

Battle of sexes heating up in basketball

It's a theme virtually as old as modern sport itself. There being two different sexes on the planet Earth (naturally anyway), it was only a matter of progressing past certain social standards before one gender was capable of testing itself against the other. Man versus woman. Woman versus man.

The earliest and most publicized example was the tennis tete-a-tete between Bobby Riggs and Billie Jean King in the 1960s, with King striking a blow for women everywhere (and certainly the women's liberation movement) by smiting the oppressive male chauvinist.

But tennis has since fallen on hard times, and registers merely a blip on the radar screen, so let us turn our attention to drawing a current analogy. Basketball would seem to be the most agreeable comparison, being arguably the world's most popular spectator sport.

Now before I get a ton of hate mail threatening to bind my hands behind me while blocking numerous indirect kicks, let me say that soccer is a fine sport the world over. Although the game has grown enormously stateside in the 90s, it has not reached the status of basketball here in the land of no-looks and slam dunks.

The NBA now has a counterpart in the WNBA, and even if the competition is not head-to-head, early returns suggest that the ladies are hitting the men's game where it counts — the pocketbook (where did you think?)

Naysayers gripe that the WNBA is a novelty, and will surely fold as soon as the newness has worn off the uniforms, being so much less athletic a sport than most are used to seeing, with great individual performances by athletically gifted men.

But so what if women have less lung capacity and muscle growth than men? Part of the attraction to women's basketball at the professional level is the refreshing reminder that Dr. Naismith's rainy-day concoction is a team game.

Athletes in the WNBA get excited primarily about the team's success, without much of the trash-talking and hot-dogging, not to mention lack of fundamentals, that taint the men's game.

And working out can't give you a bigger heart, no matter how many reps you do. Watching the Houston Comets' Cynthia Cooper dive out of bounds for a loose ball or celebrating with a delirious throng of fans, after exceptional team defense which forces a shot clock violation in the games waning seconds, does more for me than does any post-pubescent "gangsta" wannabe attempting to "raise the roof" by blocking a shot then telling the world about it.

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Rangers look to future, trade Hill

BALTIMORE (AP) — The Anaheim Angels on Tuesday boosted their starting rotation for a possible playoff run, obtaining right-hander Ken Hill from the Texas Rangers for catcher Jim Leyritz and a player to be named.

The Angels began the day trailing first-place Seattle by 2 1/2 games in the AL West. Anaheim was also just two games behind the New York Yankees in the wild-card race.

"We needed a front-line pitcher, and Ken Hill is a front-line pitcher," Anaheim manager Terry Collins said in Cleveland as the Angels prepared to play the Indians. "Ken Hill

eats up innings for us. I put him in the same class as Chuck (Finley) and (Jason) Dickson.

"This guy was a front-line pitcher with the Cardinals for years and last year with Texas," Collins noted. "If we can find him, and if he feels OK, he'll pitch tomorrow."

Hill (5-8, 5.19 ERA) was scheduled to start for Texas on Tuesday night against the Baltimore Orioles. He was replaced by Jose Alberro, who was called up from Class AAA Oklahoma City.

While the Angels made the deal with the present in mind, Rangers general manager

Doug Melvin worked the trade with an eye toward the future.

By obtaining Leyritz, the Rangers put themselves in position to deal All-Star catcher Ivan Rodriguez, who is eligible for free agency after this season. Rodriguez, who has rejected a five-year, \$38 million contract offer by Texas, is rumored to be headed for the Orioles or Yankees before Thursday's trading deadline.

Melvin acknowledged he has talked to other clubs about Rodriguez, but denied that any deal is imminent.

"The key to this deal was knowing that Jim Leyritz would be with us next year, because he's now signed with us," Melvin said. "He is a special player. I'm not saying that Pudge won't be with us. But this will help if he isn't with us."

"We would hope that Pudge would be here, but if he is not, picking up a catcher at the end of the year would be hard to do."

With the Rangers under .500 and virtually out of playoff contention, Melvin is already looking toward next year.

Please see TRADE on Page 4.



Senior journalism major

Golf legend Ben Hogan is remembered

Legends, loved ones bid farewell

FORT WORTH (AP) — In a service as subdued, formal and dignified as the man himself, Ben Hogan was eulogized Tuesday as one who battled overwhelming odds to become the finest shotmaker in the history of golf.

With golf legends Sam Snead, Byron Nelson and Tommy Bolt looking on, family, friends and admirers paid final respects to Hogan.

Quoting from Romans, Dr. Charles Sanders, associate minister of the University Christian Church, alluded to the poverty, hardships and pain that Hogan overcame in a career interrupted by a near fatal car accident.

"Suffering produces endurance and endurance produces character and character produces hope," Sanders said. "I think Ben Hogan's life underlined the truth of that passage."

Sanders recalled that Hogan "experienced the untimely death of his father and agonized over the realization that his golf swing must change dramatically in order for him to survive on the tour."

Recounting the terrifying car collision in 1949, Sanders said Hogan's legs were "severely shattered and that he was told first that

he might not live and then for sure that he would never walk again."

But Hogan struggled back. "Ben set his heart on a goal knowing what it would cost him to reach it," Sanders said. "He was willing to pay the price."

Stoic and small of stature, Hogan often was called Bantam

Ben or the Hawk. In 1953, after he won the British Open at Carnoustie, the Scots christened him "The Wee Ice Mon."

Hogan died Friday, a day after suffering a major stroke. But his mind and body had been ravaged in recent years by cancer of the

Alzheimer's and colon. He was 84.

Honorary pallbearers included Snead, Bolt and Ken Venturi, Fort Worth writer-author Dan Jenkins, Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist Jim Murray and the chief executive officer of PGA of America, Jim Awtrey.

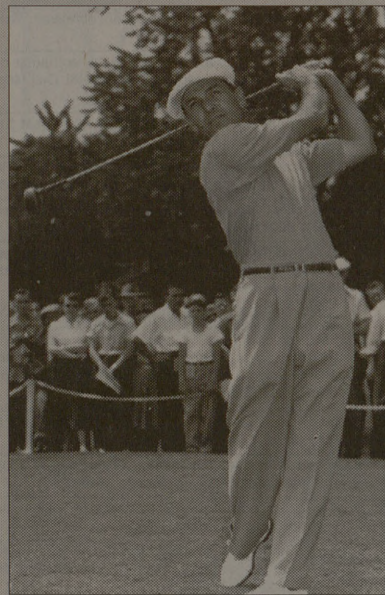
Among the professional golfers on hand for the service were Ben Crenshaw, Doug Sanders, Rives McBee and Doug Higgins.

The services were held only minutes from Colonial Country Club, nicknamed "Hogan's Alley" in honor of his five PGA victories there.

It was at Colonial, in 1959, that he won his 63rd and final PGA title.

Ben set his heart on a goal knowing what it would cost him to reach it.

Dr. Charles Sanders associate minister of the University Christian Church



PHOTOGRAPH: Associated Press

Ben Hogan, shown watching his tee shot on the first hole of the World Championship of Golf Tournament, was remembered Tuesday at private services. Hogan died last Friday.

Scores of club members were among the hundreds attending the service, traditional from beginning to end except for a poignant moment when Hogan's wife Valerie first appeared in the sanctuary.

The organist deviated from such religious classics as "Amazing Grace" and "Shall We Gather at the River" to play the old Irving Berlin standard, "Always."

Dr. Sanders described Hogan's devotion to his wife, now tiny and fragile but composed, as "a thing of beauty."

A friend's memories tell the story

DALLAS — On a long-ago day of a distant year, Ben Hogan was asked to play an exhibition at Colonial Country Club to benefit the United

States Olympic team. Hogan completed his foursome with the unusual choice of a local sportswriter.

Dan Jenkins had yet to become a dead-solid-perfect book author, magazine columnist and golf historian. He was then a mid-20s graduate of TCU, former three-year letterman on the college golf team, once runner-up to the city champion, and dressed for the occasion in elegantly shabby attire.

As Jenkins tells it, his button-down shirt and canvas golf bag were especially fetching. Dan turned out in casual clothes on the mistaken premise that 20 people might watch the round. About 10,000 showed up, which set Dan's nerves on edge.

Jenkins drew his first reaction from Hogan when he teed his ball. As they say in the car business, the ball was pre-owned. Hogan noticed. As Dan learned from a long association with the man, Hogan noticed everything.

"Here, don't embarrass me," Hogan said, handing Jenkins a new ball.

Dan got off the first tee in fine shape. Jenkins was a long driver and deft putter in those days. But he

topped his second effort. And the third. Standing nearby, Hogan said: "You can probably swing faster if you try harder."

Hogan meant just the opposite with his tease.

"Best lesson I ever had," Jenkins reminisced the other day. Word had reached his vacation retreat in Gstaad, Switzerland, that Hogan died last Friday in Fort Worth.

"He wasn't a stranger to me," Jenkins said of the man who remained ultraprivate to most. "First, I idolized him. Second, he knew my name."

Jenkins covered golf for the Fort Worth Press and wrote two mandatory, daily stories on tournaments Hogan entered. One focused on the event. The other was devoted to Hogan.

"He knew I was there like he knew (wife) Valerie was there with a thermos of iced tea," Dan recalled. "He knew I saw him play, that I wouldn't ask stupid questions and I knew the game." Jenkins knew a different Hogan than the public and fellow pros. He found Hogan had a sly sense of humor. That he was a college football fanatic devoted to TCU and a keen student of the world around him.

"We talked football a lot and events of the day. Not golf," Jenkins said. "He wasn't like a lot of guys today who can only talk about golf or themselves."

Please see LUKSA on Page 4.

Plaintiff says Barkley threw first punch

CLEVELAND (AP) — Charles Barkley threw the first punch in a nightclub fight, said the man who is suing Barkley for more than \$500,000.

"Right after he punched me, in self-defense I took a swing back at him," said Jed Tyler, 24, of Spencerport, N.Y.

Tyler, a business equipment salesman, is suing the Houston Rockets forward over a fight at The Basement.

He contends he was punched while acting as a peacemaker between a friend, David DiGiaccio, 27, of Rochester, N.Y., and Barkley.

Tyler said on the second day of the trial that Barkley cursed at him and DiGiaccio and told them both to get out of the bar.

"I said, 'Why should we have to leave? Why don't you leave?' That's when he punched me in the head," Tyler said.

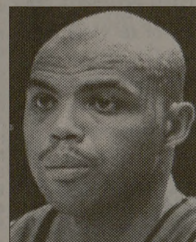
The 6-foot, 180-pound Tyler said he did-

n't threaten the 6-6, 250-pound NBA star in any way before Barkley punched him in the face. Barkley kept coming after him, and that's when Tyler said he threw a punch at Barkley.

"The bouncers then got hold of me, but no one was controlling him," Tyler said. "He kept punching me on top of my head."

Tyler said he was punched three or four times on his head before the club's bouncers separated him and Barkley and escorted Tyler outside.

"I remember touching my face and feeling blood and looking down at my hands and shirt and seeing blood all over," Tyler said.



Barkley

Barkley, who had been in Cleveland with the U.S. Olympic basketball team, told police he was the one who was attacked. A defense lawyer said Reggie Miller, Barkley's Olympic teammate, will testify that Tyler threw the first punch.

In testimony earlier Tuesday, DiGiaccio said the fight started after he began talking to a woman sitting next to the basketball players. The woman told DiGiaccio she was with Miller, a guard with the Indiana Pacers.

DiGiaccio said he asked the woman whether she and Miller were just friends or whether she was "sleeping with him."

"Obviously, now I realize it probably wasn't something I should have said," DiGiaccio testified.

DiGiaccio said Barkley began telling him to leave the bar after the woman told him what DiGiaccio had said.

Salt Lake City Olympic chief resigns under fire

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Tom Welch, who spent a decade bringing the 2002 Winter Olympics to Salt Lake City, resigned today as president of the local organizers following charges he abused his wife.

Welch announced the move at a news conference, saying he had met Monday night with local members of the Salt Lake Olympic Organizing Committee's executive committee and was not pressured to leave.

"While my family and I had many wonderful experiences along the way, we also exposed ourselves to long-term stresses which we neither recognized nor foresaw," he said. "One of the casualties was my marriage, which broke along the way. We were unable to repair it."

Welch, reading a statement, said reports of the "unfounded charges and allegations" related to his wife were just too great for him to keep his job.

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All students, faculty and staff are invited to attend a public meeting to hear a briefing on the recent legislative action that designates the General Use Fee (GUF) as Tuition (this briefing relates to the GUF increase approved in January 1997)

Friday, August 1, 1997
9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
Memorial Student Center, Room 292

Office of the President, Texas A&M University