

Friday, July 7, 1989

Collins ousted as Bulls coach in surprising move

CHICAGO (AP) — Doug Collins was fired as coach of the Chicago Bulls Thursday, an unexpected move since this past season he guided the team to an NBA conference final — only the third in the franchise's history.

"We know this will be an unpopular decision, but we truly believe this will be in the best interests of all parties," team owner Jerry Reinsdorf said in a statement released by the club.

"We appreciate the effort Doug has given over the past three years. However, through the years philosophical differences between management and Doug over the direction the club was going grew to a point

where the move was required," Reinsdorf said.

Collins, 37, was one of the youngest coaches in the NBA and his tenure on the bench reflected the fiery temperament that marked his playing career — first at Illinois State, then as a member of the U.S. Olympic team, and finally during an eight-year stint with the Philadelphia 76ers that included four All-Star team selections.

But in a statement accompanying the one released by the Bulls, Collins said simply, "When hired three years ago, I willingly accepted the challenge of leading the Bulls back to the type of team this city richly deserves."

Graf eliminates Evert, faces Navratilova

McEnroe tears muscle in his serving shoulder playing doubles

WIMBLEDON, England (AP) — Steffi Graf spoiled what probably was Chris Evert's last Wimbledon appearance on Thursday, routing the three-time champion in the semifinals and setting up a long-awaited rematch with Martina Navratilova.

Meanwhile, John McEnroe tore a muscle in his serving shoulder while playing doubles and his trainer said the American will be hampered in his singles semifinal against defending champion Stefan Edberg on Friday. Ivan Lendl plays Boris Becker in the other men's semifinal.

Graf, who beat Navratilova in last year's final, demolished Evert 6-2, 6-1 to reach her 10th consecutive Grand Slam title match.

Navratilova struggled in the first set before beating unseeded Cat-

arina Lindqvist of Sweden 7-6, 6-2.

Navratilova will try to win a record ninth Wimbledon singles title on Saturday when she plays Graf for the first time since last year's three-setter.

But Evert was the focal point Thursday, when the temperature on Centre Court soared above 100 degrees.

Evert, 34, wilted under the power and pressure of an opponent who was 5 years old when Evert won her first title here in 1974.

"After a few of those long rallies, I thought, 'Boy, if I was 10 years younger,'" Evert said. "I was just a step slow."

Evert said she was almost certain it was her final match at Wimbledon, where she has won more singles

matches (96) than any other player. She is expected to retire at the end of this season.

"I'd be really shocked if I came back next year," Evert said. "I would take a transplant or something . . . a couple of different parts."

McEnroe could use a new left arm after injuring his shoulder in a doubles match on Wednesday night, shortly after his four-hour victory over Mats Wilander in a singles quarterfinal.

McEnroe, who is seeking a fourth Wimbledon title, underwent treatment Thursday for the injured rotator cuff.

"If he'd had to play today, forget it, he wouldn't have been able to," trainer Bill Norris said. "A day's rest will help him but he'll be limited to

what he can do, particularly on his serve."

Nothing limited Graf, whose Grand Slam tournament winning streak was stopped at five last month by Arantxa Sanchez in the French Open final.

The 20-year-old West German broke Evert in the opening game of the match and again for a 4-1 lead.

Graf saved three break points in the next game and served out the set with three consecutive winners.

Evert, playing her 17th semifinal in 18 Wimbledon appearances, held serve to open the second set as Graf made a string of errors.

It was Evert's final victory of the match.

Despite his legendary status, Rose is not beyond punishment

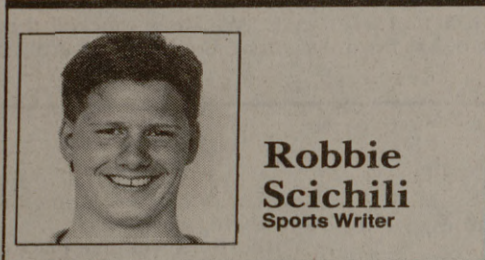
Pete Rose is at the end of his rope. Literally. And this one may have a noose on the end.

The rumors continue to fly. Some have Rose betting \$2,000 a day for two years on baseball alone. Others have Rose connected to cocaine rings. Somehow you just knew snow flurries would pop into the forecast.

Are they true? Is Rose guilty? Maybe. Maybe not. If he is guilty then he has some stiff penalties in store for him.

Forget that he has more hits than anyone in the history of baseball. Forget that he's practically a god in Cincinnati. The main point is that he knows the rules and if he broke them, he should pay for it.

Opinions are like noses. We all have them and they all smell. Some feel Rose



Robbie Scichili
Sports Writer

should never, under any circumstances, be banished from the Hall of Fame. The fact is that if he is guilty, and we do let him in, then we should change the name to the Hall of Shame.

It's a crime that the main coverage of

baseball is happening in the courtroom rather than the playing field. Rose's lawyers have pulled out all the stops to try to stall his case. But rumor has it — yes, another one — that Rose has some evidence of his own that will prove his innocence. Whether or not this is true remains to be seen.

If Rose is indeed guilty, he should get the appropriate punishment, which would be lifetime banishment from the league, including the Hall of Fame. Though he was one of the greatest players of all time, he should not be excused from any harsh punishment.

He'll be remembered no matter what happens. What he'll be remembered for is something else.

Sure, everyone is saying, "Say it ain't so,

Pete!" Comparisons have been made to the 1919 Black Sox of Chicago. That team is not remembered as one of the greatest teams of all time. They are remembered for throwing the World Series.

Meanwhile, the Reds are playing well and could challenge for the pennant if they keep it up. No one is watching their stats, though. All eyes have been on Rose, who has tried to play the controversy down from day one. He has been a distraction to the team, and this will definitely keep them from making any type of run at the National League West crown.

So where do we go from here? Well, expect plenty of action in the next month from Rose's lawyers and from the prosecution. My guess is that Rose has no

defense against the harsh evidence and will end up being banished from baseball. Does he deserve it?

Look at it this way. Why should we give a break to a man who is just like the rest of us? Rose is human. He makes mistakes like the rest of us. Sure, he means a lot to the game of baseball and to fans around the globe. But if we go easy on him, it only opens the door for others to abuse the rules as well.

It looks bad for Pete. There are not many expectations that he will be pardoned and given a second chance. The rumors will continue to fly. People will still have opinions and they will continue to smell. But chances are that Rose won't come away from this smelling like his name.

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