

## Sporting View

# Penguin's goalie leaves team to care for daughter

by John Musser  
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By now, everyone knows that Mike Tyson has been defeated by James Buster Douglas for the heavyweight title. But can you name the last man to hold that title before Tyson's reign as heavyweight supreme began? Keep reading for the answer.

As if the Pittsburgh Penguins of the National Hockey League didn't already have enough problems, they can now add another one to their list.

As of last Friday, their top goaltender and one-time Vezina Trophy winner (given to the league's best goalie), Tom Barrasso, announced that he would be leaving the team for an indefinite time to take care of his 2 1/2-year old daughter, Ashley. Ashley had been in a Pittsburgh hospital for several months undergoing treatment for cancer. Barrasso and his wife have decided to move Ashley to a hospital in California for further treatment.

The '89-90 season has been a difficult one for one of the league's most respected netminders. Barrasso has suffered through several injuries and has put up with one of the worst defensive clubs in hockey. All of this has been nothing compared to the plight of his young daughter. Add up these factors and it doesn't take a Bachelor's degree in Psychology to figure out why Barrasso has been playing below his expected level of play.

While the loss of Barrasso will certainly hinder the Pen's chances of qualifying for the playoffs, the team has been understanding. It is nice to see that Barrasso is not the only one who has things in perspective here.

A quick look at the NHL schedule provided an interesting scenario for Penguin's superstar center Mario Lemieux.

If his scoring streak continues, he will tie Wayne Gretzky's mark of 51 consecutive games with at least one point against the New York Islanders next Thursday night in Pittsburgh.

Should the streak continue, Lemieux will get his chance two nights later to break the record in, of all places, the Montreal Forum. In case you didn't know, Lemieux was raised in a suburb of Montreal and dreamed of playing for the Canadiens. Of course, Mario's got to make it through this week, and he is now wearing a

back brace, but wouldn't it be something....

It looks like major league baseball players will be locked out of spring training practices until a new labor contract is hammered out. Negotiations may take days, weeks, or possibly months.

Maybe I'm just being picky, but isn't the average baseball salary in the neighborhood of a half-million dollars? And this is somehow a problem for the players? What about the owners? Would it really hurt them if they shared some of the take?

Cut the garbage guys, and settle this contract squabble quickly.

Boy, was Michael Jordan impressive in the Long-Distance Shootout in the NBA's All-Star Weekend festivities. Jordan was the only participant who failed to rack up double figures in the event. Out of a possible 30, "Air" managed a five. But hey, can he dunk or what?

Wonder how long it's going to be until we have the championship of the NBBL (National Bud Basketball League)?

I know I've made a little bit of fun of Budweiser's "Bud Bowl" promotion, but beer bottles playing football just doesn't make sense. If I was running this brewery, I know exactly how I'd promote it: The Bud Cup hockey championship. Lets face the facts, beer on ice is far more appealing than beer on Astro Turf.

After watching this past weekend's Georgia Tech-Louisville basketball game, I couldn't help but be impressed with the performance of guard Kenny Anderson. The Tech freshman virtually controlled the game with his pinpoint passes and deadly accurate perimeter shooting. What was even more amazing was the way Anderson did it. He displayed court intelligence which normally takes years for most players to acquire.

If Pierre Turgeon of the Buffalo Sabres doesn't win the Calder Trophy, the award given to the NHL's best rookie, then they may as well burn the dang thing.

Answer: Tony Tucker won a boxing match in 1987 for the vacant IBF heavyweight title. His opponent: Buster Douglas.

## Giving to the team



photo by Rick Brooks

**Hoops and bucks:** At a recent home game, women's basketball coach Jenefer Banker (left) and men's basketball coach Doug Zimmerman (right) each received 300 dollar checks. The money was donated by the Penn State Club of Erie County and will be used for the teams' needs.

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