CBS not 'fooling,' fires Musberger

By The Associated Press

DENVER - Brent Musburger, the primary voice of CBS Sports during the 1980s, was fired by the network Sunday in a move that shocked officials at CBS and other networks

Because the move was announced on April Fool's Day and one day before the NCAA basketball championship, which Musburger is scheduled to broadcast, many television officials at first dismissed it as a joke.

A worker at CBS Sports' studios in New York called The Associated Press insisting the announcement was not true, even while CBS Sports President Neal Pilson was discussing the move at the Final Four in Denver.

"It is not a joke," Pilson said. "It's a difficult decision. It's never easy to deal with individuals with whom you have personal or business relationships.'

Musburger, whose 54-year contract expires in July, will broadcast Monday night's championship game between UNLV and Duke as his final event for CBS.

"I was surprised but it was a great run and I have a million memories, and I leave behind a lot of good friends," Musburger said in a statement read by Jimmy Tubbs, his personal assistant. "At this time, I'm going to take an extended vacation, and I'll be work-

ing again someday, somewhere." Musburger, who has been with CBS Sports since 1975, was scheduled to become the main voice for CBS' baseball coverage, which begins April 14. He also was in line to be the host for the network's coverage of the 1992 and 1994 Winter Olympics.

Pilson said that negotiations for

a new contract had been going on for several months between the network and Todd Musburger, who represents his brother.

"It wasn't right out of the blue," Tubbs said. "He knew for a couple of days that things were not going well in contract negotiations. Negotiations had been going on, and they just broke off."

The first hint of the move came when CBS spokesman Susan Kerr read a terse two-paragraph

"CBS Sports announced today that it had declined to renew Brent Musburger's employment agreement, which expires within the next few months," the statement said."

Musburger is in his sixth season as lead play-by-play man for the NCAA basketball tournament and has been host of "The NFL To-day" since 1975. He has anchored the Masters golf tournament, the NBA finals, the Pan American Games and late-night coverage of the U.S. Open tennis tournament.

"We simply felt we wanted to give more opportunities to some of the younger people people who currently work for us," said Pilson, who said CBS sports executive producer Ted Shaker agreed with the decision.

"There's never a good time to have to announce a decision like this," he said. "We were asked by Brent's representative to make a decision, and that's what we did."

Musburger has been reported to earn between \$1.6 million and \$2 million per year from CBS. Pilson said he would not describe the negotiations as "a squabble over money," but would not talk about the matters of dispute in the talks.

USC wins title in soccer tourney



Teddy Lepp/The Gamecock

USC freshman Ruben Tufino crosses the ball in Sunday's 3-1 win over Clemson. The Gamecocks won the McDonald's/Carolina Spring Soccer Challenge held over the weekend at The Graveyard.

Gamecocks defeat Virginia, Clemson in preseason play

By BRANT LONG Assistant Sports Editor

McDonald's/Carolina Spring Soc- away with a 2-1 victory. Graveyard in Columbia.

Saturday began with the College the Cougars. of Charleston posting a 3-1 win over the Tigers.

Clemson's only goal of the assist by Jeff Agoos. match came midway through the

That game was followed by a

The Gamecocks struck first at The Gamecocks struck first at the 31:25 mark as Jonas Gudjons- goalie Roberto Marinaro to knot son scored off of an assist by Ru- the game at one. Seidenburg

The Cavaliers tied the game to give USC the lead. midway through the second half Lueders.

maining in the match, USC's An- team to win both of its games. drew Coggins regained the lead for the Gamecocks as he fired the ball 0-2 tournament record.

past Virginia's Blake Cronin. The assist was credited to Adam Bind-The USC soccer team won twice ing and Jeff Love. The Cavaliers over the weekend in the inagural could not score and USC came

cer Challenge, while intrastate ri- Sunday's action began as Virgival Clemson dropped two matches. nia took on the College of Charles-The tournament was held at The ton with the Cavaliers leaving the tournament with a 2-0 victory over

Virginia got both goals in the second half. At the 67:52 mark, Hal Cauthen, Alvin Thomas and Brad Agoos scored to give the Ca-Scott Miramonti all scored for the valiers a 1-0 lead. Virginia added Cougars, who built up an early 3-0 an insurance goal at 82:39 mark when Lyle Yorks scored off of an

The last game of the tournament second half as Joey Fineberg featured USC and intrastate rival Clemson.

The Tigers struck first after a rematch of the NCAA Quarterfi- scoreless first stanza. With 19 minals as USC squared off against nutes left in the contest, Clemson's defending national champion Thomas Najjar scored on a penalty kick to put the Tigers up 1-0.

ben Tufino and Clark Brisson. scored again four minutes later, putting in a Clark Brisson rebound

Sophomore Chris Crosby added when defender Jeff Agoos put the one more goal at the 84:34 mark to ball past USC goalkeeper Spencer give the Gamecocks a 3-1 victory.

USC claimed the tournament With just under 20 minutes re- championship by being the only

Clemson finished last with an

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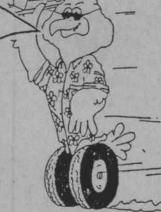
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