# Capitals start tour of Soviet Union

**Associated Press Writer** 

LANDOVER, Md. — The Washington Capitals will start preparing for the NHL season with a 17-day trip to Sweden and the Soviet Union.

We hope that it will give us an opportunity to get our team more closely together," general manager David Poile said. "But it does bring up some problems."

The Capitals, last season's Patrick Division champions, and the Stanley Cup champion Calgary Flames will play a series of games in the Soviet Union later this month.

The Capitals will train for a week in Sweden and the Flames will train in Czechoslovakia

"I think we're pioneers," Poile said. "We're breaking new ground. We're on the verge of something bigger and better in the world of hockey.

There's certainly excitement," Capitals forward Dave Christian said. "It's kind of a welcome change to do something different for training camp."

Such a trip is hardly a normal training program in the NHL.

We tried to be objective, and our bottom line is the opportunities it has for the team," said Poile, admitting that there are some disadvantages to holding training camp amidst the fascination of a Soviet tour.

The team will face some obvious distractions, such as sightseeing and travel schedules. Players' wives will be along for the trip, as well as an entourage of team personnel and media.

Twenty-nine Capitals - mostly veterans — will make the long trip today. An equal number of rookies and free agents will remain behind to train in Columbia,

While the trip will prevent Coach Bryan Murray from getting a good look at all of his prospects, it will allow the players most likely to make the team a chance to work together more than they might in a normal training camp, Poile

"(The trip) definitely will make the team closer," Christian said. "You do

become a closer knit club just because of the time you spend together.'

Getting in physical shape for the season should be just as easy in Europe and the Soviet Union as it is in Alexandria, Va., the Capitals' regular training base, Christian said. But he wonders whether the team will be mentally prepared for the rigors of the 80-game NHL schedule when it returns

'The travel will be distracting,' he

The Capitals will spend a week in Farjestad, Sweden, before traveling to the Soviet Union. They will play games against Fariestad on Sept. 12 and Brynas on Sept. 13.

The Capitals then travel to Moscow, where they will play Spartak Sept. 15; Dynamo Moscow Sept. 17; Dynamo Riga Sept. 19, and finish the tour in Leningrad against SKA Leningrad on Sept. 21.

Meanwhile, Calgary will play the Czechoslovakia national team twice before arriving in Leningrad Sept. 12. The Flames will play games in Leningrad, Kiev and Moscow.

Both teams have included several cultural exchange programs in the trip, including tours of the Kremlin and Red Square in Moscow and a trip to the Moscow Circus

The Capitals will return from the Soviet Union on Sept. 22 to begin a fourgame preseason schedule against NHL teams. The Capitals open the 1989-90 season on Oct. 6 against Philadelphia at the Capital Centre.

At least six Soviet hockey players will be with NHL teams this season, including two who will play against their countrymen as members of the Flames.

Two Soviets will play for the New Jersey Devils and one for the Buffalo Sabres. The Vancouver Canucks have signed one player and are negotiating with another.

"It is the story of the upcoming season," Poile said. "We're interested to see their impact" on the league.

The Capitals were chosen for the Soviet trip after submitting a proposal last spring, Poile said. The league chose one team from the United States and one from Canada.

### SPORTS BRIEFS

#### Women's soccer team defeats F&M

The women's soccer club raised its record to 2-1-1 with an upset victory over Franklin and Marshall Sunday.

Penn State trailed 2-0 with just over twelve minutes left in the game, but

tied the game on a pair of goals by Dina Dinacc. Geranne Baldino and Anne Marie Hartwig assisted on Dinacc's goals.

her third and fourth of the season Backup goalkeeper Devan Indig, forced into the game due to injuries to a number of midfielders, then scored the winning goal on a shot from 30

yards out with 2:30 remaining to cap the comeback "With this group of players, you just never know who's going to step forward," first-year coach Denny Hall said

Franklin and Marshall had been runked 19th in the NCAA Division III poll going into the game. Its coach was no confident of a win that he did not even attend the game, leaving his two assistants to couch the team

On Saturday, Penn State played to a 2-2 tie against Mercyhurst in its first home match of the year in front of Wo fans at Pollock Field

The next game for the women's soccer team will be Kept. Wat the Indiana University of Pennsylvania. The team's next home game is Sept. 20 against

#### Tourneys scheduled at Blue Golf Course

The 1989 Penn State Autumn Classic will be held Sunday, Sept. 17 on the Penn State Blue Course. Entry fee is \$75 per team and metades green fees, prizes, food, favors and refreshments

Scoring will be based on team play (hetter hall of pertners, with accratch and handicap divisions using 80 percent of a person a handicap. The entry deadline is Thursday, Sept. 7. For additional information was Coming Politochock at 865-7462 or Ken Miller at 238-0210

A Mixed Couples Tournament will be held Sunday, Sept. 24 on the Blue Course. Entry fee is \$50 per couple with an additional \$20 for a cart. Leading for entry is Sunday, Sept. 9. For more information call ket & keek Bath at 238-6520 in the evenings

The following sessions will be held at the Blue Course Franke Range Adult I Sessions will be held on Sept. 11, 13, 18 and 20 from 1 13-4 16 p.m. This program costs \$44 per student and includes fundamentale. Itali swing and the short game.

Adult II Sessions will take place on Sept. 12, 14, 19 and 21 from 3 154 42 p.m. at a cost of \$45 per student. This program includes full swing, source management and trouble shots.

Ladies I will be held from 9-10:30 a.m. on Sept. 11, 13, 18 and 20 at a cost

Ladies II, running Sept. 12, 14, 19 and 21 from 9-10:30 a.m., includes the full swing, course management and trouble shots. This program costs \$44. The Seniors Instructional Program will include the full swing, short game and course management. This session will run Sept. 12, 14, 19 and 21 from 1:30-3:00 p.m. at a \$33 fee per student.

# Inventor of "eephus" pitch dead at 82

By The Associated Press

PLANT CITY, Fla — Truett Banks "Rip" Sewell, the former Pittsburgh Pirates pitcher who delighted baseball fans with his "eephus" pitch and inspired others when he remained active after losing both legs late in life, has died. He was 82.

Sewell, who suffered from kidney failure and pneumonia, died Sunday at South Florida Baptist Hospital, where he had been admitted Aug. 23. He will be buried

The right-hander broke into the major leagues with Detroit in 1932 but didn't stay on the big-league level until 1938, when he joined the Pirates and stayed on the club's roster through 1949. He had a 143-97 career record, including a National League-leading 21 victo-

The native of Decatur, Ala., also won 21 games in 1944 and pitched in eight All-Star games, the most memorable in 1946 when Ted Williams hit a three-run homer off the blooper. Called the "eephus" by Sewell, the arching pitch reached a height of 25 feet before coming straight down toward the plate.

Williams, who before the game had asked Sewell if he would throw the blooper, was the only player to hit a home run off the pitch.

Sewell wasn't expected to pitch because of an elbow injury, but with the American League leading 9-0, National League manager Charlie Grimm asked the right-hander to warm up "and throw that blooper pitch and see if you can wake up this crowd."

With two runners on and Williams shaking his head in a "don't do it" appeal and Sewell nodding to signal: "Yes, I am," Sewell worked the count to two balls, one

accept

strike with two bloopers and a fastball. Williams then hit what Sewell described as a "Sunday Super Dooper Blooper" into the right-field bullpen.

Sewell, who never made more than \$21,500 per year, was instrumental in formation of baseball's pension fund. During the train ride to Boston for the 1946 game. he and St. Louis shortstop Marty Marion devised the formula to use receipts from All-Star games to help retired players.

He remained active as he grew older, despite declining health. He was an avid golfer even after both legs were amputated below the knees in 1972 because of a circulation problem stemming from a 1941 hunting

Last summer, an aneurysm in his right leg forced amputation to the hip. Sewell also suffered two strokes, a heart attack and a ruptured colon.

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