

WCT underway in Dallas

United Press International

DALLAS — The World Championship Tennis finals, an event that was near extinction a year ago, begins today with renewed expectations that it will become one of the sport's most important tournaments.

A 12-man field headed by John McEnroe and Jimmy Connors will compete for \$500,000 in prize money with the title match scheduled for next Sunday.

The tournament lost No. 2 seeded Ivan Lendl, who withdrew Monday night and was replaced by Tim Mayotte.

Lendl bruised his inner thigh and possibly suffered kidney

McEnroe, unbeaten in three previous WCT tournaments, comes to Dallas unbeaten in 19 matches this year while Connors has lost once in 21 matches.

problems when he ran into a netpost in a Grand Prix tournament in Luxembourg two weeks ago, Tom Cook, a WCT spokesman said.

"From a promoter's point of view it is as good a field as you would want," said Owen Williams, the chief executive officer of WCT.

The tennis war between

WCT and the Grand Prix ended late last year with a compromise agreement, one that in the future should turn the WCT finals into one of the premier events each year.

Beginning next year the 12 players who qualify for the WCT finals must participate in them. During the past few years most of those eligible to participate in the Dallas tournament have declined to do so.

The two players WCT wanted and did not get this year were Mats Wilander and Yannick Noah.

McEnroe, Connors, Jimmy Arias and Johan Kriek will receive byes to the quarterfinals while the other eight battle on Tuesday and Wednesday night.

Tuesday's night's matches will have Mayotte taking on Tomas Smid (the winner to face Jimmy Connors Thursday) and

Eliot Teltscher taking on Henrik Sundstrom (the survivor to meet Arias).

On Wednesday night Kevin Curren plays Mark Dickson (with Kriek awaiting the winner Friday night) and Vitas Gerulaitis faces Bill Scanlon (the winner meeting McEnroe).

McEnroe remained the top seed, followed by Connors, Arias and Kriek.

Sundstrom is fresh from an upset win over Wilander in the finals of an event in Monte Carlo.

McEnroe has been in the WCT championship match the past five years and has won three of them — downing Bjorn Borg in 1979, Kriek in 1981 and Lendl last year in a fifth-set tiebreaker. He was beaten by Connors in 1980 and by Lendl in 1982.

McEnroe comes to Dallas unbeaten in 19 matches this year while Connors has lost once in 21 matches.

Scanlon, the only native Dallas resident ever to have played in the WCT event, reached the semifinals last year but brings only a 5-7 match record into this year's tournament.

TANK McNAMARA

by Jeff Millar & Bill H.



NBA roundup

76ers must 'do or die'

United Press International

Philadelphia enters Game 4 of their playoff series with the New Jersey Nets Tuesday striving to even the series and return the match to the 76ers to accomplish a feat unseen by NBA fans in more than a quarter of a century.

Philadelphia, rallying from two straight losses to defeat the Nets 108-100 Sunday at the Meadowlands Arena, knows the odds are against the club. The last time a team bounced back from a 2-game deficit in a five-game series was in 1956 when Fort Wayne came back to defeat the St. Louis Hawks.

But that doesn't faze Philadelphia one bit. "You see this ring?" Julius Erving asked as he held up his finger with the 1983 NBA championship ring on it. "I don't want to lose what it stands for and I want another."

In other playoff games Tuesday night the Nuggets (leading 2-1) square off against Utah at Denver; the Suns (leading 2-1) take on Portland in Phoenix; the Hawks confront Milwaukee (leading 2-1) in Atlanta, Washington hosts Boston (leading 2-1) and Seattle (leading 2-1) hosts Dallas.

New York, which holds a 2-1 lead in its series, plays its fourth game against Detroit Wednesday night in New York.

Los Angeles was the only team to sweep its series, eliminating Kansas City 108-102 Sunday.

The Nets are also hoping to make history, for

the eight-year-old franchise has never won a playoff. To do so, it must eliminate poor free throw shooting and turnovers plagued its game Sunday following its first two games at the Spectrum.

The Nets converted only 9-of-21 free throws and made seven turnovers in the final period, including three in the last minute.

"We lost the game on the foul line," said coach Stan Albeck. "They shot 24-of-27 and shot 9-of-21. We're still ahead 2-1 and I would have told me the same thing at the three, I'd have taken it. The Sixers changed lineup and eliminated our quickness going court."

"We got three turnovers in the last minute that helped," said Erving. "It's difficult to blame anyone and I didn't come here expecting to lose."

Erving scored 27 points and Moses Malone finished with 21 points. Buck Williams had 10 points for the Nets, Micheal Ray Richardson who terrorized the 76ers with his wild floor game at the Spectrum — had 10 points. Otis Birdsong, who had predicted the Nets would sweep the series, hit for only 3-of-10 shooting.

"They switched out and doubled up on me and I never got into the game," said Erving. "They're the world champs, and nobody was going to be easy."

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Indians scalp Rangers

United Press International

CLEVELAND — Tony Bernazard tripled in Otis Nixon and Julio Franco followed with an RBI double in the fifth inning Monday to lead the Cleveland Indians to a 3-1 victory over the Texas Rangers.

Rick Sutcliffe, now 3-1, picked up the win, going 7 2-3 innings before being relieved by Ernie Camacho, who registered his third save. Sutcliffe allowed six hits, walked none and struck out four.

Texas got its only run in the eighth when Ned Yost was safe on a fielder's choice, moved to second on Bobby Jones' pinch-hit single and scored on a single by Mickey Rivers.

Charlie Hough, 1-1, took the loss, allowing eight hits in going the distance.

In other American League action, Lloyd Moseby drove in four runs with a bases-loaded double and a triple Monday to power the Toronto Blue Jays to an 8-5 triumph over the Seattle Mariners.

Dave Stieb, 3-0, worked 7 1-3 innings and allowed five runs on eight hits, striking out four and walking five. Roy Lee Jackson finished for his second save.

Trailing 4-3, the Blue Jays struck for four runs in the fifth. Consecutive singles by Buck Martinez and Alfredo Griffin and a hit batsman loaded the bases with none out. Moseby sliced Mark Langston's pitch down the left field line for a three-run double.

Collins was picked off second base and Toronto Manager Bobby Cox was ejected in the argument.

Sonics see potential

United Press International

SEATTLE — After a regular season notable mainly for his team's inconsistency, Fred Brown thinks the Seattle SuperSonics are showing signs of coming around now that the playoffs are here.

The Sonics took a 2-1 lead in their best-of-five series with Dallas with a 104-94 comeback victory over the Mavericks Saturday. The Sonics could progress to a second-round series with the Los Angeles Lakers by beating Dallas tonight in the Kingdom.

Brown, along with Gus Williams and Jack Sikma, is one of the few survivors from Seattle's championship 1979 season on this year's rebuilt club. Now a 13-year veteran, Brown qualifies as one of the NBA's elder statesmen, giving his hopeful comments a little more credibility.

"I am seeing enough now to give me some indication that there is potential, a start of something that can be very good," said Brown. "We do not have all the elements. But we have enough to be winners."

The Sonics have won two in a row over Dallas after losing the series opener. The win Saturday was an impressive one in that Seattle bounced back from a five-point halftime deficit to dominate the Mavericks with tough defensive play in the second half.

Seattle's playoff performance is helping erase some sour memories from a year ago when the club was quickly eliminated in two straight losses to Portland in an opening mini-series.

"Late in the season and in the

Seattle's playoff performance is helping erase some sour memories from a year ago when the club was quickly eliminated in two straight losses to Portland.

Outside shooting has been a problem for Dallas in the playoffs. Although Rolando Blackman is having a productive season, Dallas' other starting guard Brad Davis, has been missing shooting slumps.

Davis has hit just 10-of-20 shots from the field in the two games, both Dallas losses. That has allowed the Sonics to collapse on high-scoring forward Mark Aguirre who tries to get the ball inside.

"I think that I've been shooting too much, trying to do things too perfect," said Davis. "I'm worrying too much about my mechanics."

"I've got to shoot it and think about it. I'm still missing Gus honest enough on defense. I've got to make that so that he can't collapse. He's making it difficult to get the ball inside."

Davis, who runs the Dallas offense, is usually a reliable shooter, finishing eighth in NBA in shooting percentage this season with a .341 mark.

Ryun retains superstar status 20 years after record mile

United Press International

LAWRENCE, Kan. — There have been numerous changes in the world of track — the dirt has gone to tartan, the lanes have increased to eight — but the superstar status of Jim Ryun continues unabated.

The Wichita whiz kid was the first high school athlete to tread a mile in less than four minutes and, in his relatively short career, gained an Olympic silver medal and stacked up more awards than there are brands of running shoes.

Now 20 years after he set a then-world record 3:51.1 mile — a record, incidentally, that lasted nine years — Ryun, the "tall, loose-limbed lad with a flat-top hair cut," is still on the run for fun and profit.

Ryun is an imposing figure at this year's Kansas Relays where his awesome running career began two decades ago.

"It (the Relays) is very special in the sense it was my first opportunity to race in the first stages of my career with the best in the state," he said.

As the Sullivan Award amateur athlete of the year, Ryun quickly became a star on the Jayhawk campus. Appearing on the covers of virtually every sports publication and some news magazines, Ryun would have women flood his telephone with calls. Ryun said it was difficult to cope with those star-struck fans and the constant attention given him by re-

porters and photographers.

But Ryun has settled down with his wife, Anne, and four children in Lawrence. And he is still running for the fun of it, about 90 to 100 miles a week.

Using his knowledge and experience, he travels around the country for workshops, lectures and seminars. He is a consultant for a shoe company as well as an award-winning photographer who also serves as a consultant for a film company.

"I'm so happy I'm doing what I like to do," he said. "I'm constantly amazed by the interest and by the attention given to me."

Ryun's biography, "Quest for Gold," published this summer will relate his first success — becoming the 21st man on a 21-member cross-country track team.

But with the inspiration of coach Bob Timmons, who coached Ryun in high school and at Kansas University, the athlete went from that spot to the top man on the varsity a year later and eventually to NCAA and Amateur Athletic Union records in the 880-yard, 1-mile and 2-mile runs.

In 1964, Ryun placed third in the 1,500-meter run at the U.S. olympic trials, but a cold forced him out of contention for an Olympic gold medal. Then in 1968, weakened by a bout with mononucleosis, he lost the gold medal to Kenya's Kipchoge Keino.

Ryun said the biggest point of his career was criticism he received for winning a gold medal.

"I'm not going to the away because it wasn't my goal," he said.

But his worst moment in the 1972 Olympics, qualifying races, Ryun knocked down and unconscious for 15 seconds, chances for any medal were slim. Fueling his frustration was the fact that Olympic officials refused to review film in search of a foul.

Unable to even look at a magazine without disgust, said he went for months without feeling disappointed. Ryun, a proclaimed "Again" Christian, said his life took a dramatic turn to help him forgive them (Olympic officials), he said. "The glitter off when you think that sports is not an end in itself."

Unfortunately, the game losing their true goal. The purpose of the Olympics for youth to gather in competition.

"In reality, politics stepped in to diminish the goal," he said.

Today his children own are running in an elite club. His track experience earn a living. And his running — is still continuing.

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