

Aguirre, Motta feud again after star forward's ejection

DALLAS (AP) — Mark Aguirre, who was shoved by teammate Derek Harper and called a quitter and a coward by Dallas Coach Dick Motta after being ejected from the Mavericks' NBA game Saturday night with Detroit, was contrite later.

"I think an apology is needed," Aguirre said after the game, which went to the final seconds before Dallas pulled out a 122-118 victory.

"At the earliest convenience, I will apologize to Coach Motta and the team for getting kicked out of such an important game," Aguirre said.

Aguirre had 11 points on 4-of-14 shooting at the time of his ejection, and Dallas had a nine-point lead. Detroit closed to within 67-62 by halftime.

The game was a physical one, and referee Jack Nies had to officiate the game by himself after referee Bill Saar was caught in a scuffle between Mavericks center James Donaldson and Pistons center Bill Laimbeer in the first minute of the game. Saar suffered a hyper-extended knee and couldn't continue.

Nies ejected Aguirre 20 seconds before halftime after Aguirre complained he was being roughed up without fouls being called.

When Aguirre walked by the Mavericks' bench, Motta, kneeling on the sidelines, told Aguirre to stay calm. Aguirre responded by arguing more. That resulted in two techni-

cal and an automatic ejection.

Harper and Dallas guard Rolando Blackman had tried to restrain Aguirre from arguing with Nies, but Aguirre refused to listen. After Aguirre's ejection, as the forward walked past the press table, Motta yelled, "What about the game?"

Aguirre yelled back, "I don't give a (. . .) about the game."

Later, Aguirre denied making the statement, but some of the Dallas players said they heard it.

Harper, who is Aguirre's best friend on the squad, was so upset with Aguirre that as Aguirre left the court, Harper shoved him in the back and muttered, "Jerk." A chorus of boos rang out through the sellout crowd of 17,007 as Aguirre headed up the ramp to the dressing room.

Later, Harper said, "I don't think he was a jerk, but I think it was a jerky situation. I've never seen anything like it."

Moments later, when the Mavericks went into the dressing room at halftime, several players said Motta was enraged. He yelled at Aguirre, calling him, among other things, "coward" and "quitter."

That's similar to what Motta called Aguirre after what he considered a mediocre performance by Aguirre in December 1984 in Milwaukee — one of several well-publicized disagreements the player and coach have experienced over the past seven

years.

Aguirre yelled back, and at that point, Donaldson positioned himself in front of Aguirre's locker and told him to cool it, other players said.

Motta continued yelling, Aguirre continued responding, and Donaldson continued telling Aguirre to cool it.

One player said it took awhile, but Aguirre, looking at the 7-foot-2, 272-pound Donaldson, "eventually got the message."

Aguirre said after the game, "I don't want to be kicked out of any game. I just thought I got hit on a couple of my shots. I just wanted to talk to the ref. I know Coach Motta was upset, and I know I will apologize to him. The great thing is that we won the game without me on the floor."

Motta said Aguirre used poor judgment.

"He is paid to play, and I could not believe the way he acted tonight," said Motta. "It was very immature on his part. I question the judgment of his actions. But the rest of the team pulled together, which was another step in the right direction."

Blackman said, "We can't afford to lose Mark. And he shouldn't have lost his temper. I guess he was frustrated. But the important thing is we rallied around each other and won the game."

No. 1 seed Evert Lloyd rips Shriver 6-1, 6-3

DALLAS (AP) — Top-seeded Chris Evert Lloyd won her 149th pro title Sunday and her first since last year's French Open with a 6-1, 6-3 blitz of second-seeded Pam Shriver in the finals of the Virginia Slims of Dallas.

Evert, rounding back into championship form after taking five months off from competitive tennis, won \$50,000. Shriver, who has never beaten Evert Lloyd in 18 career matches, won \$22,500.

Evert Lloyd set the tone in the match's first game, striking four clear winners to break Shriver's serve. Evert Lloyd, normally a slow starter, won 14 of the match's first 16 points.

Shriver, who depends largely on her serve, got only five points on her service in the first set. Evert Lloyd also broke Shriver in the third, fifth and seventh games, while Shriver managed a break in the fourth game.

Shriver, becoming increasingly frustrated, screamed at herself several times during the match. When she ran down a lob and returned a crosscourt winner from an impossible angle in the sixth game of the second set, she fell down in mock surprise.

From that point Shriver, ranked fifth in the world, made a brief rally, breaking Evert Lloyd in the seventh game to narrow the deficit to 4-3. But Evert Lloyd broke back in the eighth game for a 5-3 advantage,

then held when Shriver hit a backhand wide at match point.

"I wanted to get a tournament win under my belt," said Evert Lloyd, currently ranked third in the world. "I kept hearing everyone say I hadn't won a title since the French (Open) and it was starting to bug me."

Evert Lloyd, 32, of Boca Raton, Fla., said Sunday's match was probably her best performance since returning to the tour three tournaments ago.

"After the first round here, I really played some of the best tennis of my career," she said. "I don't remember beating Pam this badly in some time. You could see Pam was stalling a little bit, trying to break up my rhythm. She was trying everything, and I didn't want to relax for a minute."

Shriver, 25, of Lutherville, Md., said she never felt she was in the match.

"I felt like I didn't have a stitch of clothes on," Shriver said. "I looked down and said, 'Yeah, I've got my skirt on, yeah I've got a top on.' I put on a wristband to make sure I had something on. I felt exposed out there."

Shriver said she talked to herself during the match more than usual.

"When I got frustrated I talk to myself," she said. "That was my worst match in quite a while. I hit that one good shot, wasn't that nice? I guess I peaked a little late."

Crenshaw takes USF&G by 3 strokes

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Ben Crenshaw used his reliable putter to fend off would-be challengers and score a 3-stroke victory over Curtis Strange Sunday in the USF&G Classic.

Crenshaw, never headed and never tied over the final 18 holes, compiled a 5-under-par 67 and acquired the 13th title of his career with a 268 total, 20 strokes under par on the Lakewood Country Club course.

The victory was worth \$90,000 from the total purse of \$500,000 and pushed Crenshaw's earnings for the year to \$227,957.

Crenshaw's total was only one off the course record. But it was not the birdies he made that won it, it was the critical saves of par down the stretch.

Long noted as one of golf's premier putters, Crenshaw was at his best in the final round.

Although Crenshaw found it almost impossible to keep it on the short grass over the back nine, his putter saved him.

He made 4 par-saving putts on the last seven holes — the critical factor in turning back the late bid of Strange.

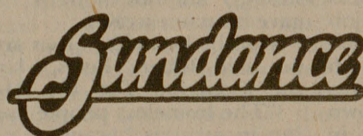
Strange, four behind at the turn, closed to within two at one point, but needed help from Crenshaw to get closer. It wasn't forthcoming.

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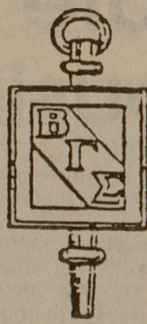
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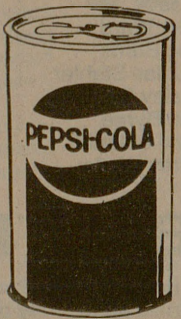
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