

Striking NBA refs picket fans

United Press International
BOSTON — At least a dozen striking NBA referees and their attorney picketed Wednesday night in front of Boston Garden to "bring the message to the fans" about their impasse with the league.

The officials also distributed 1000 toy whistles before the game.

"It's just a fun thing with the fans, and to take away the bore-

dom of the picket line," referee Ed Rush said.

The referees, dressed in white NBA jackets, circled the Garden lobby during the first quarter, drawing cheers from the fans.

Veteran referee Jack Madden then tried to lead the officials down to courtside, but security police asked them to leave. They did without incident.

The referees have not worked any exhibition games and have been replaced with substitutes by the league. Another veteran referee holding a picket sign before the Boston Celtics-Milwaukee Bucks game was Jake O'Donnell.

"The league made a decision to lock us out," Rush said. "Unfortunately, to quote one of their owners, they want to bring us to our knees. What they're

saying is that we're not worth it and we can be replaced."

Union counsel Richie Phillips, who also represents major league baseball umpires, told the fans they would not be seeing a "first-class" basketball game because of the referees' walkout.

"We're here to bring the message to the fans — they're the ultimate consumer," Phillips said. "Once the league recog-

nizes the contributions referees make, they'll sit down and talk."

On Tuesday, representatives for the NBA and the referees' union met for 3 1/2 hours in New York but no substantial progress was made in the ongoing dispute.

The NBA said it increased its playoff salary proposal by 50 percent, but said there was little or no movement on the part of the union.

Mavs whip Blazers

United Press International
DALLAS — Mark Aguirre ignited an early streak that gave Dallas a 14-point first quarter lead Wednesday night and then helped fight off a Portland comeback to bring the Mavericks a 123-117 win over the Trail Blazers.

Dallas thus ran its record to 3-1 and kept the early lead in the NBA's Midwest Division.

Aguirre scored nine points in the opening period during which the Mavericks shot 64

percent to Portland's 37 percent.

With Dallas outrebounding the Blazers, 30-17, the Mavericks took a 66-53 half-time lead and still had an eight-point advantage as the final period began.

Portland, which evened its record at 2-2, closed its deficit to six points in the first four minutes of the fourth quarter, but Aguirre then made two free throws and added an offensive rebound and basket.

Denny — 1983 Cy Young winner

United Press International
PHILADELPHIA — John Denny, named Wednesday as the 1983 winner of the National League Cy Young Award, said he made great strides as a pitcher and as a person, during his first full season with the Philadelphia Phillies.

Denny, a right-hander, created the demanding conditioning program of Gus Hoefling and the handling of Phillies pitching coach Claude Osteen in his professional success and his friends, family and religious beliefs for the changes in his personal life.

"This award should go to all those I've mentioned," said Denny, who posted a 19-6 mark with a 2.37 ERA for the National League champions and received

20 of a possible 24 first-place votes with 103 points in the Cy Young balloting.

"This is not just my award and I will never view it that way," said the smiling, relaxed Denny at a news conference in Veterans Stadium.

That Denny contrasted sharply with the one who came to the Phillies late in the 1982 season following a 6-11 year with Cleveland and then went 0-2 while refusing to speak to the press.

"My attitude was full of hatred and bitterness," he said. "But I realized during the play-offs (against the Los Angeles Dodgers last month) that that was a wrong attitude and I tried to change. That has been beneficial in my profession. And it will

be beneficial in my life."

Denny, who led the NL in wins and finished second in ERA this year, was followed in the Cy Young voting by Cincinnati right-hander Mario Soto, who received two first-place votes and 61 points after leading the NL with 18 complete games while posting a 17-13 record.

New York Mets' reliever Jesse Orosco (13-7, 1.47 ERA) placed third with 19 points and Montreal's Steve Rogers received 15 points for fourth, with each earning one first-place ballot.

Denny, who also received a second-place vote, appeared on 21 of the 24 ballots cast by members of the Baseball Writers Association of America.

UPI's Comeback Player of the Year, Denny is also the third Phi-

adelphia Phillies pitcher to win the Cy Young in the last four years. Left-hander Steve Carlton claimed the prize in 1980 and 1982. Carlton, the only pitcher to win the award four times, fell to 15-16 in 1983 and was not named on any ballot.

But Denny said Carlton is still the Phillies' ace.

"Until he retires, in my mind he's the ace of the staff," Denny said. "He's a great pitcher. No matter what I accomplish, I don't think I can ever be compared to Steve Carlton."

Denny said Hoefling, a strength and flexibility coach, urged him, Carlton and other Phillies pitchers to work out during spring training by saying no one could know which one of

them would win the 1983 Cy Young Award.

"Most of that went in one ear and out the other," he said. "But when I did hear it, I looked over at Steve Carlton. Never in my wildest dreams did I think that I would win this award."

Denny said he did not think about the progress of his season, which ended with a 13-1 surge that helped the Phillies to the National League crown, while it was occurring.

"I just tried to approach the game day by day, start by start," he said. "If I try to look down the road, try to look ahead, then the walls start crumbling for me."



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Cavaliers beat Rockets in Cleveland, 103-94

United Press International
RICHFIELD, Ohio — "The crowd really helped us tonight," said Cleveland's Free said Wednesday night.

Free, who hit on 13 of 30 from the field, thrilled a crowd of 11,156 to a 33-point effort, and sparked the Cleveland Cavaliers to a 103-94 NBA victory over the Houston Rockets.

"The crowd was a big part of the victory, and we can have an exciting team here," said Free. "I thought I was back in Philly

again playing to a packed house."

The Cavs, with Free tossing in 10 points, grabbed a 29-21 lead after the first period, as Houston connected on only 10 of 28 from the field. The Rockets hit eight straight field goals to open the second period, and took a 37-33 lead with 8:45 left in the half.

The score was then tied twice before Free hit the second of two free throws to put the Cavs on top to stay, 40-39 with 5:59 left.

The Rockets cut the Cleveland lead to 90-87 with seven minutes left in the game. But the Cavs reeled off eight unanswered points, including six by Free, to put the game out of reach.

Ralph Sampson, who canned his first four field goal attempts in the first four minutes of the game, finished with seven of 17 from the field, good for 16 points. The 7-foot-4 rookie from Virginia grabbed a game-high 16 rebounds.

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Five UT El Paso players suspended

United Press International
EL PASO — University of Texas at El Paso football coach Bill Yung has suspended five players, saying they broke travel and training rules, it was announced Wednesday by the university.

The suspended players are Mike Gentry (senior), a starting inside linebacker; Mike Bradford (sophomore), a back-up linebacker; Robert Murray (junior), a No. 2 offensive tackle; Jerry Leifheit (junior), a part-time starter at offensive guard, and tailback Denny Gareau

(freshman), who was up to No. 2 tailback.

Yung said the players were suspended for an off-field incident in Hawaii. The coach would not elaborate, but sources close to the team said that marijuana may have been involved.

"They were breaking travel and training rules," Yung said. "They've been suspended for the rest of the year. They haven't been kicked off entirely. We told the rest of the team yesterday. They'll have to adjust and work hard."



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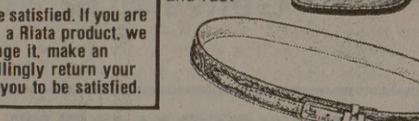
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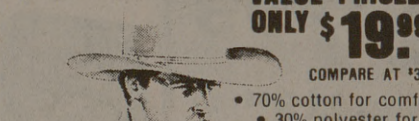
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