

NHL player strike delayed

TORONTO (AP) — The NHL Players Association pushed its strike deadline back to Wednesday to allow a vote on management's latest proposal, but a walkout appeared inevitable when the negotiating committee recommended a rejection of the offer.

Union head Bob Goodenow said the absence of a contract threatens more than the end of this season and the Stanley Cup playoffs.

"Because of the nature of the developments, we felt that this was simply not only the 1992 playoffs, but also a strike that could jeopardize the start of the following sea-

son," he said Monday. Less than an hour before the original strike deadline of noon EST Monday, Goodenow announced the delay following a telephone conference call with the teams' player representatives.

"I think if the players look at it, there won't be much change," Goodenow said. "Some teams did not want to extend the deadline, but the general feeling was to go back and allow every player to review all of the details of the status of the negotiations."

The work stoppage would be the first in the NHL's 75-year his-

tory and would affect the final 30 games of the regular season. The Stanley Cup playoffs are scheduled to begin April 8.

"One of our overriding concerns was that everybody understood what was transpiring," Goodenow said.

There were no plans for further negotiations, but NHL president John Ziegler returned to Toronto on Monday to be available for talks.

"The players are unified in their resolve in dealing with this issue," Goodenow said. "I don't think it should be taken as a change in any leverage at all."

Laettner's scoring up, popularity down

DURHAM, N.C. (AP) — The final box score painted a perfect picture of Christian Laettner, although the television cameras didn't.

The 6-foot-10 Duke senior is going into his fourth Final Four as the all-time leading scorer in NCAA tournament history. He did it with a 31-point effort built on 10 of 10 field goals and 10 of 10 free throws.

Laettner clinched the performance with a game-winning jumper at the buzzer to beat Kentucky in the final of the NCAA East Regional.

Laettner didn't do so well in public opinion, when he stepped on the

chest of Kentucky's Aminu Timberlake in the second half after he was fouled.

Laettner was called for a technical foul and ever since then the question of his behavior has been a big topic.

Monday, the Division I Men's Basketball Committee said that after further review, Laettner is clear to play against Indiana on Saturday in the semifinals at Minneapolis.

"It is so blown out of proportion," Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski said Monday. "It was identified for what it was, a contact technical.

"The bottom line is that he did something that was wrong and he was punished for it.

"What it revealed to me about Christian is that he's capable of being dumb, because we lost momentum," he said.

"It wasn't vicious at all," Laettner said. "I didn't even hit him hard.

"It was a case where, a few plays before, he pushed me down and I got up and smiled at him and he just smiled back. I could have stepped on him real hard, but I didn't want to. I knew that would cause some problems."

Huskers finish fourth despite desolate roster

By Chris Hopfensperger
Senior Editor

Eight was enough for the Nebraska women's basketball team to finish fourth in the National Women's Invitational Tournament last weekend.

The Cornhuskers, with only eight players on the roster, won one game and lost two in the tournament.

Nebraska finished the season with a 21-11 record after losing to Arkansas State, 81-70, in the third-place game.

But after the game, Coach Angela Beck said the tournament showed the Huskers could compete at the national level.

"It is disappointing to end the season with a loss, but we are going to build from this," Beck said. "This has been a great group of student-athletes to work with and lots of fun.

"The experience that they all gained from playing here against some of the better teams in the country, will make us a better team next season," she said.

In the tournament, the Huskers were led by junior Karen Jennings and

sophomore Meggan Yedsena. Jennings, the Big Eight Player of the Year, scored 83 points in the three games, upping her total this year to a single-season record 810 points.

Yedsena, who averaged 13 points in the NWIT, recorded 13 assists to set the school record for assists in a season with 195.

The Huskers won in the first round, beating La Salle 79-78.

Nebraska led by as many as nine points in the second half, but La Salle tied the game with 18 seconds remaining. Jennings was fouled and hit one of two free throws with three seconds left to win the game.

After the game, Beck said it was the biggest win in the history of the Nebraska women's program.

"Our players seemed unaffected by the fact that we were the No. 6 seed and (La Salle) was the No. 3 . . . and the fact that we only had eight players."

It was also Beck's 100th career win at Nebraska.

Nebraska lost to Georgia Tech in the second round, 78-63.

NU track opens outdoors

By John Gardner
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska track and field teams opened their outdoor seasons by going south for spring break.

Members from both the the Cornhuskers men's and women's teams competed in the Dr. Pepper/SMU Invitational in Dallas last Friday and Saturday. No team scoring was kept in the meet.

The men's team had two individual champions and placed first in the 400-meter relay.

Mark Jackson won the 400-hurdles with an outdoor provisional qualifying mark of 50.8 seconds. In the 800, sophomore Patrick Trainor placed first in a time of 1:56. The relay team ran a time of 40.41 to win the event.

In the hammer throw, Paul Morrison set a new school record in the event with a throw of 172-5. Morrison broke his own record of 153-6.

Travis Grant placed in three events, grabbing second in the 100 (10.2), taking third in the 200 (21.0) and running a leg on the winning relay.

Jerry Marsee returned to action after using up his indoor eligibility by placing second in the 400 (46.8) and tying for fourth in the 200 (21.9).

In the 1,600-relay, Nebraska placed second in 3:13.6.

The Nebraska women's team sent few competitors to the meet. Lisa Graham was the only winner in Dallas, taking the 3,000 in 9:42.

In the shot put, Krista Mader placed third with a throw of 48-1 1/4 and Tina Hergott took fourth at 44-4.

Three other competitors travelled to Baton Rouge, La., to compete in the Tiger Tracks Invitational, which also was held last Saturday.

In the men's decathlon, Gene Paulsen finished eighth with 6,393 points. Michelle Shoemaker and Kwani Stewart placed fourth (5,066 points) and fifth (5,012) in the women's decathlon. Stewart won two events, the 100-hurdles (13.72) and the 200 (24.12), both in meet record times.

Nebraska will be in action again this Saturday at the Tyson Invitational in Fayetteville, Ark.

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