

Hockey hopes dimmed

Team USA loses

United Press International
SARAJEVO, Yugoslavia — Two shadows — one cast by the eligibility dispute and the other by Pat LaFontaine — have virtually eclipsed United States

chances for a repeat hockey gold medal.

Canada made the United States' 1984 Winter Olympic debut a rough one Tuesday with a 4-2 decision. Carey Wilson scored three goals and as-

sisted on the fourth, but subtler factors that contributed to the defeat were the emotion generated by the fuss over the Canadian roster plus containment of the United States' best player.

"I don't think it had any effect on us, but it may have worked for Canada," U.S. Coach Lou Vairo said of the eligibility dispute that cost Canada the services of center Mark Morrison and defenseman Don Dietrich. "They were fired up and played with great intensity."

By contrast, the Americans were strangely flat considering the situation. It was a game they could have won and only David A. Jensen, with two opportunistic goals, showed much spark. Now a medal of any kind seems unlikely, since the Americans must still face powerful Czechoslovakia and Finland in preliminary play.

"You gotta finish first or second in your division for a medal and that isn't settled yet," Vairo said, refusing to admit the danger of the team's position. Jensen's linemates on the young "Diaper Line", 17-year-old Ed Olczyk and 18-year-old LaFontaine, combined for some chances, but the checking of

Dave Tippett forced Vairo into a strategy that diminished LaFontaine's effectiveness.

"I told him before the game that if they did that (shadowed him) he should shadow one of their players and tie up two of their players," Vairo said. "There's nothing else you can do."

Wilson set up a goal by Pat Flatley 27 seconds into the game, immediately establishing Canada's credibility and betraying shakiness on the part of goalie Marc Behrend.

"Anytime you're in a single game situation it's important to get the first goal, the confidence goal," admitted Vairo. "To play to full ability you have to play to full intensity and we weren't at full intensity."

"The early goal helped us a great deal," agreed King. "One of the things it did was keep us from falling behind, and that's important for us. We don't score goals easily."

Despite dropping Morrison and Dietrich, Canada used three of the players affected by the eligibility dispute. The IOC ruled Monday that players who have signed NHL contracts are ineligible. Goalie Mario Gosselin, who has signed with the Quebec Nordiques, was a factor in containing the Americans in the second period.

After the game, Canadian hockey czar Alan Eagleson dismissed the controversy, saying it was over and that the Canadian roster had been confirmed by the International Ice Hockey Federation.

To his credit, Vairo avoided bringing up sour grapes and instead praised the Canadian effort.

"The Canadian team should be congratulated for playing a great game," he said. "They deserved to win. They outplayed us. We didn't play up to our abilities."

Aggie golfer is medalist

United Press International
WEST COLUMBIA — Texas A&M's Phillip Parkin maintained a four-stroke lead through the final 27 holes to capture medalist honors at the third annual Columbia Lakes Intercollegiate golf tournament. Parkin's total for the tournament's 54-holes was 218.

The nation's No. 1 ranked golf team, the University of Houston, Monday rode senior Steve Russell's two-day total of 222 to capture the team title. Texas A&M placed second 12 strokes back of the Cougars.

Russell, from Amarillo, claimed second place in the medalist competition, while the Cougars posted a 54-hole total of 1,161. TCU placed third with 1,202, Southwest Texas State had 1,213 and Rice had 1,226.

TANK McNAMARA

by Jeff Millar & Bill Hill



Professional athletes in Winter Olympics?

By MILTON RICHMAN
United Press International
SARAJEVO, Yugoslavia — By the 1992 Winter Games, or even possibly by the very next ones in Calgary, Canada, you're going to see something no one has ever seen before. An open Olympics.

Open to everyone, amateurs and professionals alike. And if you ask me, that will constitute a decisive step in the right direction because it automatically will eliminate much of the sham going on among all of the competing nations, including the United States, and will do away with the kind of controversy detracting from these games at the moment over hockey's Olympic eligibility rules.

Alan Eagleson, who wields more control over amateur and professional hockey than anyone else in North America as promoter of international contests and executive director of the NHL's Players Association, called for an Open Ice Hockey Olympics Monday.

He said he would've had Wayne Gretzky playing here right now had these Olympics been open to professionals. Gretzky is playing with the Edmonton Oilers at the moment, but Eagleson would've gotten him and a representative collection of NHL All-Stars here to participate as Team Canada. Eagleson is that powerful.

But he said he wasn't going to waste his time bringing Gretzky and other NHL professionals to the Olympics when the Games were beset with the sort of "confused circumstances" they are at present. He's talking about the problems they're having regarding what constitutes an amateur player as defined by the Olympic rules.

The whole thing is a big joke now.

In Europe, all first division ice hockey leagues in Sweden, Finland, Czechoslovakia and

West Germany pay their players. The average annual salary for a West German player is \$50,000, tax free, plus a car and an apartment. Erich Kuehnhaeckel, a naturalized West German citizen born in Czechoslovakia, makes \$200,000 a year. But the 6-foot-6, 215-pound center is still considered an "amateur" by the International Ice Hockey Federation and Olympic Committee and is playing here for West Germany.

By contrast, Mark Morrison, who played nine games with the New York Rangers two years ago and makes \$15,000 a year, is one of the Canadian Olympians being challenged by the United States and Finland as a professional.

Reluctantly, the Canadians withdrew Morrison, their fastest center, because of his NHL taint.

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"Kuehnhaeckel makes 200 grand and Mark Morrison 15, and Morrison is a professional," Eagleson snorted. "That doesn't make sense."

It certainly doesn't. The ridiculousness of the situation isn't limited to ice hockey, either. Skiers aren't allowed to negotiate for endorsement money but they get substantial amounts from their federations. What happens is that the federation gets the money and

puts it into a trust fund and competitor turns pro.

What's so amateurish about that?

This whole thing becomes nonsensical that even the officials involved talk out of sides of their mouths when they discuss amateurism.

Whether he intended or not, Eagleson offered evidence of that by recounting a part of the conversation he had with an international hockey representative.

"As one fellow said to 'we're not worried about money so much, we're worried about the principle,'" Eagleson related.

One of the few remaining champions of pure amateurism is William Simon, President of the United States Olympic Committee. He's beating a dead horse, however, and I think he knows it. Even he admits competition is coming.

Hockey players are not much the same world. They aren't nearly as concerned with rules and politics as are with such things as goals and drinking beer. That's why the ones here, particularly the Americans, had minimal interest, if any, in a big uproar over amateur eligibility.

"I don't even think I'm thinking about it," shrugs Scott Bjugstad, one of the wards on Team USA who the Western Collegiate Hockey Association last season played with the University of Minnesota. "It really doesn't make much difference to us what finally rule."

In 1980, when the Americans upset the Russians to win the gold, they were \$7,200 apiece. That was for pensions, and it irritated them when they found out their Canadian counterparts had \$10,000. But the Canadians told them to calm down, reminding them of the difference in the exchange rate.

Soviets sign '84 Summer Olympics TV agreement

United Press International
LOS ANGELES — The Soviet Union signed a \$3 million television contract Tuesday to broadcast the 1984 Summer Olympics in its country and 15

others, another strong indication the Soviets and their allies will compete in the Games.

The signing at the Winter Olympics in Sarajevo, Yugoslavia, was announced by the Los Angeles Olympic Organizing Committee.

The Soviets have hinted strongly that they will compete in the Summer Games, but have not officially accepted the LAOOC's invitation. Soviet sports officials said the final de-

cision would not be announced until June 2, but Tuesday's official signing was seen as a partial sign of the Soviets' intent to participate in the Olympics.

The announcement came one day after a senior Soviet member of the International Olympic Committee surprised Los Angeles Olympic officials by paying tribute to LAOOC for doing "an excellent job."

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