



Martina Navratilova breaks a string on her racquet in a match last year. Navratilova made an out-of-court settlement offer to former lover Judy Nelson yesterday.

Navratilova wants to settle

By The Associated Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — Martina Navratilova made a settlement offer on Tuesday to a former companion who has filed a palimony lawsuit against the tennis star. Judy Nelson emerged from a courtroom late yesterday and said she would consider the offer overnight before deciding whether to accept it and end her legal quest for a share of the nine-time Wimbledon champion's assets. Nelson, who had a seven-year relationship with Navratilova, said both sides have compromised in trying to reach a settlement. "Neither of us ever wanted this to happen. It has, and we're in it, and I think that we would both like to see the pain and the suffering stop so that we can both recover from it and get on with our lives," she said. Nelson said the lawsuit is about more than the millions of dollars she could win in a judgment. "It's about Martina honoring a contract, an agreement that she did honestly and that we both wanted," said Nelson, a former beauty queen. "I really don't want to look at the dollars and cents of it. I mean it goes beyond that." Nelson met twice privately with Navratilova on

Tuesday, calling the discussions the first talks the two have had since ending their relationship earlier this year. Earlier Tuesday, the women returned to a state district courtroom for the second day of a preliminary hearing in the lawsuit. Navratilova's attorneys are trying to have Nelson's attorney removed from the case, saying he has unfair knowledge of Navratilova's financial status having previously worked for her. Both women cried when a videotape was played Monday showing them agreeing to a non-marital cohabitation agreement. Nelson contends Navratilova reneged on the 1986 agreement in which Nelson was to get half of the estimated \$5 million to \$9 million the tennis player earned during their relationship. "I would like to have settled this before it ever began," said Nelson, 45, of Fort Worth. "Every day and every night, I hope that tomorrow will be the last day and the last night." She declined to say how much Navratilova had offered her in any proposed out-of-court settlement. Nelson said she had been forced to cash in some of her retirement savings for support since her split with Navratilova earlier this year.

Top Cuban pitcher may play in majors

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Rene Arocha, the Cuban national team pitcher who defected to the United States in July, may play major league baseball in the United States, the U.S. Justice Department confirmed yesterday. Arocha's U.S. agent, Gus Dominguez, said earlier in the day that the commissioner's office has arranged for teams to scout Arocha in a few instructional league games and then hold a special lottery-style draft. Date of the draft was not announced. In Washington, Duke Austin, a spokesman for the Justice Department's Immigration and Naturalization Service, said Arocha was legally free to play for a major league team, although it wasn't necessary for baseball to wait for the service's go-ahead on a draft. "It isn't INS saying you can go ahead and draft him, it's INS saying he can stay and work in the country," Austin said. He said this approval is fairly routine for Cubans who defect. Dominguez, in a prepared statement from Los Angeles, said that after the instructional league tryout, teams interested in the player could submit their names to the commissioner, who then would conduct a lottery. "That's what we're looking at, but the details haven't been announced," baseball spokesman Jim Small said. "We are taking some steps to make him available before the draft next June. Right now, we're waiting for the results of a physical." The team that wins the lottery

would hold the rights to Arocha until June 1992. "The commissioner's office did the right thing," Dominguez said the statement. "As you might imagine, we're elated with this decision." Arocha, a member of Cuba's national team for 10 years, defected on July 10 in Miami following a series of games against the U.S. team in Millington, Tenn. He left a wife and daughter behind in Cuba. When he defected, he did not know about a 1977 directive that forbids major league teams from signing Cuban players until they obtain U.S. resident status. So, it was not until major league baseball got clarification from INS that he became eligible to play. A right-hander, Arocha was clocked at a top speed of 84 mph in a workout in July at Miami's Grapeland Park by Herb Raybourn, director of Latin American scouting for the New York Yankees.

While that could be considered too slow by major league standards, Arocha said at the time that he was clocked after three days of throwing, which left his arm tired. He said he was capable of throwing in the 89-92 mph range. "Arocha is a desirable player but would not be looked upon as a premium player," Houston Astros scouting director Dan O'Brien said recently. "He would probably fall in the next level of players in terms of ability." Arocha says he is 25, but at a news conference announcing his defection on July 12, reporters were told he was 27. Other reports pegged his age at 28.

Millard: knee injury now more serious

By The Associated Press

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. — Further damage was discovered yesterday when Minnesota Vikings defensive tackle Keith Millard underwent arthroscopic surgery on his right knee for a cartilage tear, the team said. "Damage to the previous anterior cruciate ligament reconstruction was discovered," a brief statement from the Vikings said. "A decision will be made later on a future course of action." Magnetic resonance imaging tests over the weekend had indicated the cartilage tear. Cartilage damage is considered less serious than torn ligaments. Dr. David Fischer, Vikings medical director, told KSTP-TV that "the situation is much more complicated than we had hoped.

Keith has some decisions to make. I have a lot of evidence, but I cannot make the decision for him." Fischer declined to reveal further details, citing doctor-patient confidentiality. Coach Jerry Burns told the station Millard's health was the first priority. "There's no question that Keith Millard is a great football player, and whatever decision he makes relative to these latest findings, he's got to take into consideration his future and his well-being," Burns said. Before yesterday's surgery, Millard had said he hoped to be back in the lineup for the game against Detroit Oct. 6. The surgery was on the same knee Millard injured last September in the fourth game of the season.

US team faces Finland in Cup

By The Associated Press

HAMILTON, Ontario — Team USA already owns a Canada Cup victory over Finland. To make the finals, though, the Americans will have to do it again — this time, without the home-ice edge. The Americans and Finns square off again today night in Hamilton, Ontario in the first of two semifinal games. The winner meets the winner of tomorrow night's Canada-Sweden semifinal in the best-of-3 finals, beginning Saturday night in Montreal. The United States finished the preliminary round with a 4-1-0 record, including Monday night's 4-3 victory over Finland at Chicago Stadium — one of the smallest ice surfaces in the world. The Cops Coliseum has an NHL-regulation 200-by-85-foot surface that gives the free-skating Finns more room to operate.

There's also a lot more pressure than in the first meeting. This time, the loser goes home. "This is the scary part," said Team USA center, Pat LaFontaine. "If we win and Canada wins, it would set up for a great finals. But the Finnish team didn't get rattled, they stayed composed. We're going to have to play a heck of a hockey game Wednesday." Finnish coach Pentti Matikainen, whose team is in the Canada Cup semis for the first time, is looking forward to the return match, too. "We missed a lot of places to shoot. That's one of things we have to do better," he said. Both Matikainen and Team USA coach Tim Taylor have to decide who to start in goal. Markus Ketterer excelled in the first four games for Finland and Jukka Tammi made 32 saves Monday night. Taylor played Mike Richter in the first four games.

Seattle approves ticket-buyout for Mariners

By The Associated Press

SEATTLE — The King County Council on Tuesday approved spending \$200,000 to help buy 200,000 tickets for the cash-strapped Seattle Mariners' remaining 13 home games. Yesterday's action, approved by a 7-2 vote, was aimed at preventing financially distressed Mariners owner Jeff Smulyan from invoking an attendance-linked escape clause in his Kingdom lease. There was no immediate comment on the vote from Smulyan. He and team president Gary Kaseff were en route to Baltimore for the owners' meetings.

"All along we've said we're working on long-term solutions. That's where we're focusing our efforts," Mariners spokesman Dave Aust said after the council vote. "We'll continue to work toward long-term solutions." Councilman Brian Dardowsky said he believes the loss of baseball would hurt the community, and considers the investment necessary to keep the Mariners in Seattle. The ticket-buyout plan is expected to cost about \$600,000, with the additional \$400,000 coming from businesses. The council's one-third share of the tickets will be distributed through social-service agencies and non-profit organizations to "young people,

the elderly, the disadvantaged and the disabled — people who otherwise probably wouldn't be attending the ball game," councilman Paul Barden said. "The private sector is going to be buying the other two-thirds. We don't have any idea what private enterprise might do with their tickets," Barden said. Meanwhile, civic and community leaders say Smulyan may be asking too much if he expects the community to raise franchise revenue by about \$16 million in one year. At the request of business and government officials, Smulyan announced Friday what it would take to keep the team in Seattle.

The New York Times

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