

Duke

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Regional. This time the trip was through the Midwest and it included wins over Northeast Louisiana, Iowa, Connecticut, St. John's and what may have been the sweetest of all, UNLV.

Kansas had knocked off the big boys to get to the big game, with victories over New Orleans, Pittsburgh, Indiana, Arkansas and North Carolina — the last three third, second and fourth in the final Associated Press poll.

Duke took the lead 30 seconds into the game on a three-pointer by Koubek, the defensive star of the semifinal win over UNLV.

The Blue Devils extended the lead to as much as 36-27 with outside shooting, solid defense and Laetner's free throws.

Duke took the nine-point lead with 3:40 left in the half on a three-pointer by McCaffrey, but Kansas, which beat Arkansas in the regional semifinal with three big comebacks, wouldn't go away.

Randall, who hadn't taken a three-pointer in five previous tournament games, nailed one 10 seconds later to keep the Jayhawks within six.

Kansas was within 39-34 and had the ball with 0:32 left in the half when Laetner was charged with an offensive foul, his second personal.

Kansas was working for a final shot, but Richard Scott stepped out of



Team logos by Lou Bloss, The Evansville (Ind.) Press

bounds on the sideline with 11 seconds left and Duke had the final say on the halftime score.

Thomas Hill made a three-pointer with one second showing for the 42-34 halftime lead.

CBS

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But Musberger managed to strip off the emotional edge for the entire country by continuously reminding viewers that the story was indeed a touching one . . . as if nobody could figure it out alone.

For two weeks, the country was treated to endless, tear-jerking reminders by Musberger of how sad each and every one of us should be that a basketball player had died playing the sport he loved.

And then, Musberger was gone. As much as Gathers' death was a tragedy to the sports world, Musberger's farewell was a blessing.

But this year, CBS is back in fine form.

With 34 seconds remaining in the semifinal game between Kansas and North Carolina, Tar Heels coach Dean Smith was ejected after receiving his second technical of the game. North Carolina went on to lose to the Jayhawks.

Obviously, the biggest story of the game was that Kansas, the third-seeded team in the tournament's Southeast Region, wasn't expected by many analysts to make it past the third round, let alone to the championship game. THAT was a damn big story.

But not to CBS. No way. To Jim Nantz and Billy Packer, the announcers for the game, the game's most important factor was that Smith was booted.

They bitched and moaned and whined and argued the referee's decision. They were up in arms

over the technical, which had no impact on the game whatsoever.

They watched replays to find out what Smith had said to the officials. It turned out that he had asked how much time he had left.

After the game, and clear into halftime of the Duke-UNLV game, they interviewed everyone from Smith to his assistants to his players to NCAA officials. CBS put its top on-court reporters on the story. "To hell with the tournament. Why'd good ol' Dean get thrown out, dammit!"

Well, because he left the coaches' box, a no-no anywhere. Especially in the tournament.

Between games, another CBS annoyance, Mike Francesa, added his two cents in his irritating Brooklyn accent.

"Dean Smith is too good a coach," he blurted, shaking his head and waving his arms. "Dis is a pretty low moment in da tournament. He deserves more dan dis."

"Da ref blew da whistle a little too early. I myself wouldna done dat."

Thanks, Mike.

Give Kansas a lot of credit. The Jayhawks went where virtually no one expected them too. Especially CBS' announcers.

Dean Smith gave Kansas credit for the win. CBS gave the country interviews with people who had nothing to do with the real story.

But don't give the CBS announcers any credit.

Silence was never as sweet as it was last night.

Green is a senior news-editorial major and a Daily Nebraskan sports senior reporter and copy desk editor.

Swimmers, divers called successful Team completes season

By Benji Greenberg
Staff Reporter

With a 28th-place finish at the NCAA championships last week, the Nebraska women's swimming and diving team completed a successful season.

The Cornhuskers also won their second straight Big Eight title. The team's only dual losses came at the hands of Arkansas, Kansas and Minnesota, all ranked in the top 20.

"I classify 1990-91 as a successful year," Husker coach Ray Huppert said. "We had a young team and they accomplished two of its three preseason goals."

The preseason goals the team set were to repeat as Big Eight champs, place in the top 20 at nationals and have a combined team grade point average of 3.0.

"There weren't any surprises this year; everyone performed at or above

their expectations," Huppert said. "A number of our swimmers got a chance to perform at nationals and be successful, so that's an encouraging sign."

"Despite the 28th-place finish at nationals, that doesn't put a damper on the season we had. The key was a team concept; no one person carried this team."

This season's team is losing seven seniors.

"They were the glue because they were the most experienced members on our young squad," Huppert said.

The performance of Huppert's team this season makes him feel confident about next season, he said.

"Success next year will stem from the people we have coming back and the newcomers we add to the mix," Huppert said. "Another year should help this year's underclassmen grow mentally and physically."

Balboni to go bye-bye; Bonilla on the block

The Associated Press

The New York Yankees decided Monday to place Steve Balboni on unconditional release waivers and pay off the remaining \$1.1 million on his guaranteed contract.

Balboni, 34, batted .192 with 17 home runs and 34 RBIs in 266 at-bats with the Yankees last year, when he was used primarily as a designated hitter and as a pinch-hitter.

"I appreciate what he's done for the Yankees over the years," general manager Gene Michael said. "It's a tough business, though. We know that."

Otis Nixon became a member of Atlanta in a trade with Montreal and Braves shortstop Andres Thomas was placed on unconditional waivers.

Nixon, 32, stole 50 bases in 231 at-bats last season. He batted .251 with one home run and 20 RBIs in 119 games. The Braves were last in the National League in 1990 in stolen bases, with 92 in 147 attempts.

To get Nixon and minor league third baseman Boi Rodriguez from the Expos, the Braves gave up catcher Jimmy Krummel and a player to be named later.

The Boston Red Sox traded left-handed reliever Rob Murphy to the Seattle Mariners for right-hander Mike Gardiner, the Class AA Eastern League's 1990 Pitcher of the Year at Williamsport.

Murphy, a five-year veteran acquired from Cincinnati on Dec. 13, 1988, had a 5-7 record and nine saves with a 2.74 earned run average in 74 games with Boston in 1989. He slumped to 0-6 with a 6.32 ERA and just seven saves in 68 games last season.

Pittsburgh Pirates general manager Larry Doughty contacted all but two National League teams Monday to

“ I threw it out there to (check the interest) . . . and there weren't any great offers out there. If we don't get any, we'll keep (Bonilla) all season and get an amateur draft pick for him. ”

Doughty
Pirates general manager

see if any were interested in dealing for All-Star outfielder Bobby Bonilla.

Doughty said only two teams have contacted him since the Pirates and Bonilla reached a contract impasse last Friday. He did not identify the teams. Doughty will contact the 14 American league clubs today.

"I threw it out there to (check the interest) . . . and there weren't any great offers out there. If we don't get any, we'll keep him all season and get an amateur draft pick for him," Doughty.

The Seattle Mariners placed Ken Griffey Sr. on the 15-day disabled list. The 40-year-old Griffey has a strained lower back from a traffic accident early last month.

The Chicago White Sox placed pitcher Charlie Hough on the 15-day disabled list because of bone spurs in his right foot. The move is retroactive to March 29, making the 43-year-old knuckle balling right-hander eligible to play April 13, five days after the team's opener.

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