

ABC shuffles NFL analysts, fires Namath

NEW YORK — Joe Namath and O.J. Simpson have been removed from the Monday Night Football broadcasting team at ABC and Frank Gifford can remain only as an analyst, a network source said Tuesday.

Capital Cities, which now owns ABC and is in the midst of cost-cutting measures, bought out Namath's contract for "less than \$1 million but more than \$800,000." Namath served as an analyst for just one year on the series.

Simpson has been offered a spot opposite Keith Jackson on the network's coverage of college football and, the source — who asked not to be named — said, "He's probably going to take it because he feels he'll get more visibility than if he went somewhere else."

Simpson had been contacted by CBS and NBC about working NFL games. But, instead of leaving ABC, the source said he will replace Frank Broyles on CFA telecasts. Simpson worked three years on Monday Night Football.

Gifford, who has been the play-by-play man on Monday Night Football for 15 years — Jackson handled those duties in the show's inaugural season — will be replaced by Al Michaels, currently ABC's top baseball announcer.

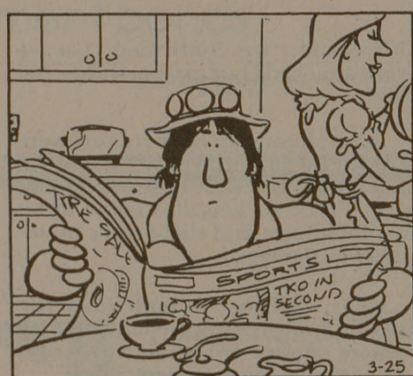
But Gifford was offered the position of color analyst on the NFL shows. Gifford began his football broadcasting career in that role at CBS.

Namath signed a two-year contract in 1985 and earned approximately \$1 million per year. Though Monday Night Football's ratings soared last year, the network's sports operations lost between \$30 million and \$50 million a year.

ABC is planning to go with only two announcers for Monday Night Football for the first time. Ever since the series began in 1970, with Jackson, Howard Cosell and Don Meredith in the booth, there have been three voices doing the games.

In addition, there has been speculation that ABC is interested in dropping Monday Night Football after the contract runs out following the 1986 season. All three networks will conduct negotiations with the NFL following next season.

TANK McNAMARA



TELEVISION SPORTS

TODAY
Boxing - Top Rank Boxing, ESPN, 8 p.m.

SATURDAY
Pro Basketball - Celtics vs. Knicks, CBS, 7 p.m.
College Basketball - Georgetown vs. Villanova, NBC, 7 p.m.
Pretty Hard to Tell the Difference - Enormous State University vs. Slightly Smaller State University, ESPN, 7:30 p.m.

SUNDAY
Ice Figure Skating

Sampson injured in Rockets' loss

(continued from page 10)

back on the floor. "You just have to continue," said Rockets' forward Robert Reid. "You know the Celtics are going to say, 'Here, this is our game because your top player is out.' You've got to have confidence in the guys on the bench and just play hard."

There was a "possibility of a fracture in the mid-back," Celtics' team physician Thomas Silva said through Twiss. Sampson was the game's top scorer with 17 points before being hurt.

Twiss also said there was "definite neurological loss" in Sampson's right leg, although the three-year NBA veteran felt sensation and was able to move his right leg before leaving for the hospital.

After speaking with hospital personnel, Silva said, "improvement in the right leg is continuing."

Leading 53-51 when Sampson was hurt, the Rockets fell behind 61-57 at halftime. A field goal by Wedman made the score 97-91 before Houston tied the game with a six-point rally capped by Hank McDowell's basket.

Wedman broke that final tie with 6:50 left in the game and quickly connected again.

Boston guard Danny Ainge's basket finished the 6-0 run. A free throw by Akeem Olajuwon, who led Houston with 29 points, and a field goal by Steve Harris cut the Celtics' lead to 103-100 before Dennis Johnson sank a foul shot and Larry Bird and Robert Parish made layups, building the advantage to 108-100.

Bird, who had averaged 34 points in his eight previous games, led the Celtics with 36. Parish added 19 and Kevin McHale 17.

The Rockets, who lost for the seventh time in their last eight road games, got 22 points from Lewis Lloyd and 16 from Allen Leavell. Houston remained one game in front of Denver, which was idle, in the race for the Midwest Division lead.

Mavericks 126, Pacers 120
INDIANAPOLIS — Mark Aguirre scored 21 of his 25 points in the second half, including 13 in the third quarter, in leading a balanced scoring attack as the Dallas Mavericks beat the Indiana Pacers 126-120 Monday night.

Aguirre's rebound jump shot with 10:50 left in the game ignited a 16-1 scoring spurt. A jump shot by Indiana's Herb Williams left the Pacers trailing 93-91 with 11:20 remaining. Aguirre then started a streak of nine unanswered points that ended on a three-point play by Jay Vincent.

Wayman Tisdale made a free throw for Indiana with 9:11 left, and Dallas followed with seven more points on a three-point play by Brad Davis, a basket by Dale Ellis and a tip-in by Aguirre with 7:43 to go.

The spurt gave Dallas a 109-92 lead and Indiana was never able to get closer than five thereafter.

Rolando Blackman contributed 23 points to the victory, while Davis and Vincent had 22 apiece.

Ron Anderson had a career-high 28 points for Indiana and tied his career-high with 13 rebounds. Williams scored 25 points and pulled down 10 rebounds, while Steve Stipanovich had 22 for Indiana.

It was the eighth consecutive Dallas victory over Indiana — a streak that dates back to March 7, 1982 when the Pacers recorded a 108-106 victory.

OSU snubs A&M rally at Louisiana tourney

From Staff and Wire Reports

LAFAYETTE, La. — The No. 1 Oklahoma State men's golf team won the inaugural Louisiana Classics tournament Monday, holding off a late charge by Texas A&M.

OSU led from start to finish in claiming its third tourney title of the season. The Cowboys had a three-day team score of 1097, which was 17 over par for the 7,000-yard, par 72 Oakbourne Country Club course.

A&M finished with 1106, fol-

lowed by Houston with 1126, Texas Christian with 1127 and Lamar at 1130.

Houston Baptist was sixth at 1137, followed by Oklahoma at 1139, Alabama at 1161, McNeese State at 1166, New Orleans at 1182 and host Southwestern Louisiana at 1185.

A&M's Coghlan, the first-round leader, had a strong final nine and posted a par on the final hole to take the individual championship with a four-over 212. That edged Oklahoma State's Bradley, who had 213.

Tray Tyner of defending national champion Houston, was third at 215, followed by Houston Baptist's Colin Montgomerie.

Men's Golf

Wyoming beats Florida to earn NIT finals berth

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Fennis Dembo continued his hot postseason scoring pace with 23 points Monday night, leading Wyoming from an early 12-point deficit to a 67-58 victory over Florida and a berth in the finals of the 49th annual National Invitation Tournament.

The Cowboys, 24-11, will play for the championship Wednesday night against Ohio State, a 79-66 winner over Louisiana Tech.

Dembo, averaging 22 points in Wyoming's four NIT triumphs after a 16.5 average during the regular season, led a Wyoming surge during the middle 20 minutes of the game.

Eric Leckner added 19 points and Turk Boyd 10 for the Cowboys, who used their superior height to overcome the Gators, who finished the season 19-13.

Kenny McClary, Florida's tallest player at 6-foot-7, led the Gators with 13 points and 10 rebounds before fouling out with 2:47 remaining. Nine of his rebounds came in the first half.

Junior forward Joe Lawrence got Florida off to a great start, hitting his first six shots, all on jumpers from at least 12 feet.

Lawrence joined guard Andrew Moten and McClary to account for all of Florida's points as the Gators took a 25-13 lead with 8:51 left in the first half.

At that point, Lawrence had 12 points, Moten seven and McClary six, four of them on offensive rebounds against the much taller Cowboys.

Wyoming, however, started asserting its height during the remainder of the first half by taking the ball inside. Leckner, the Cowboys' 6-11 center, scored nine points and 6-4 forward Dembo had 12, only two of them on outside shots as the Cowboys rallied to close the deficit to 37-32 at halftime.

The Cowboys rarely took an outside shot after the first 10 minutes of

the game. They scored the first six points of the second half to take their first lead 38-37 on an inside jumper by Dembo, who went on to score 11 points in a nine-minute span.

Dembo gave Wyoming the lead for good 49-48 on a breakaway layup with 8:40 remaining in the game.

Lawrence did not make another shot after his early hot streak and wound up with 12 points, along with Vernon Maxwell, the Gators' leading scorer this season with a 19.9 average. Moten finished with 11.



UTSA names new coach

SAN ANTONIO — Ken Burmeister, an assistant coach at the University of Arizona, will be the University of Texas at San Antonio's head basketball coach, the *San Antonio Express-News* reported Monday.

Burmeister, 38, will replace Don Eddy, UTSA's first basketball coach. Eddy quit Feb. 7 after the school began investigating an incident in which he allegedly shoved a player during a game.

Burmeister was picked by a six-man search committee over three other finalists, the *Express-News* quoted an unnamed source as saying.

Dr. Alan Craven, a search committee member, would neither confirm nor deny the report. But he did say the coach had been named and that the school would announce his appointment later.

Burmeister was in Houston over the weekend and told the newspaper he would not confirm he had been appointed.

"I'd hate to jeopardize any chance I have of getting the job by saying something now," he said.

Burmeister has been an assistant coach at Arizona since the 1983-84 season. He has been an assistant at Iowa and at the University of Texas at Arlington. The job would be a homecoming of sorts — he graduated from St. Mary's University in San Antonio.

The *Express-News* said Burmeister was selected over Cal State-Sacramento head coach Bill Brown and Alaska-Anchorage head coach Harry Larrabee.

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