through central Athens, bringing the congested heart of the capital to a standstill for hours at a time.

Police used tear gas Tuesday to disperse construction workers who broke through a police cordon and entered the National Economy Ministry in central Athens. Nine workers were arrested.

**Philippine rebels kill government troops**

**MANILA, Philippines** — Communist rebels reportedly ambushed and killed 12 government troops Wednesday, even as influential rebel leaders said they were prepared to talk peace without a formal cease-fire.

The military said guerrillas of the New People's Army ambushed a military patrol near Cauayan, about 340 miles south of Manila, as the patrol was returning to its base. It said there were no rebel casualties.

The National Democratic Front is the umbrella group for 14 Marxist groups, including the Communist Party of the Philippines.

The New People's Army is the armed wing of the Communist Party.

The rebels have fought for 23 years for Marxist rule. Their insurgency continues despite offers of peace talks by President Fidel Ramos.

Last week, government emissaries met with front leaders in the Netherlands. The two sides agreed to continue unofficial talks aimed at resuming peace negotiations, which broke down in 1987.

Two former senior rebel leaders said Wednesday that they believed peace talks could progress even without a formal cease-fire.

"If we have a cease-fire now, we may just be bogged down with charges of violations and neglect the basic problems that should be solved in order to end this fighting," said Romulo Kintanar, alleged former chief of the New People's Army.

Satur Ocampo, a rebel negotiator in the 1987 talks, said the guerrillas would not stop fighting but were ready to "look for a political solution."

Ocampo and Kintanar were freed from jail last week as part of Ramos' peace overtures. The military says both were members of the governing politburo of the Communist Party; they are still believed to wield considerable influence.

Ramos, who took office June 30, has made overtures to the rebels but at the same time has sent signals that he will stonewall on fundamental issues.

He has said he would abolish the anti-subversion law, which makes membership in Marxist groups illegal. But he has also asked Congress to increase the penalty for rebellion from 12 years imprisonment to death.

**Home pressure forces Yeltsin to cancel trip**

**MOSCOW** — President Boris Yeltsin called off a trip to Japan Wednesday in the face of growing pressure at home and abroad to resolve a dispute over islands claimed by Japan but occupied by the Soviet Union since 1945.

Many Russians had expressed fear that Yeltsin would surrender two of the four Kuril Islands during his three-day trip in exchange for major economic assistance from Japan.

Japan has insisted that the dispute over the Kurils be settled before it would contribute large-scale aid to Russia.

The dispute has been the major stumbling block in their relations and prevented the Soviet Union and Japan from signing a treaty formally ending World War II.

Yeltsin's press office blamed "a number of circumstances" for the indefinite postponement of the visit, which had been scheduled to begin Sunday. It did not elaborate but said Russia's foreign minister would continue talks with Japan.

In Tokyo, Japanese officials expressed regret at Yeltsin's announcement.

A government statement attributed Yeltsin's decision to "various internal reasons."

Yeltsin is under domestic pressure to hold onto the islands, with their important radar post, channel leading from Russian ports to the open Pacific and rich fishing grounds.

Nationalists and conservatives fear that giving up the islands would set an undesirable precedent for China, the Baltic states and other nations with territorial claims against Russia.

Russian hard-liners had threatened to seek Yeltsin's impeachment if he turned over the Kurils.

Earlier this month, Yeltsin told Japan not to expect an immediate solution to the Kurils conflict.

He indicated he was willing to discuss speeding up plans to demilitarize the islands, and said he would bring 14 proposals to Tokyo for a possible settlement.

—The Associated Press

**SPORTS**

**Yount reaches 3,000-hit plateau**

**The Associated Press**  
**MILWAUKEE**—Robin Yount, who began his career of quiet consistency as a shy 18-year-old shortstop, became a player for the ages when he got his 3,000th hit Wednesday night.

Yount, hitless in his first three at-bats, singled to right-center field off Jose Mesa in the seventh inning against the Cleveland Indians.

He became the 17th player to reach 3,000, and the first to do it since Rod Carew in 1985.

After lining a 0-1 pitch to right-center, Yount turned first and was hugged by first base coach Tim Foli. Longtime teammate Paul Molitor, who was in the on-deck circle, ran onto the field and

hugged Yount. Then the Brewers charged the field from their perch atop the dugout steps and hoisted Yount into the air near first base, as a crowd of about 40,000 stood and roared.

Yount shook hands with his teammates while thousands of cameras flashed throughout the stands as fans recorded the moment. The ball was saved for posterity by Foli, who took it to the dugout, and the first base bag was also taken.

The scoreboard video screen flashed "3,000" and then began showing a retrospective of Yount's career while he stood at first, hands on knees.

He then waved to the crowd, drawing another roar, and there was another cheer when the names of the 16 others with 3,000 hits were flashed on the scoreboard.

Every other player with 3,000 hits, except career-leader Pete Rose, is in the Hall of Fame. Rose is banned from baseball and has not been eligible for election.

Yount, 37 next week, is the third-youngest to reach 3,000. Only Ty Cobb, who was 34, and Hank Aaron, who was 36 years and 4 months, got there at an earlier age.

All of Yount's hits have come for Milwaukee. He broke in with the Brewers in 1974 and has won two American League MVP awards, as a shortstop in 1982 and as a center fielder in 1989.

**3,000-hit club**

Player	No.
1. Pete Rose	4,256
2. Ty Cobb	4,191
3. Hank Aaron	3,771
4. Stan Musial	3,630
5. Tris Speaker	3,515
6. Honus Wagner	3,430
7. Carl Yastrzemski	3,419
8. Eddie Collins	3,309
9. Willie Mays	3,283
10. Nap Lajoie	3,252
11. Paul Waner	3,152
12. Cap Anson	3,081
13. Rod Carew	3,053
14. Lou Brock	3,023
15. Al Kaline	3,007
16. Roberto Clemente	3,000
17. Robin Yount	3,000

**Laettner no gentleman: Never finishes GQ diary**

**The Associated Press**  
A season-long diary by Christian Laettner won't be printed in GQ magazine because the former Duke star never completed the portion of his chronicle about the Blue Devils' second straight NCAA title.

"I don't know if he didn't keep the diary or he just didn't give it to us," said David Granger, assistant managing editor of the men's magazine.

Laettner, who played on the gold-winning Olympic basketball Dream Team, sent portions of his diary to the magazine. But Granger said Wednesday he received no writings about the NCAA tournament.

An "early summer" deadline was set to receive final portions of the diary. The magazine was set to print the chronicle in the November issue to coincide with the start of the 1992-93 college basketball season.

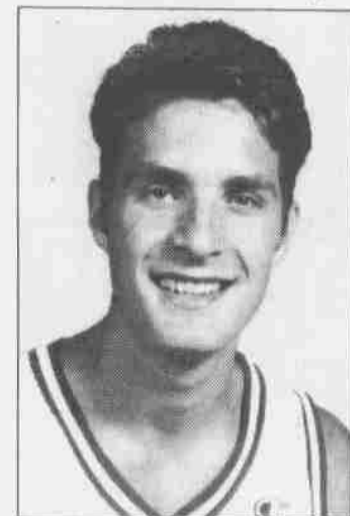
"I had a number of conversations with Christian in person and on the phone," Granger said. "We were expecting to get it. But when the deadline came and we didn't get the diary we went ahead and made other plans."

Laettner could not be reached immediately for comment.

Granger said he was disappointed the diary wouldn't be published by the magazine.

Laettner, one of six Duke players to have his number retired, was never paid for any portion of the diary, Granger said. Granger refused to say how much Laettner would have received if the diary had been published.

Laettner told reporters at a March 9 news conference that he agreed to make weekly tape-recorded entries for GQ and would be paid after publication.



Christian Laettner

"(I'm) just making tapes, one entry a week," Laettner said. A month later, the Winston-Salem Journal reported the magazine deal may have violated NCAA rules.

But Duke informed the Atlantic Coast Conference of Laettner's diary last fall, and it didn't violate NCAA rules, according to Blue Devil sports information director Mike Cragg.

Did the controversy stop the diary? "It didn't in our mind," Granger said. "Maybe it did in Christian's."

"But he called after the article and said he was sorry about it and still was very excited about doing the diary. At that point it was around the deadline and we were expecting to get it any day."

"I guess he just lost interest in it," Granger said.

**Women's soccer wins 35th straight, defeats Elon 6-0**

**Staff Report**  
It hasn't taken long for Mia Hamm to fit back into the UNC women's soccer team's game plan.

Hamm had three assists and six different Tar Heels scored as the women's soccer team defeated Elon College 6-0 to up its record to 2-0. Elon dropped to 1-1.

The Tar Heels outshot the Fighting Christians 38-4. UNC defeated Berry College in its home opener, with Hamm scoring two goals and adding an assist.

Hamm didn't play for the Tar Heels last season. She helped the U.S. National Team win the world title.

Kristine Lilly, Danielle Egan, Angela Kelly, Tisha Venturini, Tracy Donahue and Missy Boyle all scored.

For Boyle, a highly recruited freshman from Baton Rouge, La., it was her first goal as a Tar Heel.

Jennifer Eaton, Sasha Soares and Nancy Friedman were credited with assists. Shelly Finger and Tracy Noonan split the game in goal.

The win upped the team's consecutive win streak to 35 games. Two more wins would break UNC's own record for consecutive wins, 36, set on two separate occasions, once from Sept. 4, 1983 to Oct. 14, 1984 and once from Sept. 8, 1986 to Oct. 11, 1987.

The Tar Heels travel to Dallas and play Friday at Tulsa and Sunday at Southern Methodist, ranked 14th in the nation. The team plays sixth-ranked N.C. State next Wednesday in Raleigh.

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