



Sports

SECTION C

Tuesday, June 10, 2003

Sportsline

Baseball/Interleague Coverage, 4-5, 7C
Philadelphia at Anaheim

Hockey/St Stanley Cup Finals Coverage, 7C
New Jersey 3, Anaheim 0

Rockets, Hornets fill jobs; 5 vacancies left

Jeff Van Gundy accepted the Houston Rockets coaching job Monday and the New Orleans Hornets said that Tim Floyd was their man. That leaves five NBA vacancies: Atlanta, Los Angeles Clippers, Philadelphia, Toronto and Washington. Contract talks between the Rockets and Van Gundy, whose decision came down to Washington and Houston, are expected to be completed this week. "I was jumping up and down," Rockets general manager Carroll Dawson told reporters, describing his reaction. "My wife thought I was crazy. You're looking at a happy guy." The Rockets said they have agreed to compensation with Van Gundy's former team, the New York Knicks, but would not give details. Van Gundy, 41, was 248-172 in New York. New Orleans vice president Bob Bass began his news conference by downplaying Floyd's 49-190 record with the Chicago Bulls — one of the worst three-year records in NBA history — calling that situation with the Bulls "very difficult." Floyd, 49, replaces Paul Silas, who was fired with a 208-155 record. "I believe we can contend for the Eastern Division championship next year," he said. "I know that's going out on a limb, but that's what I believe about this team." — Oscar Dixon

James' pro debut could come in Boston

LeBron James could begin his pro basketball career in Boston in the Celtics' summer league. The Cleveland Cavaliers are a lock to take James No. 1 in the June 26 NBA draft. The July 14-20 league, which involves rookies and free agents, will include the New Jersey Nets and San Antonio Spurs in addition to the Celtics and Cavaliers. The Cavaliers also will play in an Orlando summer league that is closed to the public. "We're so young, regardless of having the No. 1 pick, we knew we wanted to play in both summer leagues," Cavaliers general manager Jim Paxson said.

Two stars questionable for Wimbledon

Anna Kournikova and Goran Ivanisevic left tennis courts with injuries Monday, putting in question their play at Wimbledon, which starts June 23. Kournikova, in tears, withdrew from a Wimbledon warm-up event in Birmingham, England, after aggravating a back injury. Kournikova, who hasn't won a WTA singles title, has been off the tour for two months with the injury. Wincing because of a sore elbow that takes away his top weapon, a booming serve, Ivanisevic is holding out hope of playing at Wimbledon. "I don't want to go there and crawl like a pig," he said after being beaten 6-2, 6-2 by Czech Jan Vacek at the Stella Artois in London. "When I (won Wimbledon) in 2001 as a wild card, I said to God, 'Just let me win this and I don't care if I play tennis again,'" he said. "Probably, he heard me and he is thinking, 'What are you doing here? Go home.'"

Armstrong prepares for Tour defense

Four-time Tour de France winner Lance Armstrong was fourth after Monday's first stage of the Dauphine Libere bicycle race in France. Bulgaria's Plamen Stoianov won the 123-mile stage. The seven-stage race, with three difficult mountain climbs, ends June 15, about three weeks before the Tour de France. (Pennsylvania-made bike wins in Italy, 11C)

Sabbatini gets second Tour victory

Rory Sabbatini's second PGA Tour victory took an extra day. He won the rain-delayed FBR Capital Open Monday in Potomac, Md., with a 3-under-par 68 at the TPC at Avenel for a 14-under 270 total. Fred Funk, Joe Durant and Duffy Waldorf were four shots back. Waldorf was assessed a two-stroke penalty after a TV viewer phoned to point out that Waldorf tapped down a piece of turf in the line of an iron shot at No. 12. The ruling cost Waldorf \$150,000 as he fell from second alone to the three-way tie. (Scores, 13C)

By Don Cronin with staff and wire reports

Keeping score

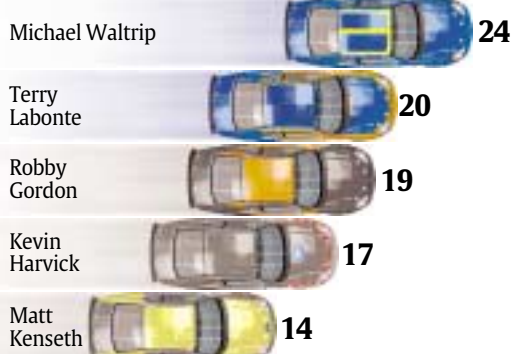
Ian O'Connor writes about how the international journey of Spurs point guard Tony Parker has come full circle in the NBA Finals, 12C

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Waltrip finishes what he starts

Most consecutive races run without a life DNF ("did not finish") among active drivers on the NASCAR Winston Cup circuit:



Source: NASCAR

By Ellen Horrow and Karl Gelles, USA TODAY



Money talks: Tulane basketball coach Shawn Finney and volleyball coach Betsy Becker at a fundraising phone-a-thon.

Tulane faces a tough call

Drop football? Go to Division III? Hang in there and keep running up the tab? The Tulane board of trustees makes a decision today on the school's athletic future, 3C

JIM ROME IS BACK

ROME IS BURNING

Tonight's Guest: Curt Schilling

Presented by **Coors**

TONIGHT 7PM ET ESPN



By Robert Deutsch, USA TODAY

Seventh heaven: Devils goaltender Martin Brodeur, stopping a shot by the Ducks' Dan Bylsma, set a record by earning his seventh shutout of the playoffs.

Devils down Ducks for third Cup

By Kevin Allen
USA TODAY

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — The New Jersey Devils, a franchise that sometimes seems long on respect and short on fans, now qualifies for dynasty status after downing the Mighty Ducks of Anaheim 3-0 Monday night to win the Stanley Cup championship.

They join the Detroit Red Wings as the only NHL team to win the Stanley Cup three times since the Edmonton Oilers' dynasty ended in 1990.

Goalie Martin Brodeur made 24 saves to win Game 7 and record his sev-

enth shutout in these playoffs to set an NHL record. He had three shutouts in the Devils' four wins in the Finals.

This series marked the first time since the Montreal Canadiens beat the Chicago Blackhawks in 1965 that the home team has won all seven games of a Stanley Cup Finals.

With the Devils winning, New Jersey has a chance to be the first sports area to have its NBA and NHL teams win championships in the same season. The New Jersey Nets, trailing 2-1 against San Antonio in the best-of-seven NBA Finals, play Game 4 on Wednesday.

Ducks goalie Jean-Sebastien Giguere

won the Conn Smythe Trophy as playoff MVP.

The Devils, who were 11-0 in these playoffs when they scored the first goal, also were 12-1 at home to establish an NHL record for home wins in a single playoff season.

Michael Rupp and Jeff Friesen were the Devils' goal scorers, and each of those players adds another layer of stories for Devils lore. Rupp played most the season in the minors and didn't join the lineup until the Finals.

The goal, which gave the Devils a 1-0 lead at 2:22 of second period, was his first NHL playoff goal.

Last summer the Ducks were looking for scoring help and traded away Jeff Friesen and Oleg Tverdokvsky to New Jersey to get Petr Sykora. Friesen, booed by Mighty Ducks fans because he had asked to get out of Anaheim, scored the second goal of the game at 12:18. Rupp assisted on that goal and also on Friesen's goal with 3:44 left.

Known for their defensive excellence, the Devils have now won 29 consecutive playoff games when they have taken a lead into the third period. The streak dates to the 1999-2000 season.

► **Nieuwendyk sits again, 7C**

Mariners flying, not sailing

Seattle has biggest lead in majors, tied for best record

By Mel Antonen
USA TODAY

During their just-completed 11-1, club record-winning road trip, the Seattle Mariners beat the Minnesota Twins one day by starting the game with seven consecutive hits. Six were singles.

Cover story



By Elaine Thompson, AP
A boon to Seattle: Bret Boone has 17 home runs.

At baseball.usatoday.com

■ **USATODAY.com** baseball editor Steve Gardner analyzes Mariners' hot start

In Wednesday's win against the Philadelphia Phillies, the Mariners scored three of their first four runs on sacrifice flies. The next day they won when outfielder Mike Cameron failed to put down a bunt in the ninth inning, then made up for it with a three-run homer to give the Mariners the lead.

"Get 'em over; get 'em in," says rookie manager Bob Melvin, put in charge of the veteran team when longtime skipper Lou Piniella opted to return home to manage the Tampa Bay Devil Rays. "These guys aren't afraid to do the right thing. John Olerud is a hit-and-run guy from the cleanup spot."

Before the season the conventional wisdom was that the Mariners, winners of 300 games during the last three seasons, would finish third in the American League West, behind the Oakland Athletics and the defending World Series champion Anaheim Angels.

Yet as they start a 10-game homestand tonight, the Mariners not only lead the AL West, but they are tied with the Atlanta Braves for baseball's best record at 42-19. The Mariners also have the biggest lead in the majors, eight games better than Oakland.

"The Mariners play the game the way it is supposed to be played," Detroit Tigers manager Alan Trammell says, "and I told my players to take notice because that's the way I want this team to play."

The Mariners rank seventh in the AL in home runs (63), but they lead the AL West because of strong pitching, an airtight defense — just two errors on the road trip — and a lineup that craves hitting behind a runner or scoring on a sacrifice fly.

Please see COVER STORY next page ►



By John Froeschauer, AP

Wily vet: At 40 Jamie Moyer doesn't throw hard; his fastballs are fortunate to hit the 85 mph mark. But he's 10-2 with a 2.93 ERA and has 15 consecutive scoreless innings. "He's smart and he knows where to put every pitch," Phillies manager Larry Bowa says.

Duke president Keohane not sold on ACC expansion

By Jack Carey
USA TODAY

On the eve of today's scheduled conference call among Atlantic Coast Conference presidents when a vote on expansion could be held, Duke President Nannerl Keohane expressed concerns and indicated she is not ready to vote to add three Big East schools.

Seven of the nine ACC presidents must be in favor of expansion in order for it to pass, and Keohane became the second ACC leader, following North Carolina Chancellor James Moeser, to express reservations in recent days.

Keohane wrote an e-mail to other ACC presidents and chancellors outlining her concerns. Among them, she

said: "There are real potential dangers in expansion as far as time spent in travel, length of playing seasons, complex logistics, and costs of travel."

"We are being charged with acting in bad faith by colleagues at other Big East universities."

Last Friday the five Big East Division I-A football teams that would be left behind if expansion goes through filed a lawsuit in Connecticut state court against the ACC, Miami (Fla.) and Boston College, saying they conspired in secret. At-



The News & Observer

Keohane: Concerned.

torneys for the five Big East schools said Monday they want to expedite the suit's discovery process.

In a letter dated June 5, Moeser also outlined expansion concerns having to do with the time student-athletes would spend away from class.

Keohane and Moeser say divisions in a new-look ACC should be tailored to individual sports to minimize travel.

"To use the lingo familiar in our region," Keohane says, "Duke is not willing to buy a pig in a poke."

If the ACC passes expansion, Miami (Fla.), Syracuse and Boston College are expected to accept. Duke and North Carolina originally voted last month against pursuing expansion, but in a later ballot approved initiating conversations with the three Big East schools.

At that time, however, Virginia, made it known that it wanted Virginia Tech to be one of the three teams considered. That did not receive ACC approval.

The Big East schools face a \$1 million exit fee, but the amount doubles if they announce after June 30 that they want to leave.

In the midst of Big East uncertainty, Connecticut is losing its athletics director. Lew Perkins is expected to be named A.D. at Kansas today.