

SPORTS LOOK

NFL

■ **HOUSTON (AP)**— The Houston Oilers are considering an agreement that would keep the team in Houston through the 1997 season.

The agreement would end the team's federal lawsuit against the city, Harris County and AstroDome USA. The Oilers' lawsuit, filed last month, claims the defendants have conspired to keep the team from leaving.

The Oilers, who want a new domed stadium in Houston, are negotiating with Nashville, Tenn., about moving to a new stadium there for the 1998 season.

■ **WASHINGTON (AP)**— A group of NFL practice squad players whose \$30 million award was reduced by an appeals court, have appealed the case to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The money had been awarded to the players, who in 1989 received flat payments of \$1,000 a week. The NFL Players Association claimed they would otherwise have negotiated salaries of \$5,000 per week.

But the decision, in which 235 players were awarded \$30 million by a jury in 1992, was reversed last spring by the U.S. District Court of Appeals.

NHL

■ **WEST ORANGE, N.J. (AP)**— Claude Lemieux, the playoffs MVP of the Stanley Cup champion New Jersey Devils, was suspended for not reporting to training camp.

At issue is the validity of a \$5.2 million contract negotiated for Lemieux by his former agent, Steve Freyer. Lemieux reportedly signed a fax of that agreement.

However, the right wing then made Howard Silber his agent, and they maintain the contract is not valid because he never signed the actual contract.

Silber said in a statement that

the NHL Players Association has filed a grievance and requested arbitration on Lemieux's behalf.

College Basketball

■ **VILLANOVA, Pa. (AP)**— Villanova extended the contract of men's basketball coach Steve Lappas through the 1999-2000 season, athletics director Gene DeFilippo said.

Lappas, 41, who took over for Rolie Massimino following the 1991-92 season, is 53-39 with the Wildcats. Villanova won the 1994 National Invitation Tournament.

The Wildcats, 25-8 last season, won the Big East tournament and advanced to the NCAA tournament for the first time since 1991.

Baseball

■ **MINNEAPOLIS (AP)**— The Minnesota Twins almost certainly will leave the state after the 1998 season if they don't get a new stadium or a complicated \$35 million overhaul of the Metrodome.

Twins president Jerry Bell presented a bleak picture of the team's finances to the Advisory Task Force on Professional Sports and called the 13-year-old Metrodome economically obsolete for baseball.

■ **CLEVELAND (AP)**— The New York Yankees did not record an assist in their 4-0 victory over the Cleveland Indians, the fourth time that has happened in major league history.

Jack McDowell, who threw a four-hitter, had eight strikeouts. In addition, there were two grounders to first baseman Don Mattingly, who made the plays unassisted, and 17 flies, pop-ups and line outs.

The last time it happened, and the only time in NL history, was when the New York Mets did it against Philadelphia on June 25, 1989.

Jordan, Ewing lose battle to decertify Players' Union

Associated Press

NEW YORK—The efforts to decertify basketball's union failed today by an overwhelming margin, paving the way for labor peace in the NBA.

In an election held by the National Labor Relations Board, 226 players voted to keep their union and 134 voted to decertify. The outcome clears the way for the player representatives to approve a new labor contract Wednesday in Chicago and for owners to approve it Monday in New York.

"Obviously, we're pleased about the results," said Russ Granik, the league's deputy commissioner. "It demonstrates they will make up their own minds about their own destiny and not be controlled by a group of agents and outside lawyers."

The union leadership had struck a deal with the league in June, but a group of agents, who represented Michael Jordan and Patrick Ewing among others, forced players to table the vote and started the decertification effort.

In August, the union and NBA struck a modified deal that was slightly more favorable for the players but still closed many of the loopholes in the league's salary cap. That agreement is the one scheduled for a vote on Wednesday, with approval needed by 21 of the 27 player reps.

Daniel Silverman, the NLRB's New York regional director, said the results will not be official until Sept. 19. The losing side may file objections to the way the vote was conducted. The NLRB would then take four to six weeks to determine whether the objections are valid.

If the deal is approved, NBA owners are expected to lift the lockout they began July 1. If that happens, training camps would open Oct. 6 and the season would begin as scheduled on Nov. 3.

"When you have that kind of a turnout, coupled with a 63 percent vote in favor, I would hope the player reps look at that and ratify the agreement," union head Simon Gourdine said.

"Of course, I'm disappointed by the vote," said Jeffrey Kessler, the lawyer for players seeking to decertify the union. "I still believe this is a terrible vote for the players and they will regret it for a long time."

Kessler said his group will decide later this week whether to challenge the election.

"A lot of the players got intimidated by the threat of the owners that the season was going to end," Kessler said. "The strategy the NBA carried out was effective."

"The players want to play basket-

ball," said Buck Williams of the Portland Trail Blazers, the president of the NBA union. "We believe we got a fair agreement."

In balloting on Aug. 30 and Sept. 7, players cast their votes in large numbers, the heavy turnout believed to benefit the union.

On Monday, Kessler sent a letter to Gourdine, saying his group is concerned Wednesday's meeting and possible vote "will be another rush to judgment that tries to avoid, instead of respect, the wishes of a majority of players."

"This would break the promise the union made ... that all players would get a chance to vote on any proposed deal," Kessler wrote.

Gourdine said the union's constitution provided for a ratification vote only by the player reps.

"We do not consider this at all to be a rush to judgment," he said. "The proposed collective bargaining agreement has been in the hands of the players since shortly after Aug. 8. We think there has been ample opportunity for all of the players to have full and frank discussion of all of the terms of the proposed agreement."

After casting his vote last week, Jordan didn't seem inclined to continue his fight for dissolving the union if the play-

ers vote against it.

"If (decertification) doesn't carry, then the players have spoken their minds, and that's all I ask," Jordan said. "If the majority of players choose to accept this deal, I'm with them, I'm with the majority as long as two years down the road they can live with the repercussions of what this deal is going to give them."

Jordan and Ewing have been the most vocal proponents of decertification, arguing that players can get a more favorable labor agreement by dissolving the union and pursuing an antitrust lawsuit against the league.

Despite Jordan's conciliatory words, one agent says Kessler and other agents are certain to dispute the election results if decertification fails. Keith Glass, who represents 13 current NBA players, resigned last week from the agents' group pushing for decertification, saying he was fed up with the propaganda coming from all three sides in the dispute.

Sacramento All-Star Mitch Richmond has filed a labor complaint with the NLRB against the NBA. He's hoping his complaint can overturn the election results.

Moniuszko scores big for womens' soccer squad

KAYCIE WILLIAMS Staff Writer

Freshman Perry Moniuszko is one of the many players who hope to make an impact on South Carolina's new women's soccer program.

The midfielder/forward is from Matthews, N.C., and lettered in soccer four years at Providence High School before deciding on South Carolina.

"Coach (Sue) Kelly impressed me because she is a real positive, honest person opposed to all the other coaches I had met. That's why I chose to come here," Moniuszko said. "I really like the school and the fact it is a first year program because we are all new at this."

At Providence, she was named the

team's Best Offensive Player her junior and senior years, earning MVP honors in 1994.

She was the most productive scorer in the school's history, with 39 goals and holds the record for most goals scored in a season with 20.

Her superb play also made her a member of the East-West All-Star team in 1993, and again in 1994.

Moniuszko's excellence on the field is also matched in the classroom. At

Providence, she was a member of The National Honor Society and is a biology major in the College of Science and Mathematics.

She hasn't set any personal goals for her soccer career at USC: she prefers to concentrate on the team's interests instead.

"I definitely want the team to go as far as we can because we want to impress everyone else since we are a first year team. We know we have the potential to go really far," Moniuszko said.

With potential like Perry Moniuszko's, USC's womens soccer team is definitely starting in the right direction.



MONIUSZKO

COLLEGE SOCCER TOP 20

The Top 20 in Soccer America college soccer poll.

1. Virginia
2. Duke
3. Maryland
4. South Carolina
5. Clemson
6. UCLA
7. North Carolina
8. Rutgers
9. Indiana
10. Boston University
11. St. Louis
12. Creighton
13. Columbia
14. William & Mary
15. Cal State Fullerton
16. Kentucky
17. N.C. State
18. George Mason
19. Penn State
20. Santa Clara

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