

SPORTS



Photo by GREG BAILEY

Looking Toward The Majors

Texas A&M shortstop Rob Swain (9) was taken in the 23rd round of the Major League Baseball

draft Wednesday night by the Cleveland Indians. Other Aggies drafted into the Majors in-

cluded outfielder Mike Scanlin (24th round) and catcher Steve Johnigan (25th round).

Bird puts Celts under wing in 4th period

Associated Press

INGLEWOOD, Calif. — Larry Bird didn't hit the winning shot and he wasn't his team's leading scorer, but — as he often claims — the fourth quarter belonged to him.

The Boston forward, who was just named the National Basketball Association's Most Valuable Player for the second consecutive year, had not played exceptionally well in the

NBA Championship Series as the Los Angeles Lakers took a 2-1 lead over the Celtics.

However, in the fourth quarter of Wednesday night's 107-105 victory over the Lakers that evened the best-of-seven affair at 2-2, Bird was all over the Forum floor in the final period as the Celtics rallied from a 92-85 deficit early in the period.

He stole the ball, he blocked shots,

he tipped in a rebound and he made a couple of long jumpers. And, with time running out, he drew two Los Angeles defenders to him before he passed off to Dennis Johnson, who fired in a 21-footer at the buzzer for the victory.

"Especially in the fourth quarter when we had a chance to win it, I was very glad that my teammates kept coming to me," said Bird, who fin-

ished with 26 points, 11 rebounds and five assists.

Bird, who did not shoot particularly well in the opening three periods, was asked if he was bothered by bone chips in his right elbow and a jammed finger on his shooting hand.

He replied, "For the last month and a half it's been the same story — I feel great."

The Lakers, meanwhile, were trying to forget the game as quickly as possible and look ahead to Friday night's fifth game at the Forum.

"The last play was something we do all the time," said the Lakers' Johnson. "We just lost a tough game at the buzzer. All we can do now is forget this game and look ahead to Friday."

Here they go again tennis fans

Navratilova, Lloyd vie for French title

Associated Press

PARIS — Two old adversaries Martina Navratilova and Chris Lloyd — are ready to battle again this time for the French Open women's singles title.

Saturday's championship match will be a repeat of last year's final, which will be a repeat of their first Grand Slam final confrontation, which took place here in 1975.

In the 10 years since Lloyd beat Navratilova 2-6, 6-2, 6-1 at Roland Garros Stadium, the two have met in nine other Grand Slam title matches. Surprisingly, this is only their third clash in Paris.

The defending champion and No. 1 seed, Navratilova advanced Thursday with a rain-interrupted 6-4 triumph over No. 7 seed Claudia Kohde-Kilsch of West Germany. Lloyd, seeded No. 2, crushed a 19-year-old Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina 6-4, 6-1.

Ranked one and two, respectively in the world, Navratilova and Lloyd clashed last year in the championship matches at Wimbledon and the U.S. Open — Navratilova winning both times. But Navratilova was upset by Czechoslovakia's Helena Sukova in the Australian Open, which was won by Lloyd.

Between them, they have won every Grand Slam tournament — Wimbledon and the French, U.S. and Australian Opens — starting with the Australian in 1981.

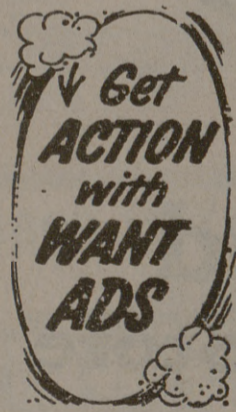
On Friday, the men's semifinals will pit top-seeded John McEnroe against Sweden's Mats Wilander, the 1982 French Open champion, while 32-year-old Jimmy Connors, seeded the only Grand Slam crown that he eluded him, will face defending champion Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia.

The men's final on Sunday will be televised live by NBC, beginning at 8 a.m. EST. Saturday's women's match will be taped delayed on NBC.

Navratilova is in the final at Roland Garros for the third time in four years. Although she rarely reached peak form on Thursday, she produced some brilliant strokes late in the game against her 6-foot West German foe.

"It's good to know that I can play badly and still win in straight sets," Navratilova said.

Lloyd, a five-time winner of the French title, reached her 30th Grand Slam final by crushing Sabatini, one of several young up-and-coming stars. But whenever Sabatini struck one of her fierce, low-flying hands, Lloyd would match it.



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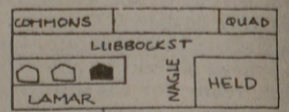
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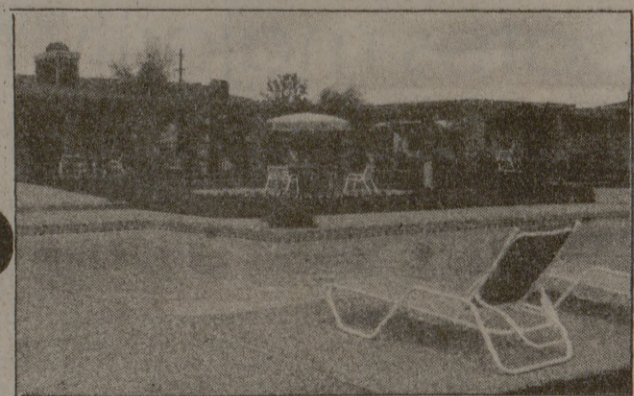
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