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Continued from page 10

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SPORTS

Dierdorf returns to CBS football Brand leaves

to find another job. Two it. months after being forced out of ABC's ''Monday Night Vo Football'' booth, Dierdorf has N returned to CBS.

The Battalion

Dierdorf comes back to the

Cost

\$20/ team

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NEW YORK (AP) — It did "MNF" because of a loophole not take long for Dan Dierdorf in his contract: He never signed

CBS will team Dierdorf with Verne Lundquist as its No. 2 NFL broadcasting team. Dierdorf was prepared to sit

out next season, but CBS execunetwork he left in 1987 for tives were able to change his

MSC HOSPITALITY PRESENTS..

3 on 3 Basketball Tournament

April 24,

FREE

T-SHIRT

Take Back the Night

mind "ABC was a less-than-happy time for me, and I didn't think anything would make me feel good about going back to television," Dierdorf said. "But

Registration

MSC Hallway

April 14-21

10:00- 3:00

REC Center

April 14-21

6:00-9:00

1

CBS really went out of their DURHAM, N.C. (AP) - Even way to convince me that it was a good move for me.' his coach knew it was time to go.

G

Elton Brand, who won just about every individual honor a player can, left Duke on Wednesday and headed to the NBA. The 6-foot-8 sophomore center became the first Blue Devils player to quit school early for pro ball.

In announcing his decision to give up his last two years of eligibility, Brand was joined at Cameron Indoor Stadium by his mother, Daisy, and a half-dozen teammates.

Coach Mike Krzyzewski, recovering from hip surgery at home, joined in by telephone and called the decision by the player of the year a "no-brainer."

Brand was persuaded to leave school last weekend by Krzyzewski and associate head coach Johnny Dawkins, a former Duke star and NBA player. They are certain Brand will be a top 10 pick in the June 30 NBA draft. 'The way college basketball has

played me last year with the double teams and zones, coach felt I would only improve in practice and wouldn't get a chance to develop in the games," Brand said. Brand averaged 17.8 points

and 9.8 rebounds a game in carrying the Blue Devils to a 37-2 record. But he fell short of his goal of leading the Blue Devils to the national title, with a 77-74 loss to Connecticut in the NCAA championship game last month.

'It's somewhat of a sad time to be leaving friends, teammates and coaches," Brand said. "But it's also a joyous time because I get to go into new adventures and new things and just live a lifetime

Duke for NBA

BRAND NAME

Page 11 • Thursday, April 15, 1999

College statistics for Duke's Elton Brand:
Games 60
Points 972 (16.2)
Rebounds 536 (8.9)
Assists 51
Steals 81
Blocks 86
FG% 61.2
FT% 67.2
Statistics compiled from Duke University Website

dream of mine."

He is the fourth player to come out early for the NBA draft, joining Ron Artest (St. John's), Steve Francis (Maryland) and Albert White (Missouri). Underclassmen have until May 15 to declare.

Brand was the first sophomore to win the John R. Wooden Award, presented by the Los Angeles Athletic Club to college basketball's top player. He also was honored this season by The Associated Press, the Atlanta Tipoff Club and the United States Basketball Writers Association as national player of the year.

Brand's announcement could lead two other Duke underclassmen — sophomore Will Avery and freshman Corey Maggette — to jump to the pros. Neither attended Wednesday's announcement.

Brand, wearing a light gray suit, received an ovation from 50 fans when he entered Cameron, bringing a smile to his face.

Gretzky to announce decision on Sunday

RYE, N.Y. (AP) - His coach, to meet with general manager his teammates, his fans and even his wife have urged him to extend his glorious hockey career one more year.

But Wayne Gretzky alone understands what must be done, and his

on

Neil Smith after the team got to Ottawa for Thursday night's game with the Senators.

It could be Gretzky's last game in his homeland, and he said "I'm going to enjoy tomorrow." In Ottawa, Prime Minister Jean Chretien said the Great One should keep playing, and a Canadian TV network switched plans so it could cover the game. As many as 200

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time the York Ra New Rangers end their season Sunday.

decision

retirement will

come by the

'I need to do what's best for myself. ... Nobody else has any bearing on this at this point in time," he said Wednesday.

Speaking after practice in a chilly room of whitewashed concrete block above the practice rink, the 38-year-old hockey great said he will decide by Sunday — "not today or tomorrow" — whether to end his 20-year career in the NHL.

"I'm not trying to be an idiot about this," he said. "It's just a lifetime decision. Once it's done, it's done, 100 percent, whether I come back or I don't.'

Gretzky, who smiled and seemed relaxed on the ice but seemed somewhat emotional afterward, said he spoke with coach John Muckler and planned

Gretzky said Muckler talked about "my importance to the organization as far as my presence, what I bring to the hockey club."

"I said to him, 'I think this team will be a better team next year than it is this year,' and he said that it would be a better team next year if I'm back.

Gretzky seemed to vacillate even during the news conference about whether he wanted to come back, but he said he was "leaning somewhat more one way than the other." He did not elaborate.

Gretzky said his wife Janet whose opinion he values most, he said - "would like me to play one more year.'

"She knows I love to play and probably she agrees with John and Neil that we came a long ways this year and next year we'll be better. She wants me to be part of that.

