

NFL teams travel/3B
New League meets/5B
Comics/8B

SPORTS

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Eugene, Oregon, Wednesday, August 2, 1989

On a wet day, Brits shine in 800



Great Britain's Peter Browne (left) celebrates victory over countrymen Ron Bell (center) and Leslie Duffy in men's 400 division 800.

Browne leads sweep at Veterans' games

By SHANNON FEARS
The Register-Guard

First things first. For those of you from out of town, Tuesday's weather was not typical of Eugene at this time of year.

However, it served its purpose, at least for three Britons who must have thought they were back home.

In another mind-numbing, 15-hour day of World Veterans' Championships track and field action, the 1-2-3 finish of Great Britain's Peter Browne, Ron Bell and Leslie Duffy in the men's 400 division 800 meters at Hayward Field might have appeared as simply one more race.

To the competitors of course, the race they're in is the only thing that matters. And after about a week away from home, some of the competitors spiced their winning performances Tuesday with a show of Olympically national fervor.

"I'm just glad it's a British 1-2-3 sweep," said Bell, the defending champion and world record holder. "To me, this is the Olympic Games."

Bell might have seen what was coming. Browne beat him in the British championships earlier this year and then beat him in the semifinals last Sunday.

And since they're both in the youngest men's age group and are in their first season of racing each other, they could be at it for many years to come.

"I beat him indoors and he beat me outdoors (in British championships)," said Bell, a six-time world veterans' record holder. "The man's a class runner, a European championships and Commonwealth Games competitor for 12 years."

Browne needed that competitive toughness to beat a pretty good field that was supposed to include ex-greets Mike Boff and Lee Evans, who didn't show. But Browne had an extra incentive.

"This was special for me today because my father died earlier this year," Browne said. "This run was for him. He (Bell) was going to have to be good to be in front of me."

Bell felt he was up to the challenge, but couldn't sort out the lightly bucked pack in the last 300 meters.

"My plan was to do 54 or 55 seconds on the last lap, but I couldn't get near enough to the front to do it," Bell said.

Browne finished in 1:55.20, Bell in 1:55.84 and Duffy in 1:56.02, capping a full afternoon of surprisingly close 800-meter

Turn to BRITS, Page 2B

JIM MURRAY



Players' coach didn't teach

TO TELL YOU the truth, Barry Switzer never did look like a football coach to me. I mean, I never felt this was the coach and those were the players. He was one of 'em, if you know what I mean.

I think I know why he was a successful coach. I think he had a lot in common with all those pool-room guys, hustlers and bad-guy-on-the-black-types he got to play for him. They know he was their kind of guy.

There'd be none of that authority, crack they might have to put up with if they'd enrolled in Notre Dame or Penn State or some place like that.

All they had to do for this guy was play some football, kick some butt, lay some blocks. Ol' Barry would take care of the rest. Ol' Barry would keep people off their backs. Ol' Barry wouldn't want you to be secretary of state. Just take care of that line of scrimmage on Saturday. Try not to kill anybody. Just win, baby.

Barry never looked much to me like Walter Camp or Howard Jones or Pop Warner or Woody Hayes.

He wasn't what you'd call your basic father figure, one of these austere field-marshal types who puts a clear line of demarcation between himself and the troops.



Barry Switzer
He always looked pleased

You know, I've never even seen Barry Switzer look worried. He always looked as if he just found out the other team's quarterback is inept. He always looked pleased with himself. His confidence level must break thermometers.

Barry always put me in mind of a guy who takes your girl away from you at the school prom and drives her away in your convertible.

Barry doesn't even seem to get any older. He was one of the new breed of coaches. Buddy's buddy who the players call "Daddy." Boys will be boys.

It finally didn't work. The Oklahoma football team that ran roughshod over opponents for 16 years finally ran over the coach.

Oklahoma is a tough place. But gang rapes, dormitory shootings, drug selling and Brian Bosworth finally got to be too much for even the stomping grounds of the old Dalton Gang or Quantico's Raiders.

Oklahoma is more permissive than Princeton, but it had two choices — clean up Oklahoma football or bring back the Seventh Cavalry.

The old-time coaches never let the troops take over the fort. Knute Rockne was about as close to being a pal to the players as any of the old breed, but he never let them forget who was boss. If they forgot, he had plenty of sarcastic ways to remind them.

I remember Red Sanders, as good a coach as I ever knew, coached from a practice-field tower. His words came down to the players like Jehovah's. They never called him Red.

Even Bear Bryant, the prototypical good of boy-coach who herded his players together in living quarters separate from the rest of the student body, reminded his team who was giving the orders. He kicked Joe Namath and Ken Stabler off his teams for off-field infractions. He kept Namath out of a bowl game. Bear never let the players forget who wore the stars on the shoulder.

Football is a violent game played by violent men. So you get winning teams the way pirate ships used to get crews.

You can try to be pals with them but you never turn your back on them. A better idea is to make them fear you. Today, it's the other way round.

College is considered irrelevant by today's player. He's not there to learn to be a doctor, he's there to learn to be a Green Bay Packer.

A coach used to be a pedagogue. He reminded the players that their pay was priceless — knowledge. Today's players prefer gold chains.

A lot of today's coaches are just on kind of complicated scholarships themselves. They are no part of the academic life.

You go to college to get in on the accumulated wisdom of the millennia. You do this best by coming in contact with older, wiser professors who have a profound influence on your life because you're impressed with them and what they teach you.

If you're in college for football, the coach has to play this role. He can't do it if he's just like you.

I seem to remember a story of the coaching staff at Oklahoma trashing a hotel room, bar or both at a bowl game last winter. Imagine how Howard Jones or Gen. Bob Neyland would have reacted to that. Oklahoma just paid for the breakage.

They said Barry Switzer had one of the most successful football programs of his day. Depends on who you're counting. Bowl games, yeah.

In the important contests of life, he had one of the worst football programs I've ever seen.



Pete Rose claims report of his gambling "was a hatchet job, a piece of crap"

Even his friends, family unsettled by Rose affair

By BILL BRUBAKER
The Washington Post

For most of this summer LaVerne Rose Noeth, 74, has rarely left her Cincinnati apartment. First she had a nasty cold. "And those antibiotics I took made me feel sick to my stomach," she said.

Then came allegations that Cincinnati Reds Manager Pete Rose — baseball's all-time hits leader — had jeopardized his career by betting illegally on major league games. "I am a wreck, a total wreck," Noeth said on a recent evening. "I have a right to be, don't you think? After all, I'm Pete Rose's mother."

Noeth cannot escape her son's troubles — not when she turns on a radio, not when she picks up a newspaper.

"My daughter says, 'Mother, you've got to get out of that apartment,'" Noeth said. "But I still have because I'm afraid to run into people that know me. I'm afraid they'll say something about Pete and I'll get mad. I've got a fiery temper."

In Cincinnati, a city that so loves Rose it named a downtown thoroughfare after him, the reality of The Pete Rose Affair is setting in.

Joe Kaiser, Rose's friend for 40 years, said he is concerned that Pete has a gambling problem. "Pete and I have had words about it many times," Kaiser said. "He might have a compulsive problem. I think it should be addressed."

Dave Rose said a proposed partnership with his brother in a chili restaurant chain has fallen through because of concerns by the parent company that "Pete's got a little dark cloud over him. They're worried about their image."

Noeth frets about reports that a federal grand jury is probing whether her son paid taxes on his gambling winnings and base-

Turn to ROSE, Page 6B

Ferry flees to Italy; Atlanta adds Soviet

From news service reports

It was a bitter-sweet Tuesday for the National Basketball Association. It was a day when the league's most valuable player in the Soviet Union last season, signed a three-year contract to play basketball with the NBA's Atlanta Hawks.

On another, Danny Ferry, the second player taken in the NBA draft by the Los Angeles Clippers, signed a one-year contract with Messaggero Rome of the Italian basketball league which will pay the 6-foot-11 All-American forward from Duke a reported \$1 million.

Said Ferry through ProServ, the Washington management group: "It's a unique opportunity — living in Rome, traveling throughout Europe, learning a new language, experiencing different cultures . . . all while playing the game I love."

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"I was honored to be selected as the No. 2 player in the draft by the Los Angeles Clippers. They are an up-and-coming team. Frankly, I was also a little surprised the Clippers drafted me because they have a talented pool of

Young forwards. However, any concerns I had became academic once Messaggero made me this once-in-a-lifetime offer."

Ferry is still Clipper property, however. According to NBA rules, teams retain the right to a player for a year after he returns from Europe, meaning the Clippers can continue to play a large, albeit silent, role in his life for the next two years. And that's Ferry only plays in Rome for one season.

"Naturally, we are disappointed that Danny Ferry chose to play his first pro season in Europe," Clippers General Manager Elgin Baylor said in a prepared statement. "However, we look forward to having Danny in a Clippers' uniform should he decide to pursue a career in the NBA."

Rose Ortiz is the only other first-round player to have snubbed the NBA in favor of Europe. The former Pacific-10 Conference player of the year from Oregon State was drafted No. 1 by Utah in 1987, but signed with a team in Spain, only to return and eventually

turn to NBA, Page 2B

Orioles fall twice more, lead shrinks to one game

From news service reports

BOSTON — There were morning meetings, new lineup combinations and another new starting pitcher. There were encouraging words and encouraging performances, public votes of confidence and private moments of thought.

About the only thing the Baltimore Orioles didn't get out of this long and tiring day Tuesday was a victory, and after 68 consecutive days as baseball's most surprising first-place team, their ride could be about over.

The Boston Red Sox on Tuesday moved to within a game of first place in the American League East by sweeping a doubleheader from the Orioles, 3-3 in a day game and 6-2 at night in Fenway Park.

Remember the morning of July 19? The Orioles awoke 15 games above .500 and leading the AL East by 7½. Their world was almost perfect, even when Seattle's Brian Holman shut them out that afternoon. But their world was about to turn upside down, and Tuesday, they lead the Red Sox by a game and Toronto and Milwaukee by 2½.

In a stunning reversal to what had been a stunning season, the Orioles were about to lose 13 of 14 and would find themselves 1-12 on the swing through four cities and three time zones.

"It hasn't happened overnight, but it's very hard to believe we're playing

Turn to ORIOLES, Page 4B

