

SPOTLIGHT

Patriots are set to ink Parcels

FOXBORO, Mass. (AP) — The New England Patriots, eager to wind up their coaching search, kept a tight lid on developments Wednesday amid reports they would offer the job to Bill Parcells.

Club officials refused comment for the second consecutive day as they sought a successor to Dick MacPherson.

Hodges will shoot in All-Star show

NEW YORK (AP) — Craig Hodges will come back to defend his title in the 3-point Shootout as part of the NBA All-Star game activities even though he no longer is in the league.

The former Chicago Bulls guard, now a free agent without a team and a three-time winner of the Shootout, was named on Wednesday to take part in the contest.

Drazen Petrovic of New Jersey and Mark Price of Cleveland, the 1989 3-point shooter this season, will be among the eight players in the Shootout, one of several activities on all-star Saturday, Feb. 20.

The others are Chris Mullin of Golden State, Dana Barros of the SuperSonics, Dennis Scott of the Magic, Kenny Smith of the Rockets and B.J. Armstrong of the Bulls.

Cedric Ceballos of Phoenix, the defending champion, will lead the slam-dunk championship. He will be joined by Shawn Kemp of Seattle, Sean Elliott of San Antonio and Chris Jackson of Denver.

Seaver loses a court battle

NEW YORK (AP) — Hall of Famer Tom Seaver got his pitches confused when he plugged a competing auto dealer, complained a group of Oldsmobile dealers who had hired him to sell cars on television.

The Olds dealers said the former New York Mets pitcher, working as an announcer of New York Yankees games, breached his \$225,000 contract with them on April 17, 1989, when he said the gap was being sponsored in part by "your local Mazda dealer."

Because of the Mazda plug late in the show, the Good Olds Guys cancelled Seaver's contract without paying him for the second year. During the plug, Seaver appeared off camera, only his voice was heard on the air.

Seaver sued, saying his "one-time, hasty, spontaneous reading" of a "billboard" off camera late in the game was not really a contract violation, and if it was, it was so minimal that it should be excused as a trifle.

State Supreme Court Justice Peter Tom, in a decision made public Wednesday, agreed with the dealers.

Schott will meet with officials Friday

CINCINNATI (AP) — Cincinnati Reds owner Marge Schott formally responded Wednesday to allegations she made racial and ethnic slurs, submitting her evidence to the National League lawyer in New York.

Schott, accused of slurring blacks, Jews and Asians, is to meet Friday with baseball's executive council at Grapevine, Texas.

The executive council has the power to suspend Schott or fine her up to \$250,000.

Tragedy in the Iowa night

Street's death shocks Iowa

By Steve Batterson
QUAD-CITY TIMES

IOWA CITY — A small bouquet of gold carnations brightened the gray, icy skies that blanketed Iowa City on Wednesday.

Chris Street would have liked the flowers that were placed by an unknown admirer in the median of the intersection where the Iowa basketball player was tragically killed Tuesday night in a three-vehicle accident.

Teammates, coaches and fans of the Hawkeye junior forward began a long, painful recovery process Wednesday, realizing that fate had ended Street's promising career.

"It's still so hard to believe," said sophomore guard Kevin Skillett, a former United Township prep who was one of a few teammates on the scene shortly after the accident.

"We were all there eating with him just 15, 20 minutes earlier."

While Iowa City Police began their investigation of the accident, Iowa athletic officials announced that Saturday's scheduled game at Penn State had also been postponed.

The game against the Nittany Lions as well as Wednesday's game against Northwestern will be rescheduled, but no announcement is expected until next week.

Iowa's next scheduled game is Jan. 28 at Michigan State.

An ice storm forced Iowa Coach Tom Davis to cancel a planned team meeting Wednesday, but several Hawkeye players visited the arena to comfort each other.



Street



ASSOCIATED PRESS

This is the scene of the traffic accident that killed Iowa basketball player Chris Street on Tuesday night. Street's car, overturned center, was hit by the dump truck at right.

Most planned to spend Wednesday night together.

Davis did meet with his team late Tuesday night in a session Skillett understandably described as extremely emotional.

"It's hard for us to understand," he said. "I'm thankful we're not playing this week. Basketball doesn't seem very significant now."

Basketball was the reason Street was at the Highlander Inn in the first place.

He had just completed dinner with his teammates at the Highlander Supper Club and left early with his girlfriend, Kim Vinton, so Street could attend a night class.

Iowa City Police Chief R.J. Winkelhake said his department's investigation of the events that led to Street's death remains in the preliminary stages.

No charges have been filed, although

the signs indicate the accident may have been Street's fault.

"Right now, it's not so easy for us to say that this is what happened 1, 2, 3," Winkelhake said. "There are some indications as to what occurred, but we are just beginning to piece everything together."

What is known is that the Chrysler LeBaron driven by Street was hit by a snowplow owned by Johnson County and driven by Charles Pence, who told the Iowa City Press-Citizen that the collision was unavoidable.

"I didn't have time to honk the horn. I hit the brakes but I had no place to go. He just didn't see me," Pence said.

Pence, 28, was taking the plow home as

— DRIVER

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Q-C's Skillett was on scene

By Steve Batterson
QUAD-CITY TIMES

IOWA CITY — Kevin Skillett could not believe his eyes.

The Iowa basketball player stood in shock as he watched rescue personnel pull the body of Chris Street, his Iowa basketball teammate and friend, from the wreckage of an automobile Tuesday night.

"You always hear about things like this happening, but you never expect it to hit so close to home," Skillett said. "The first question you ask is 'Why?' It's so hard to figure. He had so much going for him and he was such a good person."

A sophomore guard from Silvis, Ill., Skillett

attended the team dinner at the Highlander Inn. He left the dinner approximately 15-20 minutes after Street and noticed the lights from emergency vehicles from a distance.

"When I pulled up closer, I recognized the car and I had an idea that it might be him," Skillett said.

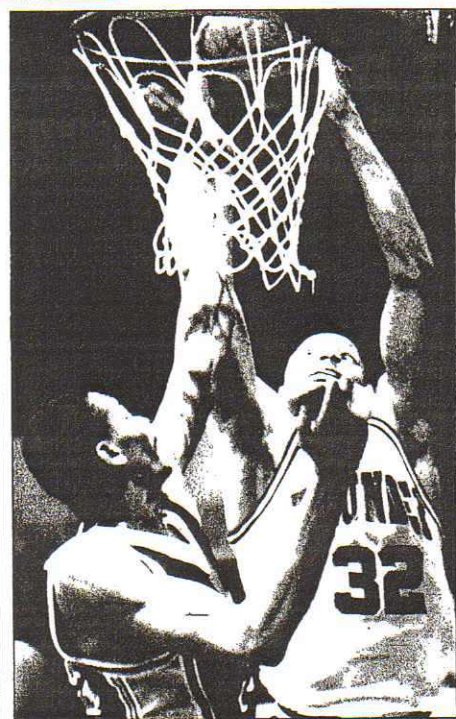
He pulled over and was later joined by several other teammates who watched in silence for nearly 45 minutes as a rescue crew worked on the car.

"Finally, I realized it was him,"

— SKILLETT
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Skillett



Greg Bell/QUAD-CITY TIMES

Dunk you very much

The Quad-City Thunder's Derek Strong slams one home against La Crosse on Wednesday at Wharton Field House. The Thunder lost 94-93. Story: 2S

Wannstedt has plans about Bears coaches

Few members of old staff are likely to be retained

LAKE FOREST, Ill. (AP) — Dave Wannstedt is in. Mike Ditka is out. And Michael McCaskey is everywhere.

When McCaskey, the chief executive officer of the family-owned Chicago Bears, fired Ditka as head coach two weeks ago he said he would consider hiring a general manager.

But when he hired Wannstedt Tuesday, McCaskey said he had no such plans and instead would serve as general manager.

The Bears have been without a GM since McCaskey fired Jerry Vainisi, a Ditka confidant, in 1987, one year after Ditka had led the Bears to the Super Bowl championship.

"It would be one more person to come between me and the coach," McCaskey said.

Ditka was hired by team founder George Halas in 1982, and McCaskey inherited the fiery coach when he took over a month after Halas died in 1983.

With Ditka out of the way, McCaskey is fully in charge, heading a troika that includes Wannstedt and Bill Tobin, director of player personnel.

Although Tobin drew up the list of coaching candidates that included Wannstedt, he did not seem overjoyed at the outsider's selection over his own brother, Bears defensive coordinator Vince Tobin.

"Personally I was hoping for continuity and stability within our staff because I think we can win next year," Bill Tobin said in San Francisco, where he is scouting college players who will play in the East-West Shrine game.

"I feel Mike McCaskey hired the best man available outside the organization," he said.



Dave Wannstedt

Vince Tobin was hired after Buddy Ryan left to take the head job at Philadelphia. When Ditka suffered a heart attack in 1988, Vince was named interim head coach.

He was considered a top candidate to replace Ditka but withdrew three days after Ditka was fired because of negative publicity and the perception that his bid was favored by his brother.

"I'm very disappointed," Vince Tobin said Wednesday. "If the scenario had been played in a different light, I firmly believe I'd have been the Bears' next head football coach. Now, I'm looking for a job."

So are most of Ditka's former assistants.

Before leaving for Dallas to prepare the Cowboys' defense for the Super Bowl against the Buffalo Bills, Wannstedt met with most of the Bears assistants.

"I was very honest with them and I think they appreciated that," he said. "They understand the position I'm in and the direction I want to go."

Wannstedt said he would do no hiring until after the Super Bowl and he would first hire his coordinators and then fill the other positions.

Wannstedt is believed to be interested in hiring Los Angeles Rams quarterback coach Ted Tollner as his offensive coordinator and Dallas assistant Bob Slowik as defensive coordinator.

Wannstedt worked for Tollner when Tollner was head coach at Southern Cal. Slowik is in charge of the Cowboys' nickel defense.

Other coaches he might be interested in include Tony Wise, offensive line coach at Dallas, and Miami Dolphins quarterback coach Gary Stevens.

Wise and Wannstedt are close friends and Stevens and Wannstedt worked together at the University of Miami.

McCaskey has given Wannstedt full control in hiring his assistants but said "I think we have an outstanding group of coaches and if some could fit into Dave's plans it will be sensational."

Among those who might be retained are running backs coach Johnny Roland and linebackers coach Dave McGinnis.

■ Related commentary: 5S

TRIVIA CORNER

Who got this year's Super Bowl tickets?

NFL office — 25,250 tickets
Bills — 17,675
Cowboys — 17,675
L.A. Raiders — 5,656
L.A. Rams — 6,656
Other NFL teams — 1,212

From: World Features Syndicate

FOOTBALL

AFC playoffs

Saturday, Jan. 2
Wild-card game
San Diego 17, Kansas City 0
Sunday, Jan. 3
Wild-card game
Buffalo 41, Houston 38 (OT)
Saturday, Jan. 9
Buffalo 24, Pittsburgh 3
Sunday, Jan. 10
Miami 31, San Diego 0
Sunday's result
Buffalo 29, Miami 10

NFC playoffs

Saturday, Jan. 2
Wild-card game
Washington 24, Minnesota 7
Sunday, Jan. 3
Wild-card game
Philadelphia 36, New Orleans 20
Saturday, Jan. 9
San Francisco 20, Washington 13
Sunday, Jan. 10
Dallas 34, Philadelphia 10
Sunday's result
Dallas 30, San Francisco 20

Super Bowl

Sunday, Jan. 31
Pasadena, Calif.
Dallas vs. Buffalo, 5:15 p.m.

QUOTABLE



Don King

"He speaks English, Spanish and he's bilingual, too."
— Promoter Don King, talking about Julio Cesar Chavez's pay-per-view fight against Greg Haugen in Mexico City on Feb. 20

HIGHLIGHTS

On TV...
North Carolina State at Duke, college basketball, 8:30 p.m., on ESPN.
Chicago Bulls at New Jersey Nets, NBA, 8:30 p.m., on WGN.
Memphis State at Missouri, college basketball, 8:30 p.m., on ESPN.

On radio...
Quad-City Thunder at Capital Region Pontiacs, 6 p.m., on WGLR (1230 AM).
Complete two-day list: 4S

MAIN EVENT

BIG TEN CONFERENCE

Illinois will host Penn State in a Big Ten basketball game at Assembly Hall tonight. Coverage starts at 7 on Cox-Cable Ch. 38. For radio listings, please turn to Page 4S.