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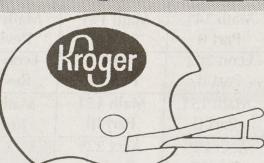
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Specials effective Wed., Sept. 13 thru Tues., September 19, 1995.

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SPORTS Thursday • September 14,

Women's basketball gets This Septe boost in national coverage

□ ESPN vows to show regular-season games and NCAA tournament and championship games.

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Women's basketball, once an afterthought with network executives, keeps getting more and more air time.

One day after the Prime Network announced it would televise women's games on Sunday nights throughout the season, ESPN and ESPN2 said Wednesday it will carry 64 games in 1995-96, several in prime time.

The ESPN package includes live telecasts on nine Friday nights

during the season.

Two games will be shown on three of those nights.

All the Friday night games are on ESPN2, which the network says now reaches 24.8 million U.S. households and should pass 25 million by Oct.

1. ESPN reaches 66.8 million

Between them, ESPN and ESPN2 will carry 23 regular-season games, 25 NCAA tournament games, seven conference championship games and the NCAA Division II title game.

They'll also carry eight exhibition games played by the new U.S. national team, which will become the 1996 Olympic team.

With its '95-96 schedule, ESPN will more than double its telecasts of women's basketball. Last year, the network showed 27 games The time was right for growth of the sport,"

ESPN spokesman Mike Soltys said. 'We've seen an increase in attendance at women's games. We've seen the growth of the Final Four. CBS had a terrific rating for the Final

'Also, we've been fine tuning ESPN2 since that went on two years ago, looking for ways to could serve our audience by showing a pri

time women's game of the week."

ESPN last December won the exclusive right to the NCAA women's tournament and will place CBS at the Final Four

All of the 1996 Final Four games will shown in prime time — the semifinals on Francisch, March 29, and the finals on Sunday might,

"From that, we wanted to increase our or mitment elsewhere," Soltys said.

That led to the deal for showing the ei national team games, the first of wh is Nov. 5 at defending nation champion Connecticut, and t regular-season package, whi begins Nov. 19 with Connect

cut playing Louisiana Techa the Tip-Off Classic in Knoxville, Tenn. The Prime package will fe ture 10 Sunday night game starting Dec. 17. CBS also w show a handful of games, in cluding Connecticut at Ten nessee, and many schools have

their own TV packages. Connecticut, for example, has deal with Connecticut Public Telev sion for the televising of at least 17 games

each of the next three seasons. The result is more women's basketball on T

"It's about time," said Nancy Lieberman Cline, the former Old Dominion star who'll an nounce games on both Prime and ESPN. "This

gives a chance for us to see a lot of great women's basketball players that are out there but Who have never got the attention. "Now little girls will be able to align them-

selves with the players they like, to copy their skills, to try to play the way they do. It's a great situation for women's basketball to really accept that role as a role model."

ies were not buoyant.
Jimmy "The Greek" Sny-

der, oddsmaker and television

commentator, was fired by

CBS in 1988 when he said

blacks were bred to be better

athletes than whites because

4-minute barrier for the mile

Bannister, who broke the

Roger Banister

Bannister claims black sprinters have 'advantage' over whites

□ The 66-year-old retired neurologist gave no evidence to support his assertion.

NEWCASTLE, England (AP) - Roger Bannister, saying he was "prepared to risk political incorrectness," said Wednesday black sprinters have "certain natural anatomical advantages" over white rivals.

Bannister, who in 1954 became the first person to break the 4-minute mile, said it was possible black athletes' muscles were better adapted to hot cli-mates and therefore better at providing energy quickly.

He also suggested th

could have better power-toweight ratio because they have less fatty tissue under

Bannister, a 66-year-old retired neurologist, gave no evidence to support his position.

Bannister, a speaker at a conference of the British Association for the Advance-ment of Science, noted the vast number of all-black sprint finals and a high proportion of black athletes in other events at the recent world championships.

anatomical advantages in the length of the Achilles tendon,

in general all seem to have certain natural anatomical advantages.

He also said anatomy was not always the vital factor.

perb muscular than Christie in winning three

(individual) gold medals at the same Olympics," Bannister said. "The brain, not the heart or lungs, is the critical

Both Christie and Lewis are black.

Comments about alleged physical differences between black and white athletes have caused controversies in the past. Longtime baseball execu-

tive Al Campanis was forced "Perhaps there to resign as vice president of the Los Angeles Dodgers in 1987 after saying blacks "lack

the longest tendon in the body. I do not know the true reasons," Bannister said.

"As a scientist rather than some of the necessities" to be managers and general man agers and they made poor swimmers because their bod-

a sociologist, I am prepared to risk political incorrectness by drawing attention to the seemingly obvious but understressed fact that black sprinters and black athletes

talways the vital factor. with a paced run of 3:59.4, Linford Christie has a susaid eventually the 3:30 bardevelopment compared with "... black sprinters and black the slenderer Carl Lewis whom athletes in general all seem to he displaced but have certain natural anatomiwho achieved a greater record cal advantages."

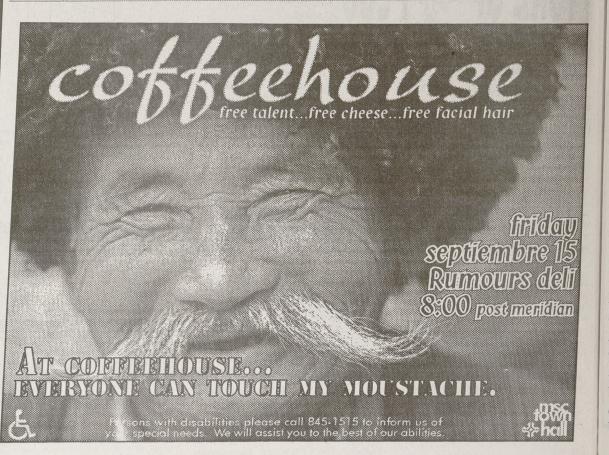
former athlete and retired neurologist

rier would be smashed. Algeria's Noureddine Morceli currently holds the record of 3:44.39.

of slavery.

'I think that some day, next century, a 3 1/2-minute mile might be possible," he

But no one can run a mile in three minutes unless, by some freak of genetic engineering, the structure of the lung and heart are changed to deliver vastly amounts of oxygen."



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