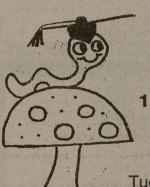
Battalion Classifieds

NOTICE

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Monday April 4 Room 101A Rudder 10am-7pm Monday-Friday

> Extra Announcements: First come - First serve

Tuesday April 12 - Student Finance Rm 217 MSC, 8am

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6 HELP WANTED

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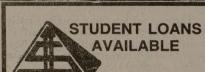
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Rudder Theatre Complex Needs student workers For stagehand and spotlight work

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COME SIGN UP!!

Years of frustration over; A Devils make NHL playoffs as From the Associated Press finished second in the Smyth If the New Jersey Devils had an

April theme song, it would be "New

The Devils, who knocked the New York Rangers out of an NHL playoff spot Sunday, open their firstround series against the New York Islanders at Nassau Coliseum Wednesday night.

It will be the Devils first playoff

appearance since moving to New Jersey in 1982.

"I'm so happy," right wing Pat Verbeek said after the Devils edged the Rangers for the final playoff berth with a 4-3 overtime victory over the Chicago Blackhawks. "All these years, all the losing, all the frustration. All our hard work fi-

Left wing Aaron Broten echoed the feeling.

"We were a bad team for so long," he said. "It would have been cruel if we'd come this close and not made

In other opening-round games Wednesday, Philadelphia plays at Washington, Hartford at Montreal, Buffalo at Boston, Toronto at Detroit, Chicago at St. Louis, Winnipeg at Edmonton, and Los Angeles at



The Devils-Islanders series features a strong home ice advantage on both sides.

The Islanders, who won their first Patrick Division title since 1983-84, were 4-0 against New Jersey at Nassau Coliseum this season. But the Devils were 3-0 against the Islanders at the Meadowlands.

John MacLean, who scored the Devils' winning goal Sunday, said the team won't suffer a letdown in

the least won't sand the playoffs.

"We've been playing do or die games for the last 10 games of the season," he said. "I think it will help us in the playoffs. It's also a do or die situation.

While Devils' fans were thrilled to see their team in the playoffs, Edmonton fans won't be satisfied unless their team wins another Stanley

The defending Cup champions

sion, but they hope to redeem

selves in the playoffs.

"We're still the champions'
Edmonton star Wayne Gre whose seven-year reign as an champion was ended by Pittsbur Mario Lemieux. "Until som takes that away from us, we dea to be called the champions."

The Oilers finished with points, the first time in seven, they didn't reach the 100-puin

"We have nothing to be also of," forward Mark Messier sit was bound to happen, but him had a tremendous year."

The Oilers were hurt by the of defenseman Paul Coffey, which traded to Pittsburgh, and goals, Andy Moog, who decided to be

the Canadian Olympic team.
"We missed Andy all a
Gretzky said. "Andy was venue
rated. He was a big part of on

The Oilers, who won there season series against Winning 3, never have lost a playoff as Winnipeg in playoff game back to 1983.

Solid year makes Mario Lemieux prime candidate for MVP honors

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Just when NHL fans thought they had seen it all this season, Pittsburgh's Mario Lemieux would do something else that was extraordinary.

If it wasn't his incomparable three-goal, three-assist performance in the NHL All-Star game at St. Louis, it was the goal he scored on his knees against Quebec — or his overtime game-winner while nearly flat on his back against Washington last Saturday.

He had a league-high 10 shorthanded goals, and even scored once with one hand held behind his back by a Toronto defenseman. He was Lemieux Le Magnifique — Lemieux the Magnificent.

"He was so good it was scary," Philadelphia Coach Mike Keenan

"If he doesn't get the MVP, there

should be an investigation," teammate Dan Quinn said.

But while he became only the fourth player in NHL history to score 70 goals in a season, Lemiuex didn't reach the one goal he'd set for the 1987-88 season: leading the Penguins into the playoffs for the first time since 1982.

Despite a 36-35-9 record that was a tremendous improvement over the dismal 15-58-6, pre-Lemieux days of 1983-84, the Penguins finished last in the Patrick Division, missing the playoffs by one point. It was a point that wasn't lost on Lemieux, whose 168 points were the most ever by an NHL player other than Wayne Gretzky

"We still are a couple of players away but we will be better next year," Lemieux said after the Penguins beat the Hartford Whalers 4-2 Sunday night. "We had some guys who wanted to make the playoffs.

It seems unlikely that a team with a player as good as Lemieux and a team that acquired All-Star de-fenseman Paul Coffey from Edmonton in November couldn't make the 16-team playoffs, but the Penguins didn't. So Lemieux had to be content with being the first player from a non-playoff team to lead the NHL in scoring since Roy Conacher of Chicago in 1949.

Lemieux had 70 goals and 98 assists for 168 points in 77 games, 19 more points than Gretzky. Gretzky played in only 63 games because of a knee injury and failed to win the

scoring title for the first times entering the league in 1979. Gretzky, who had 40 goals 109 assists, had won seven on ect, Ma The he we

utive Art Ross trophies as the N top scorer and had led the league ery season this decade. And is outscored every other NHL by at least 65 points a season in

of the past six years.

But, as Montreal defend
Larry Robinson said, "You is
think you've seen the best and somebody else comes along. Mario's any better than Wayst it's nice to have a breath of no in the league."
After leading Team Canada

Canada Cup championship or Soviet Union with 11 goals, in ing four game-winners, Lement joyed the fifth most-productive son in NHL history. He appear be a cinch to win the Hart In awarded annually to the keep Most Valuable Player, but Gretzky, who has won it eight "The trophy is supposed by the player who is the most all the player w

e exp

to his team, and I can judge," Lemieux said. "But did pretty good. I have a shotal

American football catching on in Japan

LUBBOCK (AP) — At age 12, he was a full-fledged member of a college football team.

By the time he was 15, he was offered and accepted a high school head coaching job.

Three years later, during his freshman year in college, he turned

down 12 head coaching positions. Had Masanori "Steve" Ban lived in the United States, these accomplishments would make him a living legend. In Japan, where Ban was born and lives, he is merely the foremost authority and teacher of American football.

Although baseball, soccer and volleyball are Japan's most popular sports — for both spectators and competitors — football is catching up in a hurry. According to Ban, 44, the game was introduced to the Japanese some 50 years ago by an American missionary at Rikkyo Uni-

Today, there are approximately 150 colleges and more than 100 high schools in Japan that field grid

"I first became interested in football when I was in elementary While viewing Royal's University school," said Ban. "I saw a college of Texas football machine in the game and didn't understand it at all. early 1970s, Ban met a young assisthen take a rest and fight again. In most 10 years later, the friendship our country, a fight usually lasts unwas renewed when Ban ran into til someone gives up.

"In the last 15 years, it has really lard's staff. caught on. Every Japanese knows what American football is."

sion is that Japanese youth in high merce, to visit the Red Raiders' school and college must pay for their spring practice. own equipmwent, there is no recruiting, and coaching is done strictly on a voluntary basis

also is a wide gap between the size of players from the two countries.

"In Japan," Ban noted, "if you weigh 160 to 185 pounds, you are a teams to ties in the Japanese national championship game.

Ban played six years as a "substitute guard, quarterback and halfback" on one of Japan's first college squads. Three years into his playing career, he took on the added task of

coaching Hiyoshigaoka High School. He coached there for three seasons before he entered Meiji University in Tokyo as a student. While Ban picked up bits and

pieces of the game during his early years, it was nearly enough to satisfy either his burning curiosity or competitive side as a young coach. Thus, during his first season as a coach, he wrote to then-Oklahoma Coach Bud Wilkinson and requested

any materials that would aid to his learning. Wilkinson responded by sending playbooks, films and training brochures. At the age of 16, Ban introduced the split-T offense and the Okla-

homa 5-2 defense to Japanese foot-

Ban later visited Wilkinson at OU, and Wilkinson in turn made it possible for Ban to visit with many of the other college coaching innovators during the 1960s and 1970s. The list included Bear Bryant, Woody Hays, Darrell Royal, Bill Yeoman and Emory Bellard.

The teams would fight, then break, tant coach named Spike Dykes. Al-Dykes again at Mississippi State, where he was an assistant on Bel-Last fall, Dykes, now head coach

what American football is." at Texas Tech, invited Ban, who is
The major differences between
U.S. football and the Japanese vercoach at Kobe University of Com-Ban accepted the offer, and spent

all of one week last month learning voluntary basis. "nickel and dime defenses and the And, as one might expect, there L-back (fullback in motion) offense," which he hopes to introduce during

championship game.

Some of his other contributions

have been the introduction of the wishbone and veer offenses, the use of helmet logos and team nick-names, and the development of weight training.

Dravecky hurls Giants past Dodgers

LOS ANGELES (AP)-Dravecky pitched a three-and Brett Butler had three including a two-run triple, first game for San Franci the Giants opened defen their National League We Monday by beating the Los geles Dodgers 5-1.

Butler, signed by the Gizza a free agent during the of son, gave the Giants a 41 with his fourth-inning which drove in Jose Uribe Dravecky, 1-0.

Mike Aldrete followed wi sacrifice fly, completing at run rally against Fernando lenzuela, 0-1.

METS 10, EXPOS6 MONTREAL (AP) -Strawberry and Kevin M nolds hit two home runs the New York Mets set and with six opening-day he beating the Montreal Exps. Monday for their 13th video

their last 14 openers.

Len Dykstra and Kevin also homered for the Met broke the record set by the York Yankees against the delphia Athletics on Ap 1932, and tied four times Hubie Brooks homen Montreal as the clubs tied

cord for opening day ho both teams last accom Milwaukee and Bostonin was the first seven-ho in National League histo

Dwight Gooden allow reer-high 11 hits in five for the victory. He walk and struck out one. Loser Martinez allowed nine his

TIGERS 5, RED SOX3 BOSTON (AP) - Al mell hit a two-run homer ton reliever Lee Smith outs in the 10th inning and the Detroit Tigers Red Sox 5-3 in the first the 1988 baseball season.