

SPORTS BRIEFS

Woman drops battery charges against Pippen

WAUKEGAN, Ill. (AP) — Domestic battery charges against Chicago Bulls star Scottie Pippen were dropped Monday after his former fiance failed to appear for the trial.

"The state was not in position to proceed without her testimony, so the case was dismissed," said Claudia Kasten, an assistant state's attorney in Lake County. Pippen, 29, was charged May 19 with two misdemeanor counts of domestic battery after his then-fiancee, Yvette DeLeone, told police that Pippen had grabbed her arm and shoved her against a vehicle during a quarrel at Pippen's suburban Chicago home.

The couple since have ended their relationship and DeLeone has left Illinois, Ms. Kasten said.

"She would not tell us where she was," Ms. Kasten said. "She told us through a telephone conversation that she didn't want to go forward with the case."

The trial was to have begun Monday morning.

Stars sign Kennedy to one-year contract

DALLAS (AP) — The Dallas Stars signed left wing Mike Kennedy to a one-year contract Monday.

Kennedy, 23, tied for 12th among rookie scorers last season with 18 points. He was seventh among last season's first-year players in assists with 12.

"We were impressed with Mike's hard work and commitment last year," said Bob Gainey, the team's coach and general manager. "In only his first season, he was able to make a contribution to our team while proving he belongs in the NHL."

Rangers recall Buechele

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Long-time Rangers third baseman Steve Buechele was scheduled to make his return to the ballclub for Monday's home game against the Baltimore Orioles, the team announced.

To make room, fellow third baseman Luis Ortiz has been optioned to the team's Triple A farm club in Oklahoma City.

Buechele, 33, was signed by the Rangers last Wednesday and had played three games for the 89ers. He hit 4-for-13 in that span, doing all of his damage Sunday by going 4-for-5 with a home run and three RBIs.

He had been released by the Chicago Cubs July 6 after batting .189 in limited action.

He spent most of June sidelined by a strained side before he was simultaneously activated and cut by the team.

He was mired in a 3-for-34 slump. Buechele was a Ranger in 1985-91, hitting .241 with 94 home runs and 338 RBIs in 880 games. He ranks sixth in franchise history in games played and 10th in home runs.

State-of-the-art complex enhances A&M's track record

□ The Anderson Track Complex has hosted some of the fastest meets in SWC history.

The following story is the fifth in a series of articles on Texas A&M's athletic facilities.

By Nick Georgandis
THE BATTALION

Compared to antiques like G. Rollie White Coliseum and Kyle Field, the Anderson Track Complex is the kid brother in A&M's athletic facilities family. But considering the collection of track superstars who have graced the complex, one would think it had existed for decades.

The complex opened in the spring of 1986 and cost approximately \$1.8 million to build. The complex is named for former Aggie track coach Col. Frank G. "Andy" Anderson. Anderson coached track and field at A&M from 1922-35, and from 1947-57.

In his 25 years as A&M's head coach, the Aggies won nine Southwest Conference team championships, 114 individual conference titles and never finished lower than third in any SWC meet.

The facility that bears his name was built with spectators in mind as all throwing events are situated on the infield of the track. This allows fans to see all

of the events without leaving their seats in the grandstand.

Despite being a rather new facility, the complex has already been remodeled several times, most recently in 1991 when lights were added to allow night competitions. Future plans for a media work room under the grandstand are being developed.

The complex has a nine-lane track that is identical to the one used in the 1988 Summer Olympics. It also boasts the largest area of rubberized surface of any track in the country and was the first surface of its kind to be used in the United States.

Texas A&M Head Track Coach Ted Nelson has nothing but praise when it comes to his team's home field.

"This facility is uniquely designed and the surface if the best I've ever seen," Nelson said. "This facility is second to none in the country."

In its nine years of existence, the Anderson Complex has been the site of some of the finest performances by the top track stars



The Anderson Track Complex was opened in the spring of 1986. The Texas A&M Track and Field Team has hosted Southwest Conference Outdoor Championships there, along with several other tournaments.

in the world including the following performers.

In 1988, A&M's Randy Barnes set the Anderson record in the shot put with a throw of 71-4 3/4. It was the third-longest throw in A&M history, and was a prelude to Barnes' winning the silver medal in the 1988 Summer Olympics in Seoul, South Korea.

Current 100-meter world record holder Leroy Burrell came to A&M as a member of the University of Houston's track team in 1991. He set records in the 100- and 200-meter dashes with wind-aided speeds of 9.94 and 19.61 seconds, respectively. Burrell's time in the 200-m was the fastest ever run under any conditions.

In 1988, Baylor's Michael Johnson set the 200-meter dash mark without aid from the wind with a time of 20.09 seconds. Johnson went on to be ranked No. 1 in the world in both the 200 and 400 dashes in 1991.

When Aggie fans hear the name Eric Metcalf, they tend to think more of kickoff returns and touchdown runs than track and field records. But in 1988, the former Longhorn and current Atlanta Falcon leapt 26-10 1/2 feet, the Anderson Complex record in the long jump.

Assistant Head Coach Greg Hinze said an added feature of the track is that it contributes greatly to A&M's recruiting process.

"We try to teach them (re-

cruits) about the track and show them parts of campus," Hinze said. "A first-class facility like this also helps us to school."

ANDERSON'S ALL-TIME GREATS

In just 10 seasons as the home of A&M's track and field team, the Anderson Track Complex has been home to some of the finest track and field performances of all time.



Eric Metcalf, University of Texas
In 1988, the star tailback leapt 26-10 1/2 feet, the Anderson, the all-time A&M track record. He went on to star with the Cleveland Browns and now the Atlanta Falcons in the NFL.



Randy Barnes, Texas A&M University
In 1988, the future silver medalist set the Anderson record with a shot put of 71-4 3/4 feet. Barnes' longest toss was 71-9 1/2, which he accomplished at Baylor in 1986.



Andre Cason, Texas A&M University
In a glimpse of things to come in the world of track and field, Cason finished just behind Leroy Burrell and ahead of Michael Johnson in the 100-meter dash at the 1990 SWC Outdoor Championships.



The Anderson Track Complex boasts a nine-lane Spurtan surface, identical to the ones used at the 1988 Summer Olympic Games.

Nevin tries to mend ways after outburst

□ The rookie is back in Triple A after failing to hit in Houston.

TUCSON, Ariz. — On the surface, it appeared a perfect fit.

The Astros, having dealt Ken Caminiti to San Diego in the offseason, needed a third baseman. And Phil Nevin, after two years of toil at the hot spot for the Class AAA Tucson Toros, thought he had little left to prove in the minors and itched for a shot in Houston.

But the only fit has been the one Nevin threw July 5 in Colorado when, after 18 games, Astros general manager Bob Wat-

son and manager Terry Collins informed the No. 1 pick of the June 1992 draft he was being sent back to the minors.

The decision ended a trying three weeks for Nevin, who hit just .118 (7-for-60) in his stint with the Astros. But if Nevin thought that stretch was bad, he's really feeling the heat after his profanity-laced tirade against Watson and Collins reached the media. The tantrum, which has been reported in nearly every publication that covers baseball, from the Las Vegas Star to Sports Illustrated, illustrated a dark side of his nature

Nevin struggles — often unsuccessfully — to control.

"Yeah, I was angry, but it was something that was behind closed doors that I said to Bob and Terry," said Nevin, who has been placed on the disabled list with pulled rib-cage muscles, retroactive to July 12.

"We're talking about my life and my job here. I did say some things that probably weren't good, but I called Bob and apologized about it — not because I wanted to kiss up or anything, but if I offended him as a human being, then that's what made me feel bad."



Nevin

Baseball begins the long road back

The world of Major League Baseball is a place where long home runs are hit, no-hitters are thrown and players and owners still can't figure out how to split \$1 billion of revenue each year.

As a record crowd of 50,902 looked on at last Tuesday's All-Star Game in Arlington, baseball staged its first celebration in a year. For one night, players and fans got to think about baseball as a game.

Unfortunately, baseball is not a game, it's a business. As big a success as the All-Star game was, it was not enough to mask the troubles that plague professional baseball.

There is no new labor agree-

JIMMY WILLIAMS
SPORTSWRITER



ment, and bargaining talks have been nonexistent since the courts ended the strike in April. For the second straight year, the possibility exists that there won't even be a World Series.

Fans are prepared for this, but players and owners are not. They know their dispute has cut deep into the hearts and minds of every true baseball fan.

As the fans trickle back into the parks, players and owners are taking notice and exercising

devious caution. They realize that fans are finally starting to take the bait. The fans that are starting to trickle back are the same ones that said "no again."

But who can blame them? I remember so many times when my friends and I were sitting around with nothing to do on a Wednesday night. That's when it would dawn on us that the Texas Rangers game started in an hour.

Scenarios such as this are what gave baseball the status of America's favorite pastime and summer is not complete without it. Baseball lost the last summer, but players and owners alike see that could be on the way to getting

See WILLIAMS

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