



SPORTS BRIEFS

Judge's Decision Final: Drink Up Panthers Fans

COLUMBIA, S.C. — Circuit Court Judge Henry McKellar has denied a request to review his ruling that permits beer and wine sales at Carolina Panthers games. McKellar made the decision Tuesday without a hearing after the permit opponents asked him to reconsider. A week ago he overturned an order by Administrative Law Judge Ralph King Anderson III blocking vendor Volume Services from selling beer and wine coolers at Clemson's Memorial Stadium. Anderson had ruled that special permits can't be granted in counties that have not approved Sunday sales, but McKellar said there is no such language in the law.

Injuries Hitting NFL QBs

After just one week, the injury bug is already biting NFL quarterbacks: ■ Neil O'Donnell of Pittsburgh suffered a broken pinky on his throwing hand and could miss the next two games. ■ The Washington Redskins' Heath Shuler injured his left shoulder against the Cardinals and will be out about three weeks. ■ Steve Young of the 49ers suffered a sprained neck against New Orleans. He's expected to feel soreness for several weeks. ■ The Oilers' Chris Chandler suffered a bruised shoulder against the Jacksonville Jaguars and could miss a game or two.

Argentine Soccer Star Caught in Hairy Situation

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina — Fernando Redondo said he passed up a chance to play for Argentina because he refused to cut his long blonde hair. Argentine coach Daniel Passarella, a strict disciplinarian, met with Redondo in Spain where he plays for Real Madrid and said the star's shoulder-length hair was barring him from rejoining the team. "When we got to the subject of hair, I told him I wouldn't cut it because it is part of my personality," Redondo told an Argentine radio station. "I am a person and a player — but in that order." Diego Maradona, Passarella's fiercest critic, said the coach's priorities are wrong. "These demands about hair are just plain stupid and ridiculous," Maradona said. FROM WIRE REPORTS

Tar Heels Terminate Spartans Behind Willey's Hitting Barrage

BY KURT TONDORF
STAFF WRITER

Earlier in the season, UNC volleyball coach Joe Sagula said that his junior middle hitter, Amber Willey, has the potential to "dominate a game anytime she wants to." In the midst of a 15-8, 15-4, 16-14 victory over UNC Greensboro Tuesday night, Willey apparently decided to do just that. Willey, already UNC's career leader in blocking average, took her game to new heights against UNCG. The Fort Collins, Colo., native tallied 17 kills in 33 chances, with more than half of those coming in the third and deciding game of the match.

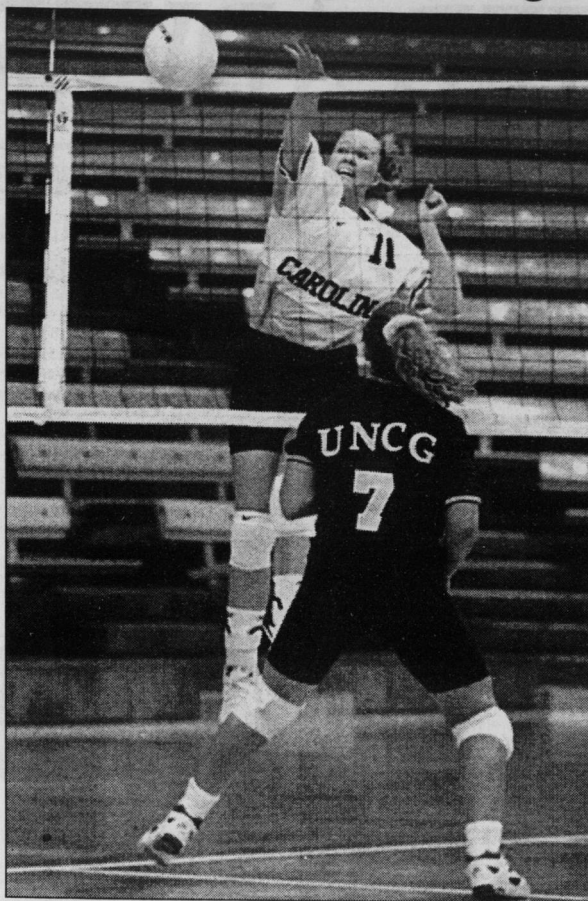
"Amber Willey was the MVP of this match," Sagula said. "She was phenomenal tonight." After cruising through the first two games, UNC's offense sputtered midway through the third, with outside attackers Kristin Kruse and Lori Carlson on the bench.

The Spartans had been struggling on offense all night, but with their backs pressed firmly against the Carmichael Auditorium wall, they decided that they would go down swinging. The Tar Heel freshmen appeared to be losing the poise that they had displayed all game long, and following three UNCG aces and several hitting errors, UNC quickly found themselves down, 14-11. Sagula called timeout.

Enter Amber Willey. Moved to the outside during the timeout, Willey became the dominating force that Sagula had promised since the season's beginning. After teammate Anissa Cronenberg delivered two consecutive kills to squash the Spartans' two game points, the Tar Heels looked to Willey on the next three attacks, and she delivered three clean kills. The kills demoralized the Spartans, and a tandem block by Willey and Cronenberg closed out the match, 16-14. UNC's '95 kills leader said she was confident she could adapt to the outside hitting role. "All through high school, I was on the



UNC middle hitter AMBER WILLEY had 17 kills against UNCG.



Anissa Cronenberg (11) slams home one of UNC's 48 kills against UNCG Greensboro. Cronenberg had six kills and two solo blocks in the match.

outside," Willey said. "When I came here, Coach needed me more as a blocker, but now I'm being moved back there again." Asked to comment on her third-game blitz of the Spartans, Willey was humble. "I thought it was more my teammates rallying around one another," she said. "I was able to step up because I was in that position at the time. Everyone did a great job supporting me, as well as each other."

VOLLEYBALL
UNC 3, UNCG 0

| | | | |
|------|----|----|----|
| UNCG | 8 | 4 | 14 |
| UNC | 15 | 15 | 16 |

Leaders: Assists: Berg, UNC, 41; Gremillion, UNCG, 22. Digs: Powers, UNC, 11; Gallagher, UNCG, 14. Kills: Willey, UNC, 17; Schuller, UNCG, 8. Total team blocks: UNC 5, UNCG 4.

Balloons Fly, Ripken Cries As Streak Hits 2,130 Games

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
BALTIMORE — Cal Ripken tied Lou Gehrig's record of playing 2,130 consecutive games Tuesday night, reaching a mark that most baseball fans once considered beyond approach.

Ripken was met by a 5-minute, 20-second standing ovation that included every player from his Baltimore Orioles and the California Angels, and all four umpires. Ripken had said he didn't want his personal achievement to interrupt the game, but even three curtain calls by him could not quiet the crowd of 46,804 at Camden Yards.

A flood of black and orange balloons was unleashed as soon as the Angels were retired in the top of the fifth inning, making the game official. Spotlights lit the 10-foot-high numbers on the B&O Warehouse beyond right field that have been counting Ripken's climb to the record, and there was another thunderous ovation when they changed to 2130.

Ripken appeared to brush away tears several times, and a cartoon of Ripken and Gehrig was shown on the center-field scoreboard.

Ripken acknowledged the prolonged cheers by waving to all parts of Camden Yards. He got another standing ovation when he trotted out to his position at shortstop to start the sixth, and he shook hands with second base umpire Greg Kosco.

Ripken is expected to pass Gehrig's mark Wednesday night when his Baltimore Orioles again play California.

When Ripken reaches that hallowed place, he will hold a mark that many thought was so unattainable that Gehrig's plaque at Yankee Stadium, erected shortly after Gehrig died in 1941, praises him as a player "whose amazing record of 2130 consecutive games should stand for all time."

While Ripken contends the streak that started May 30, 1982, is merely a product of showing up every day to work — and some luck, since Ripken never broke a bone in his life — others clearly recognized its significance.

President Clinton and Vice President Gore are set to see the record-breaker, never before have the nation's top two executives attended the same game outside Washington.

They will be joined by another sellout crowd that has known of Ripken since he grew up about a half-hour away and has seen time turn his hair from floppy and brown to thin and gray.

And for the first time in major league history, a baseball bearing a player's name was being used in a real game. Specially made for the occasion, the balls being used for games 2,130 and 2,131 are stamped with Ripken's name and a logo commemorating the event.

Policy Questions Jones' Class After Cowboys' Deal With Nike

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
While Jerry Jones delighted in his Nike caper Tuesday, the rest of the NFL fumed.

"He enjoys the maverick image," said Carmen Policy, president of the 49ers and the Dallas owner's favorite jousting partner. "But the man's gone too far, he's out of control. There is money and there is class, and the two aren't synonymous."

Jones pulled his latest raid on what the league and its union consider their private province Monday by announcing his own deal with Nike in a press release headed "Cowboys' Owner Bucks NFL Again."

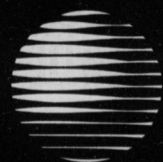
It not only upstaged his team's 35-0 win over the Giants but again alienated the league establishment by attacking the revenue-sharing concept that's made it rich. And it again set off an anti-Jones reaction. Once more, Jones showed he can step

outside league guidelines and strike his own deal at the expense of the other 29 teams. The Nike deal could even help Jones in his attempt to sign Deion Sanders, a major client of the sports apparel giant.

Jones and Policy are battling for Sanders, the cornerback who helped San Francisco win the Super Bowl last season. That became more urgent Monday when Kevin Smith, the Cowboys' best corner, suffered an Achilles injury that's expected to put him out for the season.

But there was a general sense around the league that Jones is biting the hand that feeds him by trying to separate the Cowboys' revenue from NFL Properties, the league's licensing arm.

Jones already has bucked the league by selling Pepsi rather than the league sanctioned Coca-Cola at Texas Stadium.



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