

Steinbrenner forced to resign from Yankees

By BEN WALKER
AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK — George Steinbrenner was forced to resign as general partner of the New York Yankees yesterday by baseball commissioner Fay Vincent, all but ending his turbulent reign as the team's owner.

The agreement came following a day-long meeting in Vincent's office and was the result of a four-month investigation by the commissioner into Steinbrenner's dealing with self-described gambler Howard Spira.

"Mr. Steinbrenner will have no further involvement in the management of the New York Yankees or in the day-to-day operations of that club," Vincent said in announcing the decision.

Steinbrenner must resign as general partner by Aug. 20, when someone will be appointed to take his place, subject to the approval of Vincent.

Steinbrenner, however, will be allowed to consult on major business decisions involving the Yankees. But he must ask Vincent's permission to attend games.

"For all purposes, Mr. Steinbrenner agrees that he is to be treated as if he had been placed on the permanent ineligible list," Vincent said.

Steinbrenner also agreed not to contest the decision in court.

The news spread quickly through Yankee Stadium, where New York played Detroit. Fans greeted the announcement with a 90-second standing ovation.

"I will not comment on the decision," Steinbrenner said. "I'm very happy it was resolved. I'm very satisfied with the resolution, and that's all I'm going to say."

Steinbrenner, one of the most controversial figures in baseball history, is the only owner to be severely penalized twice for major offenses. He was suspended in 1974 by Bowie Kuhn for making illegal campaign contributions to Richard Nixon.

This time, Vincent disciplined Steinbrenner for violating Rule 21, otherwise known as the "best interests of baseball" clause.

The investigation centered on Steinbrenner's \$40,000 payment to Spira, a 31-year-old New Yorker who describes

himself as a former gambler and a former employee of the David M. Winfield Foundation. The commissioner wanted to know why Steinbrenner gave the money to Spira.

Steinbrenner testified before Vincent on July 5 and July 6 and gave various reasons for the payment. Among them were that he was afraid Spira would attack his family, that he gave Spira the money "out of the goodness of my heart" and that he wanted to protect two former Yankees employees from embarrassing revelations.

"I hope this sad episode is now over," Vincent said.

This was the second straight summer baseball penalized one of its more famous characters. Last August, Pete

Rose was banned for life for gambling. Steinbrenner's 18-year tenure as principal owner of the Yankees has been peppered with disciplinary action by the commissioner's office.

He has been fined several times, the most recently on July 5 when Vincent docked him \$25,000 for tampering with Winfield in the days after his May 11 trade to California. The Yankees also were ordered to pay the Angels \$200,000.

On Nov. 27, 1974, Kuhn suspended Steinbrenner for two years following his guilty plea to felony violations of the federal election law. Steinbrenner was reinstated on March 1, 1976, for good behavior, but former Yankees employees have said recently that Steinbrenner violated terms of that suspension.



George Steinbrenner
AP LaserPhoto

Gillen picked 10th in pro soccer draft

By CHRIS DIXON
Collegian Sports Writer

Every athlete dreams of playing with the best players in a professional league. For Ted Gillen, that dream came true when he became the 10th pick in the Major Indoor Soccer League draft in Baltimore.

Gillen was drafted by the Cleveland Crunch, which used their second pick of the second round to take the Penn State. The 5-foot-9, 155-pounder from Toms River, N.J., was a co-captain of last season's team and has led Penn State to three consecutive Atlantic 10 Conference titles. He also was one of the last players cut from the U.S. Olympic team in 1988.

Gillen's being selected as the 10th player in the nation might come as a surprise to some. But for soccer coach Barry Gorman, there was no doubt that Gillen would go high in the draft.

"No, I'm not surprised at all," Gorman said. "I think he has to rate among the top 10 to 15 players ever here at Penn State. Teddy is one of those players who is just going to get better as he plays against improved competition. He's a quality player and will certainly help the team."

Although Gillen has been selected by the Crunch, he

"(Ted) is a quality player and will . . . help the team."

— Barry Gorman
Penn State soccer coach

will still be studying at Penn State until his graduation in December. He was unable to be reached for comment.

Now that Gillen is a part of the Cleveland Crunch he will have to make the switch from outdoor to indoor soccer. One of the major changes Gillen will have to adjust to are the replacing of the sidelines with hockey-like walls which keeps the game at a fast pace.

But the change shouldn't be difficult for Gillen, says his father.

"It shouldn't be too hard a switch to indoor soccer," Jim Gillen said. "It's a little quicker game, you have to be on your toes and you have to be in top shape at all times."

For Gillen, everything he does on the field seems to be magic. But it wasn't always like that when he first came to Penn State.

"When Teddy came here he wasn't one of the highest recruited players," Gorman said.

Although Gorman and his staff helped his maturation process, he still believes that it was Gillen who helped himself the most.

"I think a lot of the credit has to go to Teddy," Gorman said. "I think that it was the exposure to playing against better players on a regular basis during his collegiate career that's helped him. Plus, he got some chances to play with national clubs. All we have done is to hopefully guide him in the right direction and make him a better player and a better person."

With Gillen going at such a high draft pick, along with his past accolades, the Penn State soccer program is bound to benefit, Gorman said. The area that Gillen's fame will help the most will probably be recruiting.

"We don't set ourselves up as a farm club for the professional groups," Gorman said. "But when a player from your program gets this kind of recognition, it has a positive effect on recruiting because kids say that they can go to a place like Penn State, that has the right perspective on education and soccer and still be able to make it in the pros afterwards."



Collegian File Photo

Ted Gillen moves the ball upfield. Gillen was recently selected in the MISL draft.

Ryan tries for No. 300 again tonight

By RICK GANO
AP Sports Writer

MILWAUKEE — Nolan Ryan's first attempt for career victory No. 300 produced more than personal disappointment for a man who enjoys sharing his success.

Not only did Ryan give up three homers, seven runs and 10 hits against the New York Yankees before leaving after eight innings, he let down the home folks who were eager to share in another piece of history.

The Texas Rangers rallied to win the game last Wednesday, but the 43-year-old Ryan failed to get the victory that would have made him the 20th major-league pitcher to win 300 games.

Now in a different stadium 1,000 miles away, one that will be filled with fans rooting for and against him, Ryan will try again tonight.

Ryan, who said yesterday he welcomes the cooler climate of Milwaukee, doesn't want to prolong his quest.

"I'd like to get it over with as soon as possible. I don't want to disappoint people. I have a lot of people coming to this game. It's an inconvenience for them but they want to be a part of it. They've shared in my career," Ryan said at a news conference yesterday.

He admits there is some pressure to get the 300th victory, especially after his poor outing last week.

"The only one I had to blame was myself. I made bad pitches. I hope that doesn't happen again. Because of that you probably do put more pressure on yourself," he said.

"But you have to put it in perspective and take the approach that you go out and pitch the same. Prior to warming up you are feeling pressure, but once you get into the game, you're concentrating on what you have to do. If it were me, I'd just as soon be pitching tonight."

Of the last nine pitchers to get 300 victories, five accomplished it on their first try. Don Sutton, the most recent member of the 300 club in June 1986, needed two starts. Phil Niekro, who made it in October 1985, needed five. Ryan, 11-9 lifetime against the Brewers with a 3-5 career record at County Stadium, hasn't pitched in Milwaukee since April 12, 1989.

That night he was overpowering. He lost a no-hitter in the eighth inning but won the game and struck out 15. That was victory No. 274. Ryan was 2-1 last season against the Brewers but has not faced them in 1990.

Ryan said he expected a mixed reaction from a large crowd at County Stadium, estimated to be around 40,000.

"I think the local fans will be there with some interest in the ball game from my standpoint. But I think they will be pulling for the Brewers. But as in Oakland with the no-hitter, the fans were very supportive of me toward the end of the game. Their allegiance changed in that they were pulling for the no-hitter. I wouldn't anticipate any difference from the fans here."

The Rangers considered delaying



AP LaserPhoto

Nolan Ryan pitches in his first attempt at winning his 300th game. He failed last Wednesday, but will try again tonight.

Ryan's next start two days so he could go back to Texas and try for No. 300, but manager Bobby Valentine decided to stay with his regular rotation. Ryan, with a 10-4 record, has been bothered by a stress fracture in his back and will be pitching with an extra day's rest after throwing 141 pitches against the Yankees.

"It's more of a nagging than a threatening injury," said Ryan, who has major-league record 5,211 career strikeouts and six no-hitters.

"I feel about like I have the last three days. I don't anticipate the back being a problem," he said.

Ryan's quest to join one of baseball's most select lists is one that has been well documented.

That won't change tonight when

more than 200 reporters come to County Stadium, along with ESPN and the Rangers TV network.

"In a summer where all the baseball news hasn't been outstanding, it's nice to have Nolan Ryan talk about," said Milwaukee general manager Harry Dalton, who engineered the trade that brought Ryan from the Mets to the California Angels.

"He's a real bright light. You don't pitch into the 40's just because you have solid ability. He was always a workhorse."

Ryan said he couldn't pick out a career highlight, maybe because there have been so many of them or because he hasn't taken the time in the offseason to reflect.

He started pitching full-time with

the New York Mets in 1968 and then played with a world championship team the next season. Last season, he reached 5,000 strikeouts. This year, he pitched his sixth-no hitter, beating Oakland.

Throughout his career, he's been gracious and pleasant, often using the word "fortunate" to describe what he's accomplished. And at age 43, he's still throwing pitches more than 90 mph.

"I really don't have an explanation for it. I really can't say I've done anything different than other people I've played with and other people who have played ahead of me," Ryan said.

"I think what has lent to my longevity is probably genetics, what I received from my parents."

Arkansas ready to switch conferences

By RON FOURNIER
Associated Press Writer

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — The Arkansas Razorbacks are set to jump from the Southwest to the Southeastern Conference, with new scheduling as early as 1992.

Tomorrow, Arkansas expects to join the SEC, a move that would end the university's 76-year alliance with the SWC. "It's not good news. Arkansas has been a valued member of the conference and we're sorry they are taking that position," SWC commissioner Fred Jacoby said yesterday.

The move marks the second time a major conference has taken in a new school. In May, the Big Ten Conference added Penn State, a football independent but a member of the Atlantic-10 Conference in other sports.

Arkansas president B. Allan Sugg said the school's board will meet tomorrow in Fayetteville, Ark., to discuss the SEC's proposal. Sugg said both he and Fayetteville campus chancellor Dan Ferritor would recommend then that the Razorbacks leave the SWC.

Jack Crowe, Arkansas' first-year football coach, said that he expects to be playing an SEC schedule by 1992.

"We know who our opponents are in 1991. We know who our opponents are in 1990. After that, I don't know what's going to happen," Crowe said in an interview with Houston television station KRIV. "I think we're locked in for a couple of years."

Crowe said he would be shocked if the UA board didn't approve the switch, "because as I have traveled through the state there's been very few — very, very few — people who have said to me, 'Let's stay in the Southwest Conference.' The people in the state of Arkansas, I think the vast majority of them, want to go in the Southeast Conference."

SEC commissioner Roy Kramer would not confirm the move. "They

(Arkansas) have the prerogative to make those statements. We'll have no comment," he said.

Ferritor said, "I met with President Sugg today and gave him on behalf of the Fayetteville campus a strong, positive recommendation that the University of Arkansas enter the Southeastern Conference."

Sugg said Ferritor offered three reasons for the move, which would give the SEC an 11th team.

"His comments to me were that he feels the overall competition level will be stronger, that there will be a greater fan interest in the program if we participate in the Southeastern Conference, and he feels that while the television revenues are really a small part of the budget, there's a better chance for television revenue to remain the same if not be enhanced with the SEC," Sugg said.

Arkansas athletic director Frank Broyles, who has spent 36 years in the SWC, said he was pleased by Ferritor's recommendation.

"I felt that Chancellor Ferritor was leaning that way and when he gets back we'll talk some more and be prepared to present our arguments," Broyles said.

Jacoby said an Arkansas official called him last week to tell him the school would likely accept an invitation to join the SEC. "They called me to tell me that their decision is that they are gone with the board approval," Jacoby said.

Jacoby added he was surprised that Arkansas would make the decision before seeing results of a study on the future of the SWC.

"My understanding was that they would wait until the study before they made a decision," he said. "They were enthusiastic about it. It was something they were part of."

Jacoby said it's likely Arkansas would play football in the SWC this fall because they are contractually obligated to do so.

U.S. women's basketball squad tries for the gold

By JOHN NELSON
AP Sports Writer

SEATTLE — Check out the women at the Goodwill Games.

That's what Teresa Edwards wants. She's the leading scorer on the world champion U.S. women's basketball team, the American team that wins gold medals.

The U.S. women open their tournament against South Korea tonight, two days after their male counterparts failed in their third straight major international event.

Yugoslavia won the gold medal with a 85-79 victory over the United States on Sunday night, and the U.S. men now have lost, in succession, the Pan American Games, Olympics and Goodwill Games.

"All I think when I see the men lose is,

hey, we can lose too," Edwards said. "I'd hate for someone to say this is our second chance for a gold medal. I'd rather hear them say, 'Hey, check out the women.' We've been winning for a long time now. We're world champions. We've got some great players."

The U.S. women defended their world championship two weeks ago in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia with an 88-78 victory over Yugoslavia. The road for the women at the Goodwill Games should be easier with the absence of three of the world's top teams, the Yugoslavs, Cuba and China.

While the women have yet to begin their basketball tournament, last night was a night of big games for other U.S. teams. The U.S. hockey team faced the Soviets, and the American baseball team played Cuba.