

Texas A&M The Battalion Sports

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Gretzky stays cool on or off the ice

By Milton Richman
UPI Sports Editor

NEW YORK — On or off the ice, Wayne Gretzky is cool. Like, he had this little chore to do — like, jumping over and picking up this \$10,000 check and trophy they were giving him. But, you know, a guy doesn't like, you know, to go by himself. So Wayne Gretzky brought a friend along. One of his best friends, in fact. The friend was Eddie Mio. He's a goalie, who was with the New York Rangers last season and probably will be with them again next season although he's a free agent right now. But he wasn't the goalie everyone was talking about. Each time goalie Billy Smith's name was mentioned Monday at the midtown hotel where Gretzky received the Seagram's Award as the National Hockey League's outstanding performer for 1982-83, the Edmonton Oilers' spectacular 22-year-old scoring machine played it cool. Not once did he bad-mouth the abrasive, sometimes belligerent New York Islanders' goalie who took a whack at him with his stick during the Islanders' recent four-game Stanley Cup sweep of the Oilers. Mio, who couldn't hear what his old Edmonton teammate was saying about Smith, would've been surprised if it was anything critical.

"To me, he's everything a coach would desire as a hockey player and as an individual as well," Mio said.

Gretzky and Mio get along great together and like to kid each other.

"After I left Edmonton," Mio related, "he'd say to me he was gonna really embarrass me the first time we played against each other. I'd tell him he'd never do it with that soft shot of his. I said to him, 'you got the worst slap shot in hockey. You couldn't break a pane of glass with it.'"

"Well, we finally played against each other. And he beat me so bad, it wasn't even funny. Before he skated away, he sort of smirked and said to me, 'Worst shot in hockey, huh?'"

Today, Gretzky will be in Montreal where he's the odds-on choice to win the Hart Trophy as the league's Most Valuable Player for the past season. If he does, it'll be the fourth straight time. Nobody ever has done that before. Not Maurice Richard, not Gordie Howe, not Bobby Orr.

But Monday the questions had to do with Smith, and when he was asked pointedly what he thought of the Islanders' 32-year-old netminder, particularly Smith's admission he put on a show and feigned being injured by Glenn Anderson in the fourth Stanley Cup contest, Gretzky thought a moment and said: "I've always been a big be-

liever in what happens on the ice should stay on the ice. My own feeling is that he embarrassed one of the best referees (Andy van Hellemond) in the NHL by doing what he did. But as for what he did or said, I just consider the source. If it had come from a class person like Bryan Troutier or Dennis Potvin, I'd be concerned, but coming from him, I don't worry about it."

From Edmonton's point of view, was there anything Gretzky would like to see done differently if Stanley Cup finals were played all over again?

"In Game One, when Billy Smith picked on Glenn Anderson, if we had done something, I think it might've changed the series," he said. "That set the tone. If we would've gone after them, it might've been different. When they found they could get away with it, that gave them a boost."

In the past, there have been rumors Peter Pocklington, the Oilers' owner who has had some financial difficulties, ultimately would sell Gretzky to the Rangers for \$10 million or some figure like that. What did Gretzky think?

"Peter Pocklington has sworn on a Bible that absolutely no way," he said, regarding the prospect of such a deal. "On the other side, a lot of things can happen in business. The bottom line is, I'm making money in Edmonton, I'm playing on a good hockey team and when you play on one it makes it easier. I'm happy where I am."

CWS

Longhorns score late to upend Oklahoma State

United Press International
OMAHA, Neb. — Jamie Doughty's double to right-center in the 11th inning Monday night scored Mike Trent with the winning run as top-ranked Texas beat Oklahoma State 6-5 in the second round winner's bracket game at the College World Series.

The Cowboys sent the game into extra innings when pinch hitter Kevin Jagielo started a two-out ninth-inning rally with a

single to left. Kevin Fowler, pinch running for Jagielo, tied it 5-5 when he scored on Scott Wade's single.

The Longhorns, 63-14, Thursday will face the winner of the Michigan-Alabama contest, set for Tuesday night. Oklahoma State, 48-15, will meet Arizona State on Wednesday in an elimination contest.

Trent got on in the 11th when he was walked by Oklahoma State reliever Gary Kan-

wisher. Doughty, who came in to play third base in the eighth inning, followed with the game-winning hit.

Three consecutive errors by the Texas defense in the third inning led to the first two Oklahoma State runs. Longhorn starter Roger Clemens had struck out the first six Cowboy hitters to that point.

Third-ranked Oklahoma State pushed its lead to 4-1 in the

sixth. Joe Gorman singled to lead off and came around, scoring on Chris Beck's ground-out to shortstop.

Cowboy starter Eric Schmidt had retired 10 hitters in a row, until the Longhorns came alive in the seventh inning with four

straight hits that tied the score 4-4. Johnny Sutton, Trent and Alan Brown produced the RBI for Texas in the inning.

Twins pick Belcher No. 1 in baseball amateur draft

United Press International
NEW YORK — Tim Belcher's next pitch will be to his toughest opponent, Minnesota Twins' owner Calvin Griffith.

Annually underranked by the major league's most feeble pitching staff, the Twins opened Monday's regular phase of the summer free-agent draft by selecting the hard-throwing, junior righthander from Mount Vernon (Ohio) Nazarene College.

The Twins also owned the No. 1 selection in the secondary phase — for players drafted previously but not signed — and they chose Arizona State outfielder Oddibe McDowell, who led the Sun Devils into the College World Series by blasting seven homers and knocking in 50 runs in 63 games.

Under the stern hand of Griffith, the Twins have developed a reputation for frugality and it's questionable whether the club will offer Belcher a six-figure signing bonus, usually tendered

to the No. 1 player selected.

"I'm happy for the Twins and I'm happy for me," said Belcher, a 6-foot-3, 210-pound junior. "I know they'll make an honest attempt to sign me."

"Everyone's intention starting out is to make it to the top and I know if I show them enough, the Twins will move me along up the ladder."

The selection meeting began with the first two rounds of the regular phase, a special draft for clubs which lost Type "B" ranking players through the Reentry Draft and the entire secondary phase. The remainder of the regular phase will be conducted today and Wednesday.

In the regular phase, teams selected in reverse order of their finish the previous season, with the leagues alternating choices. The Twins picked first following their 60-102 mark in 1982. The selection order for the secondary phase was determined by lots drawn by the league presidents.

In the special draft, the Mets selected pitcher Cal Schiraldi of the University of Texas and the Chicago White Sox picked Wichita State outfielder Russell Morman.

Cincinnati, selecting second in the regular phase, chose shortstop Curt Stillwell, a switch-hitter from Thousand Oaks (Calif.) High School. The Reds announced he had signed less than 30 minutes after he was chosen.

Texas picked Rider College shortstop Jeff Kunkel, son of veteran American League umpire Bill Kunkel, the New York Mets tabbed third baseman Eddie Williams of Hoover High School in San Diego and Oakland chose pitcher Stan Hilton of Baylor.

The Chicago Cubs took pitcher Jackie Davidson of Everman H.S. (Texas) and Seattle chose pitcher Darrel Akerfelds of Mesa College. Houston took Robbie Wine, a catcher from Oklahoma State and son of for-

mer majorleague shortstop Bobby Wine, currently coaching for the Phillies. Toronto chose catcher Matt Stark of Los Altos H.S., Hacienda Heights, Calif., and San Diego tabbed pitcher Raymond Hayward of Oklahoma.

Cleveland selected outfielder David Clark of Jackson State, Pittsburgh chose outfielder Ron DeLucchi of Campolindo H.S., Moraga, Calif., and the White Sox, using a pick obtained from the New York Yankees for the signing of Steve Kemp, went for pitcher Joel Davis of Sandalwood H.S., Jacksonville, Fla.

Montreal took Michigan pitcher Rich Stoll, Detroit chose pitcher Wayne Dotson of Estacado H.S., Lubbock, Texas, and Montreal, on a pick from San Francisco following the signing of Joel Youngblood, took pitcher Brian Holman, North H.S., Wichita, Kan.

Leaves Atlanta

Loughery to coach Bulls

United Press International
CHICAGO — The Atlanta Hawks and the Chicago Bulls have made a deal that will give the Bulls their fourth coach in five years. The Atlanta team has given Coach Kevin Loughery approval to sign a contract with the Bulls today in exchange for one of the Bulls' second-round picks in the upcoming NBA draft. Bulls' General Manager Rod Thorn, who was Loughery's assistant when the latter coached the New York Nets of the defunct American Basketball Association, said Monday he was optimistic Loughery would sign the three-year contract, reportedly offering him \$250,000 a year.

"We don't anticipate any problems, but that's what San Antonio thought about their coach," Thorn said, referring to the Spurs' problems with current Coach Stan Albeck, who is attempting to get out of his oral agreement reportedly to sign with the New Jersey Nets.

The Hawks also said they expect Loughery to sign with the Bulls.

"In return for waiving our contractual rights, we have entered into an agreement where we waive our rights to Kevin and we get the seventh pick of the second round in the 1983 draft,"

Hawks' President J. Michael Gearon said.

The choice will be the 31st selection overall.

Thorn said he met with Loughery last Saturday, indicating Loughery was ready to sign when he returned to Atlanta. Hawks' owner Ted Turner reportedly made a counteroffer in an attempt to keep him.

Loughery coached the New Jersey Nets before signing with the Hawks in 1981.

The Bulls fired coach Paul Westhead last month after the team posted its second-worst record in history.

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