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Racing world mourns fallen horses

NEW YORK (AP) — Trainer Billy Badgett has 32 horses in his barn and was at Belmont Park on Sunday tending to them. "I thought about not getting out of bed today," Badgett, who trained Go for Wand, said, "but I really can't do that." On Saturday, Go for Wand shattered her right front ankle while battling to keep the lead over Bayakoa in the Breeders' Cup Distaff. Minutes after the roar of the crowd of some 50,000 turned into a collective gasp, as the 3-year-old filly was humanely destroyed on the track. She died a champion, queen of the 3-year-old fillies, just as she was the queen of her class last year when she

won the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies. At the request of Jane duPont Lunger, the 76-year-old owner of Go for Wand, the filly will be buried at historic Saratoga. Ruffian, another champion filly, is buried in the Belmont infield. Fifteen years ago, on July 6, 1975, the unbeaten 3-year-old was destroyed after breaking down during a match race against Kentucky Derby winner Foolish Pleasure. "You know this kind of thing happens," Badgett said, "but you never think it will be your horse." In one of the most tragic days in racing history, two other horses died and another was retired because of

injury. Mr. Nickerson, trained by Mark Reid, collapsed on the turn in the Sprint and died of an apparent heart attack. Shaker Knit, trained by Steve DiMauro, fell over Mr. Nickerson and suffered a severe spinal injury. He was put down late Saturday night. "He couldn't stand it (the pain), and we couldn't stand watching him any more," DiMauro said. "It would have been inhumane to let him suffer." Also in the Sprint, Adjudicating, who finished fourth, suffered a fractured right rear cannon bone. He will be retired to stud in Japan. Chris Antley, who rode Mr. Nick-

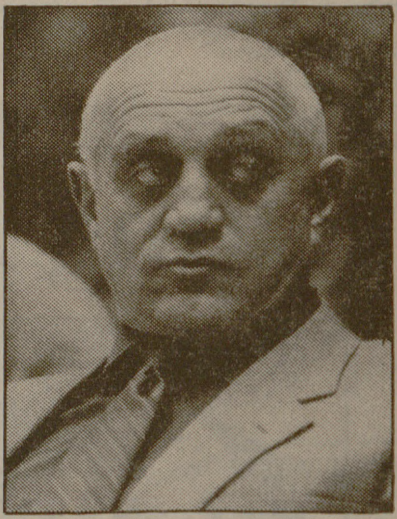
erson, broke his right collarbone. "It will be a while before I get over the shock," trainer Ron McAnally said while accepting congratulations for 6-year-old Bayakoa's second straight victory in the Distaff. "They give their lives for our enjoyment." While there was sadness in the Belmont stable area Sunday, the sadness did not hang like a pall. The people who work and live at a race track know that the one sure thing in horse racing is uncertainty. And for Badgett, there are always those other horses in his care — and hope. "You go on. There's nothing else you can do. You just go on."

Nuggets slip past Mavericks on late basket

FORT WORTH (AP) — Walter Davis' jumper with a minute left gave Denver a three-point lead, and the Nuggets held on to beat the Dallas Mavericks 138-137 Sunday night in the preseason finale for both teams. Rolando Blackman cut the lead to one with 45 seconds left and Dallas got one last chance, but Brad Davis' driving hook shot rolled off the rim at the buzzer. Derek Harper's 3-pointer gave the Mavericks a 135-132 lead with 2:20 left. But Avery Johnson, Orlando Woolridge and Davis scored to put Denver on top 138-135. Both teams ended the exhibition schedule with 2-6 records. It was the most preseason losses in Mavericks history. The game produced the most points Dallas has ever scored and the most it has allowed in a preseason game. Yet the 137 points allowed was Denver's best defensive game of the preseason. Walter Davis scored 15 of his 16 points in the second half, 10 in the third quarter when he went 5-for-6 from the field. Seven Nuggets scored in double figures, led by Woolridge with 24.

Tarkanian appeals to NCAA UNLV bargains for NCAA reversal of ruling

CHICAGO (AP) — UNLV basketball coach Jerry Tarkanian offered to sit out the championship tournament, forfeit a personal stake of as much as \$100,000 in playoff revenue, and abstain from recruiting for a year if the NCAA reverses a ruling blocking the Runnin' Rebels from defending their national title. The offer was one of four alternatives offered to Tarkanian and officials of University of Nevada at Las Vegas in a two-hour meeting Sunday with NCAA Infractions Committee, capping a 13-year legal dogfight with UNLV in July by banishing the Runnin' Rebels from the 1991 basketball tournament. The three other alternatives were: • UNLV's basketball team will not be permitted to compete in the 1992 tournament. • Tarkanian will sit out both the 1991 and 1992 tournaments. • UNLV will make no network TV appearances during the 1991-92 season, reduce its scholarships from 15 to 13, and reduce the number of official recruiting visits from 18 to nine in 1991-92; and allow no off-campus recruiting by the basketball staff for a year. Each alternative was presented as mutually exclusive, in exchange for which Tarkanian promised not to pursue further litigation against the NCAA. The Infractions Committee has



Tarkanian

wide-ranging powers in the matter. It could let the original ruling stand, accept any one of the proposals, or repackage portions of UNLV's four proposals. Four of the committee's six members attended Sunday's second hearing with UNLV officials. They declined to comment on the matter. Chairman D. Alan Williams said only that a decision would be made "in a timely fashion."

Similarly, both Tarkanian and UNLV president Robert Maxson declined to comment directly. However, the 60-year-old coach, whose winning percentage is the highest among active college coaches, said of the offer, "I hope this will be sufficient." UNLV officials met with the committee a month before the postseason ban was announced, and several of them as well as Tarkanian expressed shock at the severity of the penalty announced in July. There had been considerable speculation since then that UNLV would offer sanctions of its own in an attempt to convince the NCAA to overturn the 1991 postseason ban. Tarkanian said he was willing to sit out this postseason if a bargain could be struck that would allow the year's team, which returns All-American Larry Johnson and three other starters from a team that was 35-5, back into the tournament. The offer by Tarkanian to give up as much as \$100,000 stems from a contractual agreement he has with the university, providing him with 10 percent of any revenue generated for the school through postseason play. According to estimates, UNLV pocketed about \$1 million for winning the national championship.

Nike forced to pull Robinson's ads

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Can you say, "Pull that ad from prime time?" If you're Nike Inc., you can. Reaction to a Nike commercial featuring San Antonio Spurs center David Robinson doing a parody of "Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood" was so negative it now will be shown only after 11 p.m., Nike officials said Friday. The Beaverton, Ore.-based sneaker company said the decision was made Wednesday after two days of complaints about the ad, which was broadcast on ABC's Monday Night Football this week. The commercial, promoting Nike's \$135 Force basketball shoes, shows Robinson, the NBA rookie of the year, tying his shoes. Robinson looks into the camera and says: "Can you say, 'Kick some butt?'" The children's TV star Fred Rogers, known for his soothing manner and cardigan sweaters, often asks his

young viewers if they can say a word. A Nike employee, who asked not to be identified, said the ad generated several negative telephone calls. "They were not happy with it," the employee said. "Being associated with Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood, a lot of people thought it was targeted to 3-year-olds." Of the three major networks, only NBC refused to run the spot, created by the Portland, Ore., agency Wieden & Kennedy. When the parody gets too close, Rogers himself has stepped in. Earlier this month, Rogers and his Family Communications Inc., owners of the trademarks and copyrights for the show, sued the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan and three men who created racist and anti-gay telephone messages that imitated Mr. Rogers' distinctive cadence. In a settlement, the men agreed to destroy the tape-recorded messages.

Becker routs Edberg, wins tournament

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP) — Boris Becker, playing one of the best indoor matches of his career, breezed to a 6-4, 6-0, 6-3 victory over top-ranked Stefan Edberg in Sunday's championship match at the Stockholm Open. Becker turned an early hand-hitting duel into a rout in the second set and destroyed any hopes of what was supposed to be a dream final between the world's No. 1 and 2 players. The German, who also won the event in 1988, served and returned to near perfection on the fast Supreme Court at the Globe Arena. In the first two sets, he held six times at love and lost only three points with serve. He lost two of those points in game 10th of the first set, when the Swede got to 30-all for the only time. But Becker responded with a deep, hard serve to go to 40-30. Edberg's lob sailed long on the next point, giving Becker the set. Edberg will keep his No. 1 ranking on the ATP computer despite the setback, but Becker is breathing down his neck. By next month's ATP Championships in Frankfurt, Germany, Becker could finally achieve it for the first time. Becker's triumph boosted his indoor record to 25-1 for the year, the only loss coming in third-ranked Ivan Lendl in Tokyo recently. Since the beginning of 1988, only four players have defeated Becker indoors. "It's awfully tough to return his serves indoors, when there is no sun and wind," Edberg said before the title match. Edberg dropped his serve in the third game of the first set after double-faulting and that break was enough for Becker.

Bowden worrying about Seminoles' bad reputation

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — Florida State coach Bobby Bowden said Sunday he doesn't want his 12th-ranked Seminoles getting a bad reputation for fighting, but acknowledged that may be part of the price for success. "Coaches better quit telling their kids the other team is dirty," said Bowden. "Let's go get old dirty Florida State." Bowden, whose 200th career coaching victory Saturday was overshadowed by a game-ending brawl among players, said some coaches try to get their teams fired up for an opponent by using questionable tactics.

Bowden was referring to published statements last week following Florida State's 20-17 defeat at Auburn. Instead of being able to bask in the afterglow of the 42-3 rout of LSU, Bowden's 200th will be better remembered for the unruly ending — and a cascade of boos from the crowd of 60,111 that sent both teams into their locker rooms. "I told our kids it was a shame to see a game as well played as it was, that it had to end up that way," said Bowden. Bowden said athletes normally don't intentionally draw penalties, most are aggressive mistakes.

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