

U.S. set to open quest for 27th Davis Cup win

By BOB GREENE

CINCINNATI (AP) — John McEnroe meets Guillermo Vilas in the opening match of the Davis Cup finals at Riverfront Coliseum today, and U.S. Captain Arthur Ashe couldn't be more pleased. Roscoe Tanner takes on Argentina's Jose Luis Clerc in the second singles match Friday. Tomorrow, McEnroe and Peter Fleming will team up in doubles against Vilas and Clerc, with Sunday's final two singles matches pitting McEnroe against Clerc and Tanner against Vilas.

"It makes it easier for Roscoe," Ashe said of the first match pairing of McEnroe, the world's top-ranked player, and sixth-ranked Vilas.

If McEnroe wins as expected, Tanner would not be faced with having to win his match against Clerc to even the series. And, even if McEnroe should lose, Tanner, ranked 11th in the world, doesn't have the added pressure of starting the three-day series.

Vilas holds a career winning edge over McEnroe, 6-5. But McEnroe holds a 2-1 edge over the sixth-ranked Argentine on the semi-final indoor carpet, the surface that will be used here.

And Vilas also has been bothered with a sore throat and cold because of the near-freezing temperatures and snowy weather in this Ohio River city.

"It's better for him than for me," Vilas said of the carpet surface. "I will have to serve and volley more, attack more."

Vilas has said that he gives Argentina a 30 percent chance of winning the coveted Davis Cup for the first time. The United States, playing in the finals for the 52nd time, is going after its 27th title.

"We lost almost all of our matches (against McEnroe and Tanner) on faster surfaces," Vilas said, explaining his reasoning for making the U.S. such a heavy favorite. "That's what the history says, but we are here to change it."

If the finals were being played on clay,

the slow surface preferred by the Argentines, then he would give the Americans only a 30 percent chance of winning.

In their last Davis Cup meeting, Argentina defeated the United States 4-1 last year in Buenos Aires on clay. Argentina also won at home in 1977, while the United States has captured all four meets played between the two countries in the United States.

"The crowd in Argentina (last year) just felt like anything they did was okay because it helped their team to win," McEnroe remembered. "You just couldn't believe how it was. The crowds in the United States aren't at all like that."

McEnroe, the 22-year-old left-hander who captured both Wimbledon and the U.S. Open this year, has a 16-3 record in Davis Cup play. Tanner is 9-2.

Behind the New Yorker, the United States has advanced to the finals by beating Penn State's Joel Johnson and Czechoslovakia 4-1 and Australia 5-0. Argentina has eliminated West Germany 3-2, Romania 3-2 and Great Britain 4-1.

Vilas has won 36 of his 43 Davis Cup matches, while Clerc has a record of 13-7 in this team competition.

Ashe named Tanner to the U.S. squad when his first choice, Jimmy Connors, turned down a spot on the team. Connors broke his self-imposed Davis Cup exile to help the Americans stop Czechoslovakia last July in New York.

Asked why Connors had decided not to play in the finals, Ashe said the world's third-ranked player said "he was getting ready for the (Volvo Grand Prix) Masters" which will be held in New York in January.

"Fair enough," I said. "Good luck in the Masters." Ashe said he told Connors, "We would be marginally strong with Connors," the American captain admitted. "We wanted Jimmy to play."

"Now we're a great team. With McEnroe and Connors, we would have been awesome."

"If the finals were being played on clay,

Wrestlers' loss a bitter pill

LEE DORIO

Daily Collegian Sports Writer

Penn State's 19-17 setback at Michigan on Wednesday was very difficult for the Nittany Lions to swallow. It was a heartbreaking and controversial loss — one that will not be easily forgotten.

They led 17-16 going into the final match, but heavyweight Jim Sleeper was disqualified for stalling.

The Nittany Lions have no time to mourn over their defeat, however. This weekend they travel to Lock Haven to wrestle in the rugged Mat Town U.S.A. Tournament, which will feature top teams such as Tennessee, Bloomsburg and Michigan State.

The Spartans wrestlers, in particular, better be aware of Penn State because the Lions are very apt to mangle any opponent even vastly related to Michigan.

The controversy swirling around the meet with the Wolverines stems from the results of the last two matches, between Penn State's Joel Johnson and Michigan's Pat McKay at 190 and Sleeper and the Wolverine's Eric Klason, and both involved stalling.

At 190 pounds, McKay took a 2-0 lead and was riding Johnson effectively — perhaps too effectively.

"All of a sudden, McKay is trying to hold on instead of working for the fall," Penn State head coach Rich Lorenzo said. "Joel stops for 10 seconds and gets worried for stalling. The ref didn't call it like this for the first eight matches."

"He called the match for the first eight weight classes one way and then, for the last two, he calls them completely opposite. I don't like to complain about referees because I believe you control your own destiny, but this guy was totally inconsistent."

"The referee doesn't win or lose matches," Lorenzo said. "It shouldn't have come down to a point where the ref had an opportunity to control the match."

"McKay didn't even try to get out," Lorenzo said. "The ref let him go a minute and 20 seconds without warning him. It was his (McKay) first match back after an injury and he was really tired."

McKay hung on to defeat Johnson, 3-2 and cut Penn State's lead to four points heading into the heavyweight division.

In the meet's final match, Sleeper was warned four times, which cost him four valuable points, until with only 17 seconds left in the match, he was warned a fifth time and disqualified. It was then that Lorenzo went into his call it like this for the first eight matches.

"I blew my stack because I don't like being robbed," Lorenzo said. "I wasn't angry so much for the referee disqualifying Sleeper, but for not penalizing McKay. He was doing the same thing Sleeper was."

However, Lorenzo said the Nittany Lions did not lose because of the officiating.

"The referee doesn't win or lose matches," Lorenzo said. "It shouldn't have come down to a point where the ref had an opportunity to control the match."

"It's a very difficult tournament," Lorenzo said. "It will be a lot of competition."

The tournament begins with quarterfinal action at 11 tomorrow morning and semifinal action at 7:30 tomorrow night. The finals will start at 7 Sunday night.

Eagles, Steelers to come up short

By BRUCE LOWITT

AP Sports Writer

Dallas, Cincinnati and Tampa Bay each need only one more victory to clinch a division title in the 15th weekend of the National Football League season. The Cowboys and Bengals will get their, the Buccaneers won't.

Philadelphia still has the best defense in the league, but it's going up against one of the best offenses. And it's doing it in Texas, where the Cowboys rarely lose. And the Eagles have lost three in a row, while Dallas has won three straight. Stick with the streaks.

Cincinnati and Pittsburgh will have their starting quarterbacks riding the bench, but that won't be the difference. The Bengals' defense has been far superior to Pittsburgh's.

San Diego has the best offense in the league. Dan Fouts will riddle the Bucs' secondary with bullets and bombs to keep the Chargers' slim title hopes alive.

Last week's record against the point spread: a disastrous 2-11. For the season: 97-96. This week's picks (home teams capitalized):

DALLAS minus 3/4 over Philadelphia: The Eagles will slow down Tony Dorsett, but they won't stop him. And he'll catch a couple from well-rested Danny White. Philadelphia, particularly Ron Jaworski, seems unable to shake out of the doldrums.

Cincinnati even over PITTSBURGH: The key to this one could be Pete Johnson. If the Bengals can spring him loose up the middle a couple of times, the Pittsburghers will have serious problems dealing with him as well as Cincinnati's receivers.

San Diego minus 3 over TAMPA BAY: The Chargers have not only the best passing game around but the worst pass defense. The guess is that the former, bolstered by a couple of Chuck Muncie bursts, will overcome the latter.

CLEVELAND plus 2 1/2 over New York Jets: The Jets never have beaten the Browns. Let's make believe they're playing Seattle again. UPSET SPECIAL.

Denver minus 9/2 over Seattle: The Broncos, unbeaten at home this year, are already a mile high. They'll bring Dave Krieg down to earth.

Buffalo minus 3/2 over NEW ENGLAND: The Patriots are making a run for the No. 1 draft choice. They won't catch Baltimore this week. BEST BET.

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National League approves Phils sale

Giles' first goal to negotiate deals with Schmidt, Rose

HOLLYWOOD, Fla. (AP) — The National League has bestowed its official blessing on the \$30.175 million sale of the Philadelphia Phillies to a group headed by Bill Giles.

The quick, 11-0 vote came yesterday at the request of former owner Ruly Carpenter during baseball's annual winter meetings here. The deal is to be closed officially Monday when the check is turned over in Philadelphia.

"I hope we can carry on the tradition of the Carpenter family, and my father," said Giles, a 47-year-old Rochester, N.Y., native whose late father, Warren, was president of the National League.

"It's a great honor to run a ball club and we will run the best we can afford, and let me emphasize 'we can afford,'" added Giles.

Executive vice president of the Phillies since 1972, Giles heads the limited partnership that bought the team in October.

After the approval, Carpenter said he felt the same way he did when he offered the club for sale last year during spring training — tired of the bickering with the players, fed up with the escalating salary struc-

ture and missing the fun of the game.

"It's hard to be part of something for 38 years and all of a sudden say you're getting out," Carpenter said. "But if the club had to be sold, my family is pleased that Bill Giles was able to form a group to buy it."

Giles said his first priority was signing third baseman Mike Schmidt, the league's Most Valuable Player for the second straight year who has one year left on a six-year pact.

The team will also have to negotiate to keep Pete Rose in a Phillies uniform in 1984.

"(Rose) definitely doesn't want to play. He wants to break Ty Cobb's record (for the most hits ever by a major leaguer), and I'd just as soon it happen in a Philadelphia uniform," Giles said.

Giles will share ownership of the team with: — A subsidiary of the Taft Broadcasting Co., a publicly held corporation that owns seven television stations, including one in Philadelphia, 12 radio stations, five amusement parks and companies involved in production and distribution of entertainment programming.

The Cincinnati-based Taft owns the largest block of stock, but none of the partners owns 50 percent of the shares.

J.D.B. Associates, a partnership of which John Drew Betz is the limited partner and Robert D. Hedberg the general partner. Betz heads a company primarily engaged in industrial water treatment and related chemical areas. Hedberg is a financial consultant.

Tri-Play Associates, a partnership of three brothers, Alexander K. Buck, James Mahlon Buck Jr. and Williams Clifton Buck, principal executive officers of private venture capital investment companies.

Fitz Eugene Dixon, a civic leader in Philadelphia who is chairman of the board of Temple University and Widener College, former owner of professional basketball's Philadelphia Flyers, and at various times a stockholder in football's Philadelphia Eagles, the Phillies and hockey's Philadelphia Flyers.

Rochelle Levy, wife of Robert F. Levy, president of Atlantic City (N.J.) Race Course.

Kerrigan a new Phillie after trade with Reds

sports briefs

Flyers recall Allison

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — The Philadelphia Flyers have recalled rightwinger Ray Allison from the Maine Mariners. After the suspension of veteran rightwinger Paul Holmgren, who was flagged for fighting, the National Hockey League club announced yesterday.

Allison has played in 26 games with the Mariners this season, scoring 15 goals and getting 13 assists. He was Hartford's No. 1 draft pick in 1979.

Holmgren will miss at least one game as a result of a game misconduct he received Wednesday night following an altercation in a game with the Pittsburgh Penguins.

Holmgren punched Pittsburgh defenseman Paul Baxter three times while Baxter was stretched out on the ice, and then took a swing at referee Andy Val Hellemond after the fight.

Isales, 21, who hit .251 with 44 runs batted in and four home runs in 93 games for Montreal (1976-77) and Baltimore (1978-80). He was assigned to the Phil's Oklahoma City farm team.

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