

**SPORTS**

# Unusual trends may dominate summer sports

By ED CASSAVOY  
Sports Writer

*"A new cable channel will appear called 'Late Night Bowling and Comedy Cable' where all the bowlers will look and sound like David Letterman."*

Another sports summer has begun with a whimper. Because I admit to finding little of interest occurring in the local area, I will move to the sphere of broad sports trends.

I guess these muggy, lazy days in College Station — the kind that make moss grow on the north side of your body — have gotten me into a more philosophical mood than usual.

And so I feel a little more profound than usual, daring to predict future trends and events in the world of sports.

• First, the Texas Rangers will trade their entire team to San Antonio for the Gunslingers. The new San Antonio Rangers will immediately roar to first place. The only question remaining, in what sport?

• Carl Lewis will not sign a contract with the San Francisco 49ers as a wide receiver. I'm sure Joe Montana is taking a deep sigh of relief.

• The new "Twin Vision" dome light system, already receiving rave reviews from the Minnesota Twins, will be copyrighted and the new company be flooded with orders. Of course the trend-setting Twins outfielders, sporting sunglasses to help cut down the glare indoors, will immediately put out their own designer frames.

• In Chicago, Wrigley Field will still have only day games. But the Cubbies begin playing night games on the streets surrounding the field. They do have nice lights, but no ivy-covered walls.

• Muhammad Ali will astound the sports world by insisting on making a comeback to regain his heavyweight crown. Unfortunately (depending on how you look at it) he picks wrestling, not boxing. "The Missing Link" promptly pile drives Ali into the mat, thus ending a glorious comeback by "The Greatest."

• A new cable channel will appear called "Late Night Bowling and Comedy Cable" where all the bowlers will look and sound like David Letterman. Each bowler will be required to do a "dumb, but in" two

minute monologue before each game. LNBCC organizers are confident that it will be syndicated by the fall to all major Icelandic markets.

• The NHL, hoping to regain a slumping Canadian market share will institute a new pregame warmup to increase fan interest in the Great White North. Each team member on both teams will be required to chug six Molson Golden's, and then they will be expected, after the brews, to try and name all the Canadian players in major league baseball.

• George Steinbrenner will once again try to attract media attention with another PR ploy. This time, Steinbrenner plans to break the world record for continuous sports job firing by firing Billy Martin as manager of the Yankees until the end of time. It is rumored George was heard to mumble, "Ripley's Believe It or Not, here I come."

• The revamped USFL, searching for the crowds to fill its teams stands announces they have a new schedule and team locations that USFL officials are boasting, "will have 300,000 to 400,000...uh fans, flocking through the turnstiles each weekend." USFL planners are still working on the sticky problem of explaining the concept of a two point conversion to Antarctic penguins. League officials are optimistic that this new Northern Lights schedule will be ready by the spring ice break up.

I hope this short list of coming summer sports attractions has every reader out there drooling with anticipation. If not, just pray for the start of roller derby season.

# McEnroe frolics on French court

Associated Press

PARIS — Playing on his least favorite surface and in a tournament no American man has won in the last 30 years, top-seeded John McEnroe swept into the semifinals of the French Open tennis championships Tuesday by halting a stubborn challenge from Sweden's Joakim Nystrom.

The talented left-hander from New York now will face fourth-seeded Mats Wilander — his third straight Swedish foe — in his bid for the title on the slow, red clay courts at Roland Garros Stadium.

McEnroe, ranked No. 1 in the world and the reigning Wimbledon and U.S. Open champion, outlasted Nystrom, the No. 7 seed, 6-7, 6-2, 6-2, 3-6, 7-5 in a 3-hour, 32-minute battle under a blazing sun and 100-degree temperatures.

Wilander, who captured the French Open in 1982, dashed French hopes when he ousted unseeded Henri Leconte of France 6-4, 7-6, 6-7, 7-5.

In the women's singles, the semifinals were completed when second-seeded Chris Evert Lloyd, a five-time French Open champion, crushed fellow American Terry Phelps 6-4, 6-0 and now will play 15-year-old Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina, the 14th seed, who eliminated No. 4 Manuela Maleeva of Bulgaria 6-3, 1-6, 6-1.

Defending champion Martina Navratilova will face No. 7 Claudia Kohde-Kilsch of West Germany in the other semifinal.

The men's semifinal field will be completed on Wednesday when defending champion Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia plays unseeded Martin Jaite of Argentina and No. 3 Jimmy Connors faces no. 14 Stefan Edberg of Sweden.

Although his game against Nystrom was sprinkled with occasional brilliance McEnroe failed to sustain the high standard he always sets for himself. The steady, unspectacular Swede was content to feed on the American's frequent errors, and although he fell behind in the beginning of the match, he never appeared to be out of it.

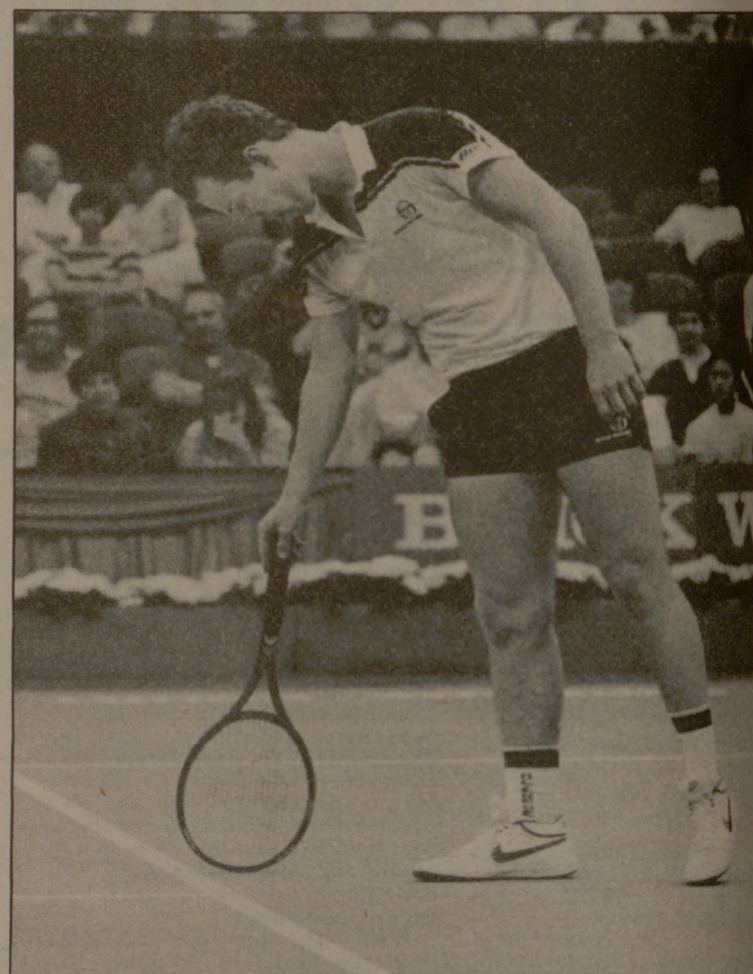
Nystrom forced his way back by taking the fourth set and had the match in his sights when he broke McEnroe's serve to grab a 3-1 lead.

But McEnroe, seemingly able to shift gears and pull out those magical shots whenever they are needed, abandoned all caution and unleashed a series of shots, ripping off four straight games to take a 5-3 lead and serving for victory.

But Nystrom still was in the chase. He saved a match point with a spectacular service return, broke back, then held his serve for 5-5, increasing the pressure on McEnroe.

It was the Swede's final shot. McEnroe had been too close to victory to let it slip away again, and he closed out the match when Nystrom sliced the ball wide.

"I'm just glad I won it," McEnroe said. "There were a lot of ups and downs, and I feel good that I hung in there and won a tough fifth set."



John McEnroe (above) moves into the semifinals of the 1985 French Open. No American man has won there in 30 years.

# Bates not ready to blast Guns' follies

Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — Former San Antonio Gunslingers coach Jim Bates says he'd like to tell all about his experience as mentor for the troubled United States Football League team.

But Bates says franchise owner Clinton Manges still owes him paychecks extending through Nov. 29.

"I'd like to tell you what I really think," Bates said. "But until then (when he collects his salary), for me to blast them, I'd be out of bounds."

I'd hate to say anything. I've got a wife and kids to support. I'm sort of in a hard spot."

Bates resigned suddenly May 18, just hours before the Gunslingers were to take on the Oakland Invaders in a home game. He had led the team to a 3-9 record.

He has remained unemployed since then, but said he is pursuing another coaching job at a major college or as a National Football League assistant.

"I probably will get back in foot-

ball," Bates told the San Antonio Light newspaper. "But it's hard the time of year. This is as tough a time as there is for employment. Everybody's set."

Bates said he is puzzled about interim coach Gil Steinke, who took over after he resigned, is staying with the team.

Steinke finished a successful career as coach at Texas A&I before taking the head coaching job in the

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