

# Reds fire manager; assistant takes over

**United Press International**  
**CINCINNATI** — John McNamara was abruptly fired as manager of the slumping Cincinnati Reds Wednesday by the club president, who just weeks ago had asserted that his job was secure.

Reds' President Dick Wagner, who announced the firing at a hastily called news conference, said veteran Cincinnati coach Russ Nixon would replace McNamara as manager.

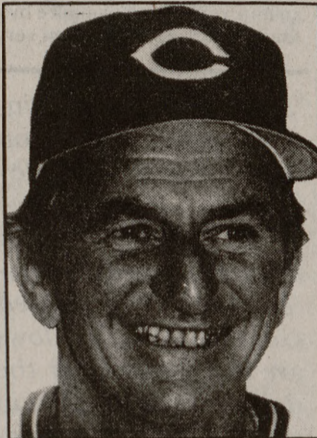
"The bottom line in this case is, I feel we are a better club than our record of 34-58 indicates," Wagner said. "We have 70 games remaining in the season, and our work is cut out for us. I'm not going to say a lot more than that."

The Reds are mired last place in the National League West with the second-worst record in major league baseball.

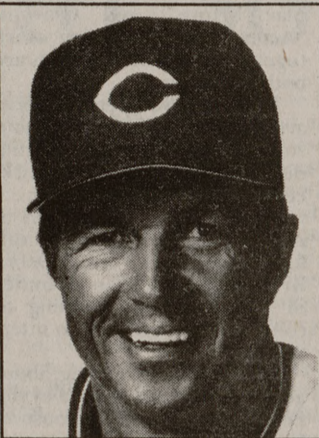
Wagner, who only a couple of weeks ago stated McNamara's job was not in jeopardy, said he had only made the decision to dismiss McNamara Wednesday morning.

"This was just something I felt was necessary now," he said. "I certainly hadn't planned to do it during the All-Star break. If I had, I would have done it then."

McNamara, who became manager of the club prior to the 1979 season and led the Reds to a division title that year, was unavailable for comment.



John McNamara



Russ Nixon

Wagner said he does not regard Nixon as an "interim" manager.

"I told him if he does a good job," he said, "it will still be his next year."

The firing of McNamara follows a public disclosure by the Reds' manager earlier this week Wagner was dictating lineup changes opposed by McNamara.

McNamara confirmed that Wagner had ordered rookie Tom Lawless, called up from the club's Indianapolis farm team, inserted at second base with regular second baseman Ron Oester moved to third base.

That move took veteran Johnny Bench, who had been playing third base this year

while slumping at the plate, out of the starting lineup.

Nixon, queried about the Reds' infield situation, said he hoped to get Bench back into the lineup "as soon as possible."

Asked what will happen to Lawless and Oester, Nixon replied: "I think both will get enough playing time."

The Reds, whose record is better than only the Minnesota Twins of the American League, have been struggling since the start of the season.

Last year, the Cincinnati club compiled the best record in both leagues during the strike-shortened split season but didn't make the playoffs.

# Rainbow Futurity

Two likely favorites in Sunday's 19th running

**United Press International**  
**RUIDOSO DOWNS, N.M.** — With Kansas Futurity winner Chicks Etta Wind out of the lineup, Mr. Master Bug and Glo Billy Sims appear to be the likely favorites for Sunday's 19th running of the Rainbow Futurity.

Ten of the nation's fleetest 2-year-old sprinters will dash 400 yards for the \$253,000 winner's share of the \$728,000 purse and a place in the record books as winner of the second jewel in quarter horse racing's triple crown.

Chicks Etta Wind won \$254,000 in the first of the three races that constitute the sport's triple crown, but failed to qualify for the second. The third of the triple crown events is the All-American Futurity.

Jack Brooks will saddle Mr. Master Bug for the futurity, along with two fillies — Miss Azure Te Bug and Miss Squaw Hand. Brooks has never saddled a winner for the Rainbow, although he has won most of quarter horse racing's other major events.

Always ranked among the leading quarter horse trainers, the 46-year-old Edmond, Okla., horseman said: "I still get a thrill out of qualifying for a major race."

"You're always looking to qualify one horse to the finals, let alone three. It's just about the best thing that could happen besides winning it."

Brooks compares Mr. Master Bug favorably with another of

his charges — 1978 All-America winner Moon Lark.

"I believe Mr. Master Bug is in the same category as Moon Lark," he said. "It's hard to compare horses of different years, but Mr. Master Bug is the kind of horse, when you lead him to the gate, you feel with any racing luck at all, he'll be right there. That's the way I felt with Moon Lark: I feel the same thing with Mr. Master Bug."

Despite comparison with one of the champions of quarter horse racing, Mr. Master Bug and the rest of the field will have to contend with fastest qualifier Shaken Not Stirred.

Trainer Nerrel Bruney of Texas has sent the Raise Your Glass filly out four times — to four victories. She blistered the 400-yard course in 20.09 to win her trial heat by 1 1/4 lengths July 9. She won her elimination trial by almost three lengths.

Here is a rundown on the complete Rainbow field:

— **Shaken Not Stirred:** Raise Your Glass filly; qualifying time 20.09; owned and trained by Bruney; has won \$7,125.

— **Mr. Master Bug:** Master Hand colt; qualifying time 20.22; owned by Marvin L. Barnes, Ada, Okla.; trained by

Brooks; has won \$20,824.

— **Glo Billy Sims:** Little Glo gelding; qualifying time 20.23; owned by the Urschels, leased by the Blodsetts; trained by J.B. Montgomery; has won \$116,891.

— **Speedy Hemp:** Hempen colt; qualifying time 20.23; owned by Richard H. Clarke, Kingsville, trained by Jesse L. Yoakum; has won \$16,075.

— **Miss Azure Te Bug:** Azure Te filly; qualifying time 20.24; owned by Barnes; trained by Brooks; has won \$8,432.

— **Miss Squaw Hand:** Master Hand filly; qualifying time 20.24; owned by Barnes; trained by Brooks; has won \$2,770.

— **Fayre Game:** Game Plan

filly; qualifying time 20.24; owned by McCracken Farms, Inc., Lexington, Ky.; leased by James Unrein; trained by Don Drake; has won \$2,081.

— **Yankee Win:** Windy Ryon filly; qualifying time 20.27; owned by Jerry A. Rheudasil, Lewisville, trained by C. Dwayne Gilbreath; has won \$89,231.

— **Bartdress:** Beat A Native filly; qualifying time 20.27; owned by Sam F. Henderson, Odessa, trained by Clifton Dean; has won \$11,272.

— **No Tell Motel:** Truckle Feature colt; qualifying time 20.28; owned by McDermott Ranch, Madisonville, trained by Thomas Zarate; has won \$11,688.

# Bradshaw, Louganis top efforts at Sports Festival

**United Press International**  
**INDIANAPOLIS** — Diver Mark Bradshaw is a perfect 10. Bradshaw, 20, Columbus, Ohio, was the only competitor in the event to capture a perfect 10 score during diving preliminaries Wednesday at the National Sports Festival.

"I always feel confident with that dive," he said, "so that's why I saved it for last. I didn't know it was going to be a 10, but I thought I did the dive well."

His dive, an inward two-and-a-half in a tuck position, earned him 72.90 points with a difficulty rating of 2.7.

Greg Louganis, 22, Mission Viejo, Calif., topped the list of eight U.S. men whose preliminary diving scores qualified them to go to the World Aquatic Championships in Ecuador next week.

Louganis clinched the top spot with a score of 668.01 after 11 rounds of preliminary 3-meter dives in his first preliminary meet since he injured his shoulder several months ago.

Other competitors making the eight-member U.S. men's world championships team include: Dave Burgering, 28, Mission Viejo, Calif., 614.16; Ron Merriott, 22, Ypsilanti, Mich., 612.09; Kevin Machemer, 23, Mission Viejo, Calif., 592.50; Ron Meyer, 20, Fayetteville, Ark., 591.48; Rob Bollinger, 21, Rockford, Ill., 580.20, and Len-

ny Layland, 21, Coral Gables, Fla., 578.73.

Earlier, Megan Neyer, 20, Mission Viejo, Calif., led the list of divers who landed spots on the U.S. women's world championships team. She captured the top berth with a score of 509.58 after 10 rounds of diving.

Other U.S. women making team were: Wendy Wyland, 17, Mission Viejo, Calif., 482.23; Chris Seufert, 25, Ann Arbor, Mich., 481.65; Carrie Finneran, 26, Columbia, S.C., 455.31; Michele Hain, 22, Oklahoma City, Okla., 454.02; Tristram Baker, 20, Mission Viejo, Calif., 451.02; Mary Fischbach, 17, Fort Dodge, Iowa, 449.64, and Kelly McCormick, 22, Columbus, Ohio, 440.82.

Neyer, undefeated this year, said capturing the top spot doesn't make festival competition easier because preliminary

scores are not carried over into the next day's events.

"I have to turn in a first or second Thursday to win the festival," she said. "We start fresh again, and everybody's even. I don't feel any less pressure, either."

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