

NHL suspends McSorley for battery

NEW YORK (AP) — The NHL indefinitely suspended Marty McSorley on Tuesday for knocking out Donald Brashear with a stick-swinging hit so savage that police are investigating.

The Boston defenseman, known more for his fists than his finesse, struck Brashear, another renowned tough guy, across the right temple and he crumpled to the ice.

Brashear's head struck the ice as his helmet came off, his body twitching and blood oozing from his nose. He sustained a concussion and will be out for at least two to three weeks, the Canucks said Tuesday after he was evaluated overnight at a Vancouver hospital.

Brashear was released from the hospital and came to GM Place to meet with team trainers Tuesday, but did not comment.

The NHL will convene a hearing Wednesday to determine how long the suspension will last and any further punishment.

With only 2.7 seconds remaining Monday night, and the Canucks holding a 5-2 lead, McSorley skated up — out of Brashear's view — and swung his stick with both hands against Brashear's head.

"I apologize to Donald Brashear and all the fans who had to watch that," McSorley said Monday. "I embarrassed my hockey team. ... I got way too carried away. It was a real dumb play.

"I'm still in shock at what I did," he said. "I have to come to terms with what I did. There's no excuse. It was so stupid, I can't believe I did it."

Police, deluged with calls from angry fans, are investigating and said they will consult with the NHL.

"We have a situation here where it would appear, or that it's been alleged, that there was a fairly vicious attack by one person on another," said constable

to the National Hockey League," Burke told Vancouver radio station CKNW. "We don't need the Vancouver police department or the RCMP involved in this."

Referee Brad Watson declared the game over with the remaining seconds unplayed.

"We couldn't believe what we saw and didn't know what to do," Canucks left wing Brad May said. "It was crazy out there. I have no respect for that guy ever again. Anybody who has ever had respect for him should lose it.

"He's our big brother out there," May said of Brashear. "He sticks up for our team, he's the toughest in the league. To get hit like that, it's just uncalled for."

McSorley, who received a match penalty for attempt to injure, has lasted 17 years in the league because of his ability to fight and protect his more skilled teammates.

"It's a shocker," Boston captain Ray Bourque said. "I've never been a part of anything like that or witnessed anything like that. There is no way to justify it."

The longest suspension the NHL has ever imposed for an on-ice hit was a 21-game banishment given to Washington's Dale Hunter for a blindside check of the New York Islanders' Pierre Turgeon after a goal in a 1993 playoff game.

McSorley is best known for serving as Wayne Gretzky's protector with the Edmonton Oilers and then with Los Angeles as the two were traded together in one of hockey's biggest deals.

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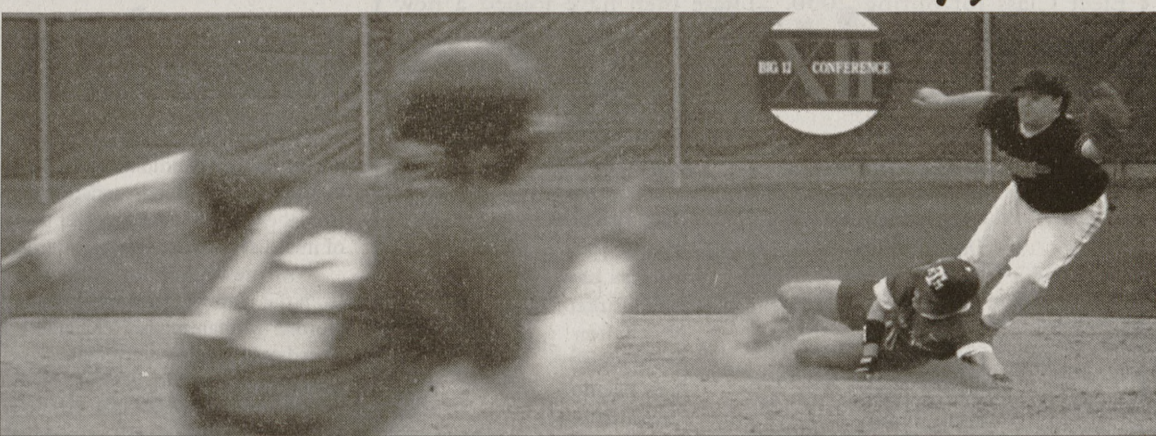
— Marty McSorley
Boston defenseman

Anne Drennan, a spokeswoman for the Vancouver police.

She said police have not yet interviewed Brashear or McSorley and she doesn't know how long the investigation will take. The findings will be sent to a prosecutor, who will decide whether to file charges.

Canucks general manager Brian Burke, once the NHL's chief disciplinarian, said the police should stay out. "Leave this stuff on the ice; leave it

Softball travels to face Ladyjacks



JP BEATO/THE BATTALION

A&M senior first baseman **Angle Long** (12) heads to first base while senior outfielder **Angle Shetler** slides into second base during the Aggie Invitational I.

BY BREE HOLZ
The Battalion

After winning six straight games en route to the Aggie Invitational I championship, the Texas A&M Softball Team will hit the road again to face Stephen F. Austin State University in a double-header today beginning at 4 p.m.

A&M (8-4) is coming off a dynamic six-win performance after suffering a four game skid in the Arizona Fiesta Bowl Classic two weeks ago.

A&M softball coach Jo Evans said SFA should offer tough competition for the Aggies.

"[SFA] is playing great ball right now," she said. "They hit well and they've got a very productive offense.

"They beat Southern Mississippi last weekend, who played in last year's world

series, so they are definitely going to come out ready to play and wanting to beat us."

The Aggies last met SFA in a double-header last year in College Station, with A&M victorious, 5-4 and 2-1.

In the tournament over the weekend, the Aggies maintained a .350 batting average as a team and outscored their opponents, 48-7.

A&M's pitching staff gave up only four earned runs in six games and posted a .76 earned run average, while holding opponents to a mere .189 batting average.

Evans said the starting pitcher for the Aggies will be junior Amy Vining, who threw her first career no-hitter against Colorado State University in the Aggie Invitational over the weekend.

"Amy is throwing really strong right now, so I feel very confident in her pitch-

ing," Evans said. "I have not made a decision about who our starting pitcher for the second game will be."

Evans said the Aggies gained much-needed confidence during the Aggie Invitational and are excited to play in today's games.

"I was very proud that the team regrouped so well after losing four games straight," she said. "Anytime you lose a number of games in a row, it's going to be hard to bounce back. We're going into the double-header with a lot of confidence, and we're looking to carry on our winning streak."

Evans said the goal for today's games is to stay focused.

"I don't think we're overconfident, but we are very focused," she said. "The team is ready to go out there and continue winning."

Sports in Brief

Men's basketball heads to K-State

The Texas A&M men's basketball team (7-16, 3-9 Big 12) will try to break a two-game losing streak when it meets the Kansas State University Wildcats (8-15, 1-11 Big 12) tonight at 7 at Bramlage Coliseum in Manhattan, Kan.

The Aggies are coming off a 76-64 loss on Saturday to Texas Tech University at Reed Arena. Kansas State has lost 11 straight games and is coming off an 84-74 home loss to Missouri on Saturday.

Saints' Williams taken to jail

AUSTIN (AP) — The New Orleans Saints paid Ricky Williams \$3.2 million last year to slash through traffic; a state trooper took him to jail on a \$200 ticket for doing the same thing Monday night.

Williams, former Heisman Trophy-winning running back for the University of Texas, was arrested for failing to sign a minor ticket, authorities said Tuesday.

Tom Vinger, spokesman for the Texas Department of Public Safety, said a trooper pulled Williams over in his 1999 Hummer around 9:24 a.m.

A trooper reported that Williams swerved his \$80,000 truck from the far right lane to the far left lane without signaling, disrupting traffic on a three-lane street in downtown Austin, Vinger said.

IOWA STATE

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Peggie Gillom knows that containing these players will be no easy task, but she thinks it can be done.

"It's going to be rough," Gillom said. "But they're containable. Against other teams, they've been containable before. Hopefully we can do it."

The Aggies have their own set of players that have been causing trouble for opponents this season.

Junior forward Jaynetta Saunders is averaging 15.2 points per game. Sharpe and senior forward Kera Alexander are averaging 13 and 11.2 points per game, respectively.

"We have the potential to match up with anybody," Sharpe said. "It's just a matter of going out and doing it."

Gillom has been saying all year long that every team in the conference is beatable and that the Aggies are capable of winning in any given game.

"We've talked about being giant killers," Gillom said. "Hopefully we can go out and kill them. They're the giants."

Sophomore guard LaToya Rose said that in order to get a win tonight, the Aggies will have to find a way to exploit KSU's 2-3 zone, a defensive formation they have been running all season.

"The key is to go in and find the gaps on offense, and make them come out and hold us," Rose said. "On defense we have to pressure the ball."



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