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High schools: Armstrong softball team not one-person show... Scoreboard: CIO Baseball... CB7 Olympics... CS-2, 12, 14

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Sports

Star Tribune



BENGALS COACH QUILTS

Cincinnati Bengals coach Bruce Cuslet quit, a day after his team lost its third game in a row. C10

Abdul-Khaliq understands his benching

The quarterbacks



Asad Abdul-Khaliq... Receiver... Started first four games... 2000 stats: 41 of 79 passing, 590 yards, seven TD, two interceptions... Copeters punts with Abdul-Khaliq at QB: 75



Travis Cole... Junior college transfer... Came off bench in two games... 2000 stats: 21 of 34 passing, 258 yards, two TD passes on 17 catches, one interception... Copeters punts with Cole at QB: 45

By Mark Craig

Star Tribune Staff Writer... Travis Cole was at his girlfriend's house Sunday night when his roommate called and told him he was the Gophers' new starting quarterback... "I guess my roommate saw it on TV or something," Cole said Monday. "I was a little excited, I guess you could say. It's not my place to say I deserve it. That's just how the coaches feel."

me first (before the media). But, either way, I will be going to find out. I'm read at myself, not at what Travis did or what coach Mason Abdul-Khaliq was benched Saturday while the Gophers were trailing Purdue 24-0 in a game they lost 38-24. The offense had one first down and seven punts in seven possessions under Abdul-Khaliq... "I thought maybe I would get a little more time before they pulled me," Abdul-Khaliq said. "Anytime something like this happens, all types of questions come up and what it is, it all boils down to that I didn't produce."

ing benched) is part of football when you don't produce. They had to bring Travis in and I have to take it like a man. Now that I'm on the bench, I can't talk back and act like it's all over, like I'm just a fan. I hope Travis does great, but something might happen where I have to go right back in there... Cole, a transfer from Fossilhill (Calif.) Junior College, gave the Gophers an immediate spark Saturday. He completed four of his five first passes and led them to a field goal in his first series. He completed 11 of 27 passes for 180 yards, two touchdowns and an interception.

FOOTBALL continues on C6... Cole said he was relaxed Monday during practice.

ELSEWHERE

Judge rejects plea agreement

U.S. District Judge Paul Magnuson rejected the plea agreement federal prosecutors reached with Jan Gangloffhoff. Turn to A1

Man who hit Sealy pleads guilty

The drunk driver in the crash that killed Tim Berwolves guard Malik Sealy pleaded guilty to criminal vehicular homicide. Turn to B1

BASEBALL

AL wild card

Table with columns W, L, GB for Oakland, Cleveland, Toronto, Boston.

Monday: Cleveland split doubleheader, dropping another to game behind victorious Oakland.

NL wild card

Table with columns W, L, GB for New York, Los Angeles, Arizona.

Monday: Arizona, the only wild-card contender, acquires best Colorado.

Clinched division

AL Central: White Sox. NL Central: St. Louis. NL West: San Francisco.

BASKETBALL



Celtics' Pierce stabbed at club

The Boston Celtics' Paul Pierce was recovering after being stabbed in the face, neck and back at a night club. Turn to C4

Central opponents all lined up for Vikings

By Frank Salfati

Star Tribune Staff Writer

The Vikings woke up Monday morning, perched alone atop the NFC Central, having emerged from their bye week as one of three undefeated teams in the NFL. The New York Jets, St. Louis Rams and Vikings now all have one thing in common: Even after one month of the season, each believes it can control its own fate.

Any time you're in first place, I think it's significant," Vikings coach Dennis Green said. "The idea is that if you're in first place that means division. We're in first place. If we play like we're capable of playing, and we play like we want to be in first place, then that's probably where we'll end up. You look at St. Louis, and they're probably playing better than anybody. And the only other team in the jets. They've had four consecutive second-half wins. We are the only three undefeated teams. There's a lot of pride involved in that."

The Vikings opened the season picked by most pundits to finish third or fourth in the division, but victories over Chicago, Miami and New England, combined with Tampa Bay's loss Sunday to the jets, have vaulted them to the top. But their actual finish largely will depend on a six-game stretch involving five division opponents. The first two are at Detroit on Sunday and against Tampa Bay on a Monday night.

Vikings continue on C10... Practice was longer than usual Monday as the team prep for Sunday's game against Detroit.

A visitor's clubhouse attendant packs up Chicago White Sox equipment after their day game against Cleveland on Monday at Jacobs Field.



Special to the Tribune by Tom Schwane

One ballpark, three teams, two games (one day, one night), two umpiring crews, gridlock in the visiting clubhouse... Somewhere in there the Twins managed to win a baseball game Monday at Jacobs Field in Cleveland.

Three's a crowd



...and unpacks the Twins' equipment for their game later that night against Cleveland. The Twins won it 4-3. It was the first three-team doubleheader in the majors in 43 years.

TWINS 4, CLEVELAND 3

By La Velle E. Neal III

Star Tribune Staff Writer

CLEVELAND — One team (Chicago) didn't want to be there. Another (Cleveland) didn't want to be there twice. And the Twins? They reported for duty but were denied normal pre-game rituals.

What a strange way to make history. One ballpark, three teams and barely enough time to fit everyone in. Cleveland beat the White Sox 9-2 in the afternoon, and the Twins lost Cleveland 4-3 at night.

The three-team doubleheader came courtesy of Major League Baseball, which rescheduled a Sept. 10 rainout between Chicago and Cleveland for Monday at Jacobs Field.

The Twins regularly scheduled 6:05 p.m. game with Cleveland went unchanged, leading to the first three-team doubleheader since Sept. 13, 1951, when the St. Louis Cardinals played host to the New York Giants and Boston. The only other one, according to the Baseball Hall of Fame, occurred in 1926.

Cleveland said a scout preside the Hall of Fame will pack his car and drive to Cleveland. But Anson took a big bite out of the NFL, while with the Wild, and no one will be surprised to see the former Division III player back during the regular season. Best of all general manager Doug Risebrough.

WILD continues on C5

No ordinary doubleheader

On Monday the Twins were part of one the second three-team doubleheader in the major leagues since 1900. The first was on Sept. 13, 1951, at Sportman's Park in St. Louis. A quick run-down of the day's events:

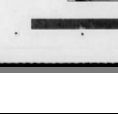
There was a little more of everything: four team buses, two equipment buses, three TV crews, nearly 100 players, more than 80,000 fans and night umpires. At 4:45 p.m., White Sox pitcher Kelly Hutch was the last one to end the visitors clubhouse after the 12:05 p.m. game at 4:50. The first Twins equipment bags were placed and unloaded at 4:57. The first Twins had their coach-in-chief, arrived for the 6:05 game.

Rookie's big-time bubble bursts

Wild demotes Aronson, 2 other hopefuls to Cleveland

By John Miller

Star Tribune Staff Writer



Star Tribune photo by Steve Ring

VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA — It didn't take long for Steve Aronson to recognize the hard evidence that he was no longer in the NHL. The rookie was assigned to the Wild's Cleveland affiliate on the International Hockey League after Sunday night's 4-4 tie in Chicago, ending his surprisingly lengthy stay on the NHL roster.

And how quickly things can change. The rest of the Wild players, all wearing suits and some wearing ties, boarded a charter flight — all first-class seats — to Vancouver after Sunday's game, and several hours later and smugly in bed at the Westin Bayshore Hotel. Meanwhile, Aronson, Christian Matte and Mike Martucci — who also were demoted — spent Sunday night in a Chicago Holiday Inn and shooed themselves into a full-charter plane Monday morning

for the Twin Cities. Aronson took his seat (row 23, middle) wearing an unbuttoned shirt and flip-flops. Today at 11:00 a.m., he will pack his car and drive to Cleveland. But Aronson took a big bite out of the NHL, while with the Wild, and no one will be surprised to see the former Division III player back during the regular season. Best of all general manager Doug Risebrough.

WILD continues on C5

Former University of St. Thomas star Steve Aronson bashed longer with the Wild than most thought he would, finally getting cut after Sunday's game.