

NFL plans strong new safety rules

United Press International
BOSTON — A National Football League committee has recommended strong new safety rules to cut down on the risk of serious injuries such as the one which paralyzed New England Patriots end Darryl Stingley, the Boston Globe reported Tuesday.

The Competition Committee, consisting of Don Shula of Miami, Tex Schramm of Dallas, Peter Hadzazy of Cleveland and Paul Brown of Cincinnati, has decided to legislate most of the big hits out of the game in return for greater safety," the Globe said.

The newspaper said the committee recommended — in a secret report Monday at the NFL meetings in Honolulu — the league outlaw use of the top of the football helmet in tackling and blocking, and ban blocking below the waist on all kickoffs and punt returns.

The Globe also said the committee recommended making every

block or tackle that an official determines was "made with the intent to injure," a 15-yard penalty.

The newspaper said the committee voted unanimously for the recommendations.

"The kid (Stingley) is paralyzed from the hit and still there wasn't any penalty on the play," said a source close to the committee quoted by the Globe.

The recommendations could be voted on by NFL owners as early as today, the newspaper said.

Rematch for NCAA tourney

United Press International
It might have a geography student somewhat confused, but a great sectional rematch will take place Thursday night between DePaul and Marquette in the semifinals of the NCAA West Regional at Provo, Utah.

Both Midwestern teams had been hoping to go to Utah since the season began, but they were thinking more in terms of the national semifinals at Salt Lake City in the last weekend in March.

DePaul Coach Ray Meyer, whose eighth-ranked Blue Demons edged Marquette, 61-60, in Chicago last month, doesn't seem to mind the rematch or the location. The 65-year-old veteran, who leads the nation's active coaches in victories with 593, is just looking to send his team to the final four in their ninth visit to the NCAA tournament.

"Yes, it's going to be very difficult beating a team you have already beaten, especially considering how close the first game was, but we'll be mentally ready and able," Meyer said. "We've come this far already and we are not about to change anything that we've done."

The Blue Demons have indeed come quite far. Unranked for most of the season, DePaul quietly chalked up a 23-5 record which included a 76-72 upset of highly touted Notre Dame. The NCAA rewarded the Midwest independent with an at-large bid to the post-season tournament. But, like nearby independent Marquette, DePaul was sent West "to strengthen the region."

Both teams have done just that, skipping through second-round action Sunday to set up the dislocated regional rematch. DePaul topped Southern California 89-78 and Marquette whipped Pacific 73-48.

"We're looking better every game," said Meyer. "If we can get out in front, we're awfully tough to stop."

The winner of the Marquette-DePaul game will face the winner of the UCLA-San Francisco matchup, also scheduled for Thursday night at Provo for the regional finals.

In other regional semifinals, top-ranked Indiana State takes on Oklahoma at Cincinnati Thursday after No. 6 Arkansas faces Louisville for Midwest honors.

Dispute in 2nd round NIT game

United Press International
RENO, Nev. — Big forwards Vernon Smith and Rynn Wright combined for over half of Texas A&M's points in leading the Aggies to a 67-64 victory Monday night in a disputed second-round National Invitational Tournament basketball game.

The Aggies led by 12 points with four minutes to go, but 6-foot guard Mike Gray led a Reno comeback that made it 67-64 with seven seconds to go.

The Aggies then called a time out, which Nevada said was its sixth and thus called for a technical, which would have been followed by Nevada's inbound ball.

After a long discussion, during which a shower of beer cans hit the floor, the referee and scorer agreed that one of the timeouts should not have been counted since it was for an injury.

Wolf Pack coach Jim Carey said it was not entered in the books as such and said the game might be protested, which would be a first in NIT history.

The 6-7 Smith scored a game high 20 while Wright added 15. Gray led the losers with 18. Texas A&M moves on with a 24-8 record, while Nevada-Reno finished with a 21-7 record.

China assures Olympic place

Taiwan refuses to meet officials

United Press International
LAUSANNE, Switzerland — With one shrewd diplomatic stroke, China has all but assured itself a place in the Olympic Games next year, International Olympic Committee officials said Monday.

Taiwan's refusal to meet Peking sports officials in face-to-face negotiations will give the IOC an ideal opportunity to fall in line with other major world organizations and switch its Chinese

membership from Taiwan to Peking in the next few months, the sources said.

Although the Taiwan Olympic Committee has not yet made an official reply to IOC President Lord Killanin's invitation to the round-table talks later this month, Shen Chia-ming, president of the Taiwan Olympic Committee, already has said there is no chance Taiwan will agree to the talks.

Other Taiwan government of-

icials in Taipei accused Killanin of being a "Communist dupe" and falling for "Chinese trickery" in proposing the talks.

"It was no Chinese trick," Killanin said. "This is a meeting which has been my suggestion for the past three years."

"I don't think I am a Communist, although I may be all kinds of other things," added the Irish peer with a smile.

Until last week, Peking has always refused to sit down at the

table with Taiwan officials in a neutral venue no matter whether the subject was sport, trade or politics.

Taiwan sports officials told New Zealand's Lance Cross, head of the three-man IOC delegation that studied the Chinese Olympic puzzle, they would be willing to meet China anywhere, at any time, believing China would never agree, the sources said.

But Taiwan's refusal to accept

the IOC as a mediator with China will give the IOC opportunity to switch its Olympic seal of approval to Peking without appearing to have unfair to Taiwan.

Killanin said he hoped to make a decision at the full meeting of the IOC's 89 members April 23 in Montevideo, Uruguay. If he gets the green light, Chinese officials already have said they would send teams to both the winter and summer games.

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