

NBC story 'dead' wrong

Network erroneously reports Joe DiMaggio's death

AP — Nobody was more surprised than Joe DiMaggio when he saw a television report that he had died.

"He was livid," his lawyer and neighbor Morris Engelberg said Monday. "Then I made him laugh."

The two were watching a tape of DiMaggio's favorite Western — at the baseball great's home in Hollywood, Fla., on Sunday.

They happened to stop the tape when the report appeared as a "crawl" across the screen during the broadcast.

NBC ran another crawl about 20 minutes later, saying its previous report was inaccurate. The network later said a technician in the New York control room inadvertently sent the item.

NBC was trying to speak with

DiMaggio to apologize but had not reached anyone yet, spokesperson Alex Constantinople said Monday.

DiMaggio, recovering from pneumonia and lung cancer surgery on Oct. 12, already was upset by a story in the *New York Daily News* that described him as bedridden and in grave condition.

The lead doctor on the team that treated the 84-year-old Hall Famer during his 99-day hospital stay disputed the *Daily News* report.

"He is progressing nicely since his discharge from Memorial Regional Hospital one week ago," Dr. Earl Barron said in a statement to The Associated Press. "Over the weekend, his physical therapy has progressed to the point that he is walking. Reports of his condition worsening are not true."

Engelberg, who lives next door to DiMaggio and visits him at least once a day, called the newspaper

Joltin' Joe

Stats for baseball great Joe DiMaggio:

Batting average	.325
Games played	1,736
At-bats	6,821
Runs	1,390
Hits	2,214
Doubles	389
Triples	131
Home runs	361
RBI's	1,537
Walks	790
Strikeouts	369

report "absurd."

"He's walking. He's taking therapy," Engelberg said. "And he will be at opening day."

Yankees owner George Steinbrenner said last week when DiMaggio was discharged from the hospital, "Joe will certainly toss out the first ball."

Loaded Rockets

Barkley joins new-look Houston squad in time for exhibition game

HOUSTON (AP) — Charles Barkley has put away his golf clubs.

It is time to join Scottie Pippen and the rest of his Houston Rockets teammates for Tuesday night's exhibition opener against the San Antonio Spurs.

Barkley missed the Rockets' first four practices while playing in the Bob Hope Chrysler Classic in California. But he was back at work Monday, catching barbs from teammates about his unorthodox golf game.

"I had a chance to play golf with Michael Jordan in Palm Springs or go to two-a-days," Barkley said. "That's a no-brainer. Some guy said 'You're not a very good golfer,' and I told him imagine how good I'll be in two-a-days."

Barkley, who had off-season elbow and hernia operations, may not have been happy to be sweating through practice, but his teammates were happy to see him.

"It's good to have him back. There's a little more noise around here," coach Rudy Tomjanovich said. "We had competitive workouts before, but when he is here it's stepped up. He's so competitive."

What happens on the golf course is another matter. And teammates Matt Bullard and Eddie Johnson let him know David Duval has no reason to worry.

"Yeah, I come in here and they've all got tired legs," Barkley said. "Me, I feel very refreshed."

With Barkley joining Pippen and Hakeem Olajuwon, the Rockets again have three players who were voted among the top 50 players in NBA history. Clyde Drexler, who retired after last season, also is on the list.

"It's great to have him here so he can get accustomed to the new players, namely myself and the other guys," Pippen said. "We have to know how Charles plays and where he likes his spacing."

Barkley, who missed 14 games with injuries last season, was done for good after tearing his right tri-

ceper after colliding with Utah's Greg Foster in a first-round playoff game.

His average of 15.2 points a game was his lowest since averaging 14 as a rookie in 1984-85.

"Last year was a nightmare with two hernias," Barkley said. "I was disappointed the way I played because I never felt good physically. Now, I've got all my physical ailments out of the way and I'm going

Mavs extend deal with Nash

DALLAS (AP) — Jason Kidd was going to be the Dallas Mavericks' point guard of the future. Then the role went to Robert Pack.

Now it is up to Steve Nash to guide one of the worst franchises of the 1990s into the 21st century. Nash, acquired in a draft-day trade from Phoenix, signed a six-year contract extension Monday that entrenches him as a backcourt starter along with former Suns teammate Michael Finley.

The deal, reportedly worth \$18 million, will keep Nash in Dallas through 2004-2005.

"The future is in their hands," general manager-coach Don Nelson said.

Nash will be going into his third year in the NBA. The Suns drafted him to play behind Kevin Johnson but midway through his rookie year they traded for Kidd, creating a point-guard logjam.

to have a great season."

Tomjanovich did not complain about Barkley's late arrival. Instead, he praised Barkley for signing at the \$1 million minimum salary, freeing enough money to sign Pippen.

"I don't know how many players would do what he's done," Tomjanovich said. "His plan was to explore his options, which is his right. When he found out he was the pivotal guy in us getting Scottie, he scrapped that whole plan. He made a sacrifice for this team."

Cowboys' linebacker arrested after fleeing traffic stop

LACOCHEE, Fla. (AP) — A linebacker for the Dallas Cowboys was arrested after he fled from deputies who tried to pull him over for speeding, police said.

Darren Hambrick was charged with fleeing a law enforcement officer and resisting an officer without violence Sunday.

Hambrick, who just finished his first season with the Dallas Cowboys, was arrested in his hometown of Lacombe in Pasco County, 39 miles northeast of Tampa. Sheriff's officials would not say why Hambrick ran from a traffic ticket, but the arresting deputy reported a "very strong odor of unburnt marijuana" inside the pickup truck.

A Pasco County Sheriff's deputy said when he turned on his flashers to pull over the truck, the driver turned onto a side road and drove through a stop sign.

At one point, the driver jumped from the moving truck and ran into the woods, leaving an unidentified passenger holding the steering wheel.

Deputies found Hambrick's driver's license and NFL players card in a billfold behind the truck's sun visor.

While deputies searched for the driver with a tracking dog, Hambrick drove up in another car wearing clean blue jeans. He told deputies he had been at Club Hollywood in Lacombe and had loaned his rental truck to a friend.

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Reed Arena even has 30 minute parking right in front of the building for people buying tickets to basketball games and other events. It's quick and easy.
If you don't get your ticket in advance, you can walk up to Reed Arena's North Entrance before the game to have your card swiped. There is a short line sometimes and the best seats tend to go first—getting your tickets early is definitely the way to go.
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Sat., Jan 30	Texas	Now!
Wed., Feb. 3	Baylor	Now!
Sat., Feb. 6	Oklahoma	Now!
Wed., Feb. 17	Nebraska	Wed., Feb. 3
Sat., Feb. 27	Colorado	Wed., Feb. 10
Men's		
Wed., Jan. 27	Texas Tech	Now!
Sat., Feb. 6	Baylor	Now!
Wed., Feb. 10	Kansas State	Now!
Sat., Feb. 20	Texas	Wed., Feb. 3
Wed., Feb. 24	Oklahoma	Wed., Feb. 10

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