

John Thompson Runs The Olympic Team His Way

By Jim O'Connell
AP Basketball Writer

It's not easy to hide when you are the biggest person in the room. John Thompson doesn't want to be any other way.

U.S. men's Olympic coach is taller than all of his players, and his voice attracts attention not only from anyone within range. Thompson is in charge.

6-foot-10 Thompson will lead the team trying to defend the medal won in Los Angeles last year. Bob Knight, a coach in the spotlight even more than Thompson but for different reasons, has never publicly named a player, he has not had a written about him that has his every flaw, and he has led a team off the court when turned against him.

Thompson, however, been accused of having an "us vs. them" attitude, of a racist and of facing controversies with the same aplomb. His team comes first.

May 1986, the Olympic team left his team and it will stay away through the final day of the Seoul Games. He has taken on the National Basketball Association, one of the nation's most powerful broadcasters and even the U.S. government in defense of his team.

Thompson let the public know he was upset when the Atlanta Hawks drafted a group of Soviet players to train and then toured the Soviet Union to play their national team. He was even more upset when the Soviet Union's best player, 7-foot-2 Arvydas Sabonis, was brought to the United States by

the Portland Trail Blazers, who drafted Sabonis, for treatment of a ruptured Achilles tendon.

"Realistically, I see Sabonis as being a fulfillment of Lenin's prophecy: The capitalists are selling the communists the rope they can hang us with," Thompson said. "I personally feel we are being used. We are in direct competition with them, and to prepare Sabonis to play against us just isn't right."

NBA commissioner David Stern said Thompson is "a great coach, but I'm glad he's not our secretary of state." "I understand Portland's trying to protect its investment and I understand it's a business," Thompson said. "I'm a capitalist, but I feel there is someplace we have to draw the line. As the U.S. basketball coach, I honestly feel we're selling them the rope to hang us with."

"I have always been accused of having an 'us against them' mentality at Georgetown. I'm proud of that in this case because it is us against them." Thompson, who is black, has had few white players while compiling a 370-130 mark at Georgetown with three Final Four appearances and one national championship.

When CBS commentator Brent Musburger said the public would worry about white players making the Olympic team, Thompson was quick to call the comments "ignorant and dangerous." "That was a very tactful way of trying to get a quota on the number of blacks on the Olympic team. I'd be willing to bet you that nobody ever asked Bobby Knight that question. ... I'd be willing to bet you my life is far more integrated than Brent Musburger's." Thompson has two

whites - one a woman - among his three Olympic assistants, and his support staff is racially mixed. The issue of race doesn't seem to concern him as much as cooperation from the government.

He had trouble getting permission from the Army to use a base near Seoul as a backup practice facility, and he wasn't shy about complaining.

"It appears to me that I have to get an act from the president in order to use a United States facility and I kind of resent that," Thompson said. "I always get a kick out of people telling me this is our team, America's team. It is until you want to use some facilities." Why would Thompson, who was an assistant to Dean Smith in the 1976 Olympics, take on these extra problems when he already has enough trying to run a successful program? "The one thing that I've asked of the players is to do the best that they can every day in practice," he said. "You volunteered to make this commitment, nobody made you do this. This is something that is important and I want you to work as hard as you can."

"There's pressure to get up two times a day for practice. There's pressure on the staff and on the players. I think that's the world we live in and the world we enjoy. If there wasn't a certain amount of pressure, if there weren't a certain amount of challenge, if there weren't a certain amount of excitement, a certain amount of responsibility, I don't think any of us would be here doing this because it's too hard, the work is too time consuming. We accept that challenge and all I can ask is for them to make that kind of commitment."

Strong Weekend Performance By Olympians Shown Against NBA

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (AP) - A strong weekend performance against a team of National Basketball Association players helped Virginia Tech's Bimbo Coles stay in the running for a berth on the U.S. Olympic team.

All-American forward Sean Elliott of Arizona and Stanford forward Todd Lichti were cut from the team Monday, the American Basketball Association-USA announced.

The cuts reduced the roster to 15 players. The team must be cut to 12 players by Sept. 2.

Among those remaining was Coles, a guard and Lewisburg, W.Va., native. He scored 15 points to lead the Olympic hopefuls Sunday in a victory over the NBA players.

"Due to the fact that we are overloaded with players in their position, regrettably we had to release Sean and Todd today,"

Olympic coach John Thompson said.

Elliott and Lichti were juniors (Continued On Page 8)

Greater Durham Open Results

Former Elon All-American Danny Graham won the 13th annual Greater Durham Open Golf Tournament at Duke Golf Course, Topping defending champion Pete Watt of Richmond Va.; by four strokes, a previous winner Benjamin Joseph of Fayetteville captured third place.

Others flights champions were: J.R. Preston, president flight; Oliver Smith, first flight; Jolte Joyner, second flight; Howard William, third flight; and Milton Jones, fifth flight.

George Marrow of Burlington, won the senior division, nosing out Herbert "Flip" Massey of Raleigh. Barbara McLaughlin beat out Rose Weens for the ladies titles.

The tournament was co-sponsored by the Bull City Golf Club and Miller Beer.

The Bull City Golf Club and Miller Beer contribute a portion of the proceeds to the John Avery Boy's Club and the Durham Striders youth track team.

A car was to be given away by University Ford for a hole in one on the par 3 third hole, which was almost won by James Harris, but his ball spun out of the hole.

The Bull City Golf Club is a member of the North-South Golf Association, which consist of the ten clubs from Va., N.C. and S.C.

The event had 193 golfers participating.



LOS ANGELES-Edmonton Oilers Wayne Gretzky holds up his Los Angeles Kings jersey in front of owner Bruce McNall. Gretzky became a King in a trade which sent center Jimmy Carson, the rights to amateur Martin Gelinax, three future first round draft selections, and an undisclosed amount of cash to the Oilers. (UPI Photo)

Wilber Marshall Has Difficulty Living Up To Fans Expectations

By David Ginsburg
AP Sports Writer

ARLISLE, Pa. (AP) - Edgerton Redskins linebacker Wilber Marshall is beginning to feel the pressure of being a \$6 million man.

Marshall has done just about everything his coaches have asked him to do this summer. But the statistics show he has but five tackles, an interception and a fumble in two preseason games.

His impressive numbers for a player who came to the Redskins in exchange for two No. 1 draft picks.

Marshall is covering receivers, blocking running backs, dropping into the zone, things like that," Marshall said Monday. "I can't do the big play all the time. It didn't bring me here to be an All-Pro player, to make everything happen at once. People need to understand that." Marshall joined the Redskins during the off-season by playing out his option with the Chicago Bears. He got a \$500,000 signing bonus, and his \$6 million over five years is the highest for a defensive player in NFL history.

Marshall said part of his early success can be attributed to the coaching staff's emphasis on the ability of grasping a new system.

Marshall claimed the Redskins' way of playing things will not enable him to pick up impressive statistics, but he has a lot of linebackers blitz 95 percent of the time and they make

one or two sacks a game and you think that's great," he said.

"I think that's what people are looking for right now. They're probably asking where all the big plays are." The person whose opinion matters most, Redskins coach Joe Gibbs, is sure Marshall will soon show the ability that earned him a berth in the Pro Bowl in each of the past two seasons.

"It's just a matter of him getting used to everything," Gibbs said. "He felt more comfortable this week than last, and hopefully that will happen every week. We're not worried. He's a gifted guy." Linebacker Coach Larry Peccatiello said some of the high expectations thrust upon Marshall come, unfairly, from the high salary he receives.

"It's hard for people to accept the fact that a guy's making good money and not making every play on the field," Peccatiello said. "It doesn't work like that. He'll make his share of plays, but not every one." Meanwhile, quarterback Doug Williams said Monday that he doesn't think he can lose the starting job in training camp, but backup Jay Schroeder believes he still has a chance to claim the job before the regular season gets underway Sept. 5.

"Last year I thought I had a good training camp, but I didn't get a shot at the job," Williams said. "So I figure if I'm going to lose the job this year, it has to be in the regular season." Said Schroeder: "The only

person who can make that decision is Coach Gibbs. I've still got two (preseason) games left, and we'll go from there."

"I'm going to have to outplay him by far (to get the job)," Schroeder said. "I'm going to have to come in and do a lot of things he's not doing at the time. Then we'll see what happens." There was good news and bad news concerning injuries on Monday.

Cornerback Darrell Green, who bruised the muscle in his rib cage July 27, practiced for the first time in weeks.

But reserve wide receiver Eric Yarber, injured in Saturday's game against Miami, underwent arthroscopic surgery on two sprained ligaments in his right knee. Team officials said the leg will be immobilized from four to six weeks.

In other news, the Redskins cut running back Tim Jessie, defensive end Curt Koch, defensive tackle Kent Tramel, punter Doug Robinson and quarterback Jack Stanley to reduce the roster to 90 players.

Koch, an 11th-round draft pick out of Colorado, was the second draft choice to be waived, and Robinson's exit leaves only veteran Steve Cox and free agent Wayne Ross to compete for the punting job.

Rosters must be reduced to 60 players by next Tuesday.

Illegal Drug Use Rampant In Track Says, Javelin Thrower

By Bert Rosenthal
AP Track Writer

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. (AP) - Illegal drug use is a widespread problem in track and field, and should be an immediate and crackdown on abusers, says Smith, a javelin thrower competing for her fourth Olympics.

Like several athletes, including some of the world's elite, have been suspended for illegal drug use since 1974, Smith believes many have escaped punishment.

"You wonder how they are able to get away with it," Smith said at the U.S. Olympic track and field training camp at the University of California-Santa Barbara. "I can't understand why they are not caught." Among those caught over the past 14 years were Phyllicia Kneut, the former world record-holder in the men's discus; and distance runner Martti Silhava of

Czechoslovakia, world record-holder in the women's discus; Ilona Briesnick of East Germany, 1980 Olympic champion in the women's shot put; Lyudmila Andonova of Bulgaria, former world record-holder in the women's high jump, and Switzerland's Sandra Gasser, third-place finisher in the women's 1,500 meters in the 1987 World Championships.

Suspensions are meted out for "life," but most have been reduced to 18 months after appeals.

Smith intimated that Britain's Fatima Whitbread, the 1987 world champion in the women's javelin, and East Germany's Petra Felke, the world record-holder in the event, were not conforming to the rules.

"There are indications that the top two (javelin throwers) on the international scene are doing things that we (Americans) should resort to," said Smith, a winner of five

national titles who has been ranked first or second in the United States since 1976.

"Look at Fatima," the 5-foot-6, 138-pound Smith said of the 5-5 3/4, 170-pound Whitbread. "She used to be my size." Smith called the drug-testing system in the U.S.

"a farce. There must be a large coverage." "There is no coverage," Baron Pittenger, executive director of the U.S. Olympic Committee, said Monday in a telephone interview from USOC headquarters at Colorado Springs, Colo. "I don't know what she's talking about." Smith's comments followed release of a report that all American athletes had cleared drug-testing procedures following last month's U.S. Olympic track and field trials at Indianapolis.

Although 6 to 10 athletes failed the tests, none will be suspended because they tested positive for (Continued On Page 8)

Rotator Cuff Injury May Stop Pitchers, Not Cornelius Bennett

By John F. Bonfatti
AP Sports Writer

FREDONIA, N.Y. (AP) - Rotator cuff injuries have sidelined more than a few baseball pitchers, but as Buffalo Bills linebacker Cornelius Bennett notes with a laugh, "I'm not a pitcher." So don't expect Bennett to miss any playing time despite a rotator cuff injury that kept him out of practice for a day last week at Fredonia State College.

Bennett, who helped turned the Bills defense into one of the N.F.L.'s most respected last year in his rookie season, suffered the slight injury to his left shoulder last November when he collided with Bills defensive end Bruce Smith.

The injury got lost in the array of plaudits and awards Bennett

received last season - including being named to several all-Rookie teams - but resurfaced last week.

The shoulder began to twitch, Bennett said, and while Bennett still wanted to practice, Coach Marv Levy held him out for a day until the pain disappeared.

"It was nothing to talk about," Bennett said Monday. "We had talked about surgery during the off-season last year, but they waited until it finally stopped bothering me." While it's not definite, Bennett said the Bills will likely decide to have him undergo arthroscopic surgery after this season.

Bennett said it's likely the shoulder will be painful at points during the season, but added, "It's

nothing that's going to keep me from playing." That's the bad news for offensive coordinators who realized shortly after Bennett came to the Bills in a blockbuster three-way trade last October that they would have to design ways to blunt his devastating pass rush.

In eight games, Bennett blew in from his left outside linebacker slot for 8.5 sacks. He also led the team in forced fumbles with five.

The tag "impact player" began being applied to him, something both he and Levy dismiss.

"That's been with me since my first day in college," said Bennett. "Things like that, I don't pay any attention to them. I just go out and play. If I play my best, success (Continued On Page 7)

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