

Sports briefs

Butler leaves Dodgers to get neck checked

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Los Angeles Dodgers outfielder Brett Butler, who missed most of last season with cancer of the tonsils, left the team yesterday to see his doctor about an irritation in his neck.

The problem has been diagnosed as an infection in the soft tissue on the right side of the neck.

It is not believed to be related to the cancer, although the cancer also occurred on the right side.

Butler returned to his Atlanta home for the examination and is expected to rejoin the Dodgers after missing two games.

"He should be back in time for (tomorrow's) game," manager Bill Russell said.

The Dodgers do not consider the problem to be alarming, but they and Butler preferred to take a cautious approach.

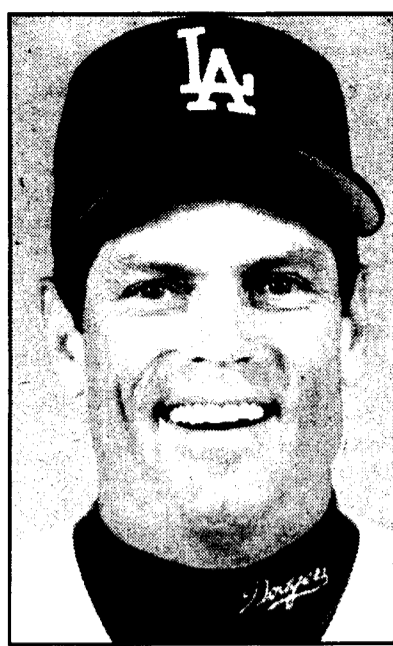
Butler said last winter the cancer left him with some numbness in his neck.

Butler, batting .293 with 16 RBIs in 92 games, missed 24 games earlier this season with an injured shoulder.

Bad food forces Eagles to miss practice

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Four Philadelphia Eagles missed practice yesterday after getting sick following a charity dinner the team attended for the United Way on Tuesday night.

Defensive end Mike Mamula, wide receiver Chris T. Jones and



Brett Butler
Dodger outfielder

offensive guard Joe Panos weren't believed to be seriously ill, but were unable to practice.

A fourth player, Darien Connor, started practice but left shortly afterwards.

Coach Ray Rhodes said a number of other players also complained of stomach pains following the dinner, which was held at the CoreStates Spectrum.

Among them, Rhodes said, were running back Ricky Watters and linebacker James Willis.

"That hurt us today," Rhodes said. "We've got a lot of guys that's awful weak out here."

"Today's not the time for that." Rhodes said none of the ill players are expected to miss the season opener Sunday against the New York Giants.

Chad Scott preparing for long day with Irvin

PITTSBURGH (AP) — He knows it's coming — maybe on the second play, maybe in the second quarter. It's not a matter of if, but when.

Michael Irvin, perhaps the best big-play receiver in football, will line up against him, a rookie cornerback starting his first NFL game, and try to beat him.

If Irvin does it once, he'll go back to the huddle, tell quarterback Troy Aikman that this new kid can't handle him and to get him the ball — deep, and often.

Aikman, who thrives on finding and exploiting weaknesses, will do exactly that.

That's the life of a rookie cornerback in the NFL playing his first game against the Dallas Cowboys. This week, it is Chad Scott's life.

Is he nervous? Not much. Is he scared? That might not be the right word. Does he wish he were opposing a team other than Dallas in his first game as an NFL starter? Get back to him next week.

"Really, I don't get too nervous before a game," Scott, the Pittsburgh Steelers' first-round draft choice, said yesterday. "I feel more comfortable than I did at the start of the (exhibition) season. We've played together back there for a while, and I'm getting more comfortable."

Scoreboard

Daily Trivia

Daily Trivia: Who was the last Penn State player to appear on the cover of Sports Illustrated before Joe Jurevicius?

Yesterday's Question: Who won the 1996 National League MVP?

Answer: Ken Caminiti

Penn State

NCAA Division I Men's Soccer

1. St. John's
2. Virginia
3. UCLA
4. FIU
5. Indiana
6. Washington
7. Creighton
8. SMU
9. UNC Greensboro
10. Rutgers
11. Fresno State
12. William & Mary
13. Maryland
14. UNC Charlotte
15. James Madison
16. South Florida
17. Harvard
18. Penn State
19. Bowling Green
20. Clemson
21. Air Force
22. Saint Louis
23. Duke
24. Cal State Fullerton
25. Connecticut

American League

East Division				
W	L	Pct.	GB	
Baltimore	83	45	.648	—
New York	78	52	.600	6
Boston	66	67	.496	19½
Toronto	63	67	.485	21
Detroit	61	70	.466	23½

Central Division				
W	L	Pct.	GB	
Cleveland	67	61	.523	—
Milwaukee	66	66	.500	3
Chicago	65	66	.496	3½
Kansas City	53	75	.414	14
Minnesota	53	77	.408	15

West Division				
W	L	Pct.	GB	
Seattle	74	58	.561	—
Anaheim	72	60	.545	2
Texas	63	70	.474	11½
Oakland	52	80	.394	22

Tuesday's Games
N.Y. Yankees 18, Oakland 2
Kansas City 5, Baltimore 4
Chicago White Sox 8, Toronto 5
Milwaukee 11, Texas 10, 12 innings
Minnesota 8, Detroit 2
Anaheim 8, Cleveland 7
Seattle 8, Boston 2

Yesterday's Games
Boston 9, Seattle 5
Baltimore 7, Kansas City 3
Toronto 13, Chicago White Sox 2
Minnesota 2, Detroit 0
Texas 7, Milwaukee 1
Cleveland at Anaheim, late
N.Y. Yankees at Oakland, late

Today's Games
Chicago White Sox (Navarro 9-12) at Toronto (Clemens 20-4), 12:35 p.m.
Kansas City (Rosado 8-10) at Baltimore (Mussina 13-5), 3:05 p.m.
Anaheim (Dickson 13-5) at San Diego (Menhart 0-2), 5:05 p.m.
Seattle (Olivares 6-8) at Colorado (Astacio 7-9), 9:05 p.m.
Oakland (Rigby 0-5) at Los Angeles (Nomo 12-10), 10:05 p.m.
Texas (Witt 11-9) at San Francisco (Darwin 0-1), 10:05 p.m.

Tomorrow's Games
Atlanta at Boston, 7:05 p.m.
Philadelphia at Detroit, 7:05 p.m.
Chicago Cubs at Cleveland, 7:05 p.m.
Montreal at N.Y. Yankees, 7:35 p.m.
N.Y. Mets at Baltimore, 7:35 p.m.
Florida at Toronto, 7:35 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Milwaukee, 8:05 p.m.
Houston at Chicago White Sox, 8:05 p.m.
Cincinnati at Minnesota, 8:05 p.m.
St. Louis at Kansas City, 8:05 p.m.
Seattle at Colorado, 9:05 p.m.
Oakland at Los Angeles, 10:05 p.m.
Anaheim at San Diego, 10:05 p.m.
Texas at San Francisco, 10:05 p.m.

National League

East Division				
W	L	Pct.	GB	
Atlanta	81	50	.618	—
Florida	77	54	.588	4
New York	71	61	.538	10½
Montreal	65	65	.500	15½
Philadelphia	49	80	.380	31

Central Division				
W	L	Pct.	GB	
Houston	69	62	.527	—
Pittsburgh	67	67	.500	3½
St. Louis	59	72	.450	10
Cincinnati	58	73	.443	11
Chicago	53	80	.398	17

West Division				
W	L	Pct.	GB	
Los Angeles	75	59	.560	—
San Francisco	73	60	.549	1½
Colorado	64	70	.478	11
San Diego	62	72	.463	13

Tuesday's Games
Philadelphia 4, San Diego 2
Los Angeles 6, Pittsburgh 4
San Francisco 6, N.Y. Mets 2
Atlanta 7, Houston 6, 11 innings
Florida 11, Chicago Cubs 0
Montreal 7, St. Louis 5
Colorado 9, Cincinnati 5

Yesterday's Games
Philadelphia 7, San Diego 6, 12 innings
Los Angeles 9, Pittsburgh 5
N.Y. Mets 15, San Francisco 6
Florida 4, Chicago Cubs 3
Colorado 7, Cincinnati 5
St. Louis 4, Montreal 3
Houston at Atlanta, late

Today's Games
Florida (Brown 12-8) at Chicago Cubs (Clark 10-7), 2:20 p.m.
Anaheim (Dickson 13-5) at San Diego (Menhart 0-2), 5:05 p.m.
Houston (Kile 17-3) at Atlanta (Neagle 17-3), 7:40 p.m.
Montreal (Paniagua 0-1) at St. Louis (An.Benes 8-7), 8:05 p.m.
Seattle (Olivares 6-8) at Colorado (Astacio 7-9), 9:05 p.m.
Oakland (Rigby 0-5) at Los Angeles (Nomo 12-10), 10:05 p.m.
Texas (Witt 11-9) at San Francisco (Darwin 0-1), 10:05 p.m.

AL Leaders

BATTING AVERAGE				
G	AB	R	H	AVG
F. Thomas, Chi	116	422	92	.353
Jefferson, Bos	109	387	65	.344
Justice, Cleve	108	376	67	.340
Greer, Tex	129	494	89	.328
Ramirez, Cleve	120	442	78	.326
W. Clark, Tex	110	393	56	.326
E. Martinez, Sea	132	464	91	.325
Vaughn, Bos	112	421	77	.325
Alomar, Cleve	103	375	51	.325
Williams, NY	100	394	85	.325

NL Leaders

BATTING AVERAGE				
G	AB	R	H	AVG
Gwynn, SD	123	490	74	.382
Walker, Col	127	472	114	.375
Piazza, LA	123	442	79	.353

Auto Racing

1997 Winston Cup Standings Through Goody's 500

1. Mark Martin	3,270
2. Jeff Gordon	3,257
3. Dale Jarrett	3,099
4. Terry Labonte	3,030
5. Jeff Burton	2,979
6. Dale Earnhardt	2,865
7. Bobby Labonte	2,760
8. Ted Musgrave	2,597
9. Bill Elliott	2,591
10. Ricky Rudd	2,534
11. Jeremy Mayfield	2,510
12. Johnny Benson	2,469

Transactions

AUTO RACING
Indy Racing League
U.S. AUTO CLUB—Denied A.J. Foyt's appeal for a reversal of the June 7 finish at the Texas Motor Speedway, where Arie Luyendyk was declared the winner.

BASEBALL
American League
CHICAGO WHITE SOX—Traded OF Darren Lewis to the Los Angeles Dodgers for a player to be named.

National League
LOS ANGELES DODGERS—Recalled OF Garey Ingram from San Antonio of the Texas League. Placed OF Roger Cedeno on the 15-day disabled list.

NEW YORK METS—Agreed to terms with Bobby Valentine, manager, on a three-year contract. Activated RHP Jason Isringhausen from the 60-day disabled list. Optioned INF Jason Hardtke to Binghamton of the Eastern League. Transferred RHP Armando Reynoso from the 15- to the 60-day disabled list.

PITTSBURGH PIRATES—Purchased the contract of RHP Jason Johnson and INF Abraham Nunez from Carolina of the Southern League. Placed RHP Clint Sodowsky on the 15-day disabled list. Optioned RHP Jose Silva to Calgary of the PCL. Designated RHP John Dillinger and 1B Mark Johnson for assignment.

HOME RUNS
Walker, Col. 37; Castilla, Col. 35; Bagwell, Hou. 34; Galarraga, Col. 33; Bonds, SF. 30; Piazza, LA. 29; Sosa, Chi. 29; Hundley, NY. 28; Mondesi, LA. 26; 3 tied at 25.

RUNS BATTED IN
Galarraga, Col. 115; Bagwell, Hou. 108; Gwynn, SD. 103; Walker, Col. 103; Sosa, Chi. 101; Bichette, Col. 99; C. Jones, Atl. 99; Kent, SF. 99; Alou, Fla. 97; Castilla, Col. 91.

WON-LOST
Kile, Hou. 17-3; Maddux, Atl. 17-3; Neagle, Atl. 17-3; Estes, SF. 17-4; Fernandez, Fla. 16-9; Martinez, Mtl. 15-6; Park, LA. 13-6; Jones, NY. 13-8; Schilling, Phil. 13-10; 5 tied at 12.

Transactions

BASKETBALL
National Basketball Association
PHILADELPHIA 76ERS—Named Rob Wilson assistant director of public relations.

FOOTBALL
National Football League
ATLANTA FALCONS—Signed DT Shane Dronett. Waived DT Ethan Brooks.

CHICAGO BEARS—Signed TE Tremayne Allen and LS Harper Le Bel. Waived LS Rob Davis. Signed T Kerry Jenkins and WR Eric Smith to the practice squad.

DENVER BRONCOS—Signed OL Tashe Williams to the practice squad.

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS—Signed OL Eugene Chung. Waived RB Leon Neal.

NEW YORK GIANTS—Signed CB Robert Massey. Signed CB Kory Blackwell, TE Brian Gaine, WR David Patten and RB Robert Walker to the practice squad.

ST. LOUIS RAMS—Signed DL Barry Stokes to the practice squad.

SAN DIEGO CHARGERS—Signed DT Rashod Swinger to the practice squad.

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS—Signed WR Andre Coleman. Released C Greg Bloedorn. Signed S Eric Stokes, C David Kempfert and DE Brett Williams to the practice squad.

TENNESSEE OILERS—Agreed to terms with SS Blaine Bishop on a six-year contract.

HOCKEY
National Hockey League
CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS—Agreed to terms with G Jimmy Waite. Signed F Brian Felsner and F Nathan Perrott.

PHOENIX COYOTES—Named Julie Patterson director of programming and skating.

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