

Air Hockey finale tonight

Penn State Air Hockey club frontrunner Keith Sapanski captured the loop's next to last tourney Monday at Campus Casino to snap a losing streak of three tournaments. The club's final regular season tournament is 7 p.m. tonight at the Armenara Bowling Lanes. Sapanski had raced to seven straight titles at the start of the year, but a disqualification and losses to Mike Dickstein and Vince Schappell had the leader skidding. Sapanski stopped the string Monday by whipping number two seeded Dickstein 7-5, 7-4, 7-1. "His cross over bank shot was working extremely well," Dickstein said after the match. "I've never beaten Keith without

stopping that shot, and I sure didn't stop it tonight (Monday). Last Saturday, at Funtime, sixth seeded Vince Schappell turned the tables on Sapanski to cop his initial event of the campaign. "When Vince first came out, we could see he was a good player," Dickstein asserted. "But we didn't think he'd go so far as to win any tournaments." The top eight stacks up this way:

1. Keith Sapanski	2320
2. Mike Dickstein	2070
3. Steve Schmidt	1775
4. Ken Fohringer	1525
5. Renice Jones	1490
6. Vince Schappell	1440
7. Jim Groshans	1215
8. Bill Rishel	1210

Unless five new faces appear tonight, these eight will be competing for the Penn State Air Hockey championship Saturday at the Nittany Mall.

— Neil Rudel

Jazz front office gives up on coach

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — The New Orleans Jazz yesterday announced the firing of coach Bill van Breda Kolff, saying he was too hard for the administration to get along with. Van Breda Kolff was in his third year with the team, having taken over 14 games into the team's initial year in

the National Basketball Association. The board of directors of the team was "simply unable to feel comfortable with Butch's view of a head coach's role," said Larry G. Hatfield, one of the directors. "It appeared that Butch felt he had to take an adversary position each time the players and club philosophy were discussed. Under these conditions, it was decided that a long-term relationship was impossible." Assistant Coach Elgin Baylor will serve as interim head coach until a permanent replacement is found, Hatfield said.

Owner Fuhrer dissolves tennis franchise

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Owner Frank Fuhrer of the Pittsburgh Triangles announced yesterday he would dissolve the World Team Tennis franchise for at least a year, not because of financial losses but because he couldn't take the hassles. "It's not a matter of money," said the millionaire insurance broker who said he lost about \$1.4 million on the team over three years. "If it was just money I could play for a long time. I just don't want to put up with the crap and lose money at the same time. I'd rather play golf." In truth, Fuhrer will not be playing much golf. He said he is working hard to put together a \$10 million deal to buy his own insurance company, something he said he has wanted all his life. But should that fall through, Fuhrer said he will use his time and money to restart the Triangles team in 1978. "If the league gives me the sole rights to Evonne Goolagong, it's 90 per cent sure I'll be back," he said. "But I need a superstar to build a franchise around." "I'll pay the \$150,000 it costs for me to suspend the franchise for a year if

they promise me her in 1978," he said, referring to league financial requirements for maintaining a franchise. "Roger Cawley will be a little older and a little wiser and he'll have lost a little money," said Fuhrer. "Maybe he'll be a little easier to talk to." Other Triangle players could be drafted by other WTT teams as a result of Fuhrer's action. "I'm not worried about the rest of the team, I can get that together easily," he said. Meanwhile, Joe Zingale, owner of the Cleveland Nets and vice president of the WTT, said his team will play half of their 24 home games this year in Pittsburgh to keep the interest in team tennis alive. "Pittsburgh is a major league town and it deserves team tennis," said Zingale, who attended the press conference. Fuhrer's farewell luncheon for the news media was emotional. When offering his thanks to his staff and sportswriters, his voice seemed to stick in his throat, he turned away from the lectern and wiped his eyes. "I'm a proud man," Fuhrer said

later. "Winning was more important to me than money. The team was a symbol of my ability to compete with people and win," he continued, noting that the team's 90-42 record over three years was the best in the league. Despite that, he added: "It hurts to leave a loser."

Philly team OKed to replace defunct Triangles

ST. LOUIS (AP) — A Philadelphia franchise in the World Team Tennis League to begin play in 1977 was approved yesterday by the league's board of directors. The Philadelphia team will replace the Pittsburgh Triangles, whose owner, Frank Fuhrer, has decided to relinquish his active role in the league because of private business demands. WTT commissioner Butch Buchholz said the ownership of the Philadelphia team would be made public within a few days. Philadelphia fielded a team in WTT's initial season of 1974 and led the league in attendance. That team reached the finals under Coach Billy Jean King. Fuhrer, a millionaire insurance man, has owned and operated the Pittsburgh team since the league's inception. The Triangles were third in home attendance last year. "Frank Fuhrer has been with the league since its beginning," Buchholz said. "His contributions have been instrumental in the growth of team tennis, and while his strength and dedication will be missed, the expansion into Philadelphia is a very strong move for the league." Fuhrer brought Australian star Evonne Goolagong into the league, and built Pittsburgh into a league champion in 1975.

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