

CARTER FIRM — U.S. WON'T GO

European Olympic groups reject boycott proposal

BRUSSELS (AP) — The national Olympic committees of 16 European countries rejected the proposed Olympic boycott Saturday and said they never would accept an alternative site to the Moscow Games.

And delegates from eight of the countries at a meeting in the Belgian capital said they would send teams to Moscow even if their governments join U.S. President Jimmy Carter's call for a boycott of the Games if the Soviet Union doesn't withdraw its forces from Afghanistan.

"Not one person from Britain who wants to go to the Games will fail to go to Moscow," said Robert Watson of the British Olympic Committee. "We will find a way."

Other delegates who said they would send teams to the Games even if their governments approve the boycott were from Sweden, Finland, France, Italy, Ireland, Belgium and Spain.

Delegates from Turkey, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, San Marino, Switzerland, West Germany and the Netherlands said they are waiting for their national sports authorities to make a ruling.

Norway, whose delegate was delayed by transportation difficulties, is the only European country whose Olympic committee has accepted the boycott proposal.

The delegates said in a statement that Olympic committees — not governments — have the right to decide on participation in the Games.

Raoul Mollet, president of the Belgian Olympic Committee, said the boycott proposal undermines the principle that sports are above politics and said public opinion polls in many countries support the committees' rejection of the boycott.

Referring to the boycott proposal as a way of persuading

the Soviet Union to change its Afghanistan policies, Mollet said: "We are shocked that athletes are used as a primary weapon and other measures are weakly enforced."

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Carter didn't change many minds but U.S. athletes now know emphatically that the United States will not compete in the Olympic Games this summer in Moscow.

Carter, who has pressed for two months for an international boycott of the Games as punishment to the Soviets for their invasion of Afghanistan, summoned 100 athletes to the White House Friday to tell them, face-to-face, that no U.S. team will go to Russia.

"I can't say at this moment what other nations will not go to the Summer Olympics in Moscow," Carter told the athletes during a 20-minute speech. "Ours will not go."

"I say that not with any equivocation. The decision has been made."

Carter said it was necessary for the United States and other nations to "let our voices be heard in an absolutely clear way, and not add the imprimatur of approval to the Soviet Union and its government."

He said participation in the Olympic Games in Moscow

would give the Soviets that approval.

After the White House meeting, the athletes gave varying opinions on the Carter message but all agreed it was plain that he meant: "We aren't going to Moscow."

In a formal vote, 44 athletes voted against the Carter position, 29 supported a boycott and 24 abstained.

One strong supporter of Carter was heavyweight boxer Jimmy Clark of Coatesville, Pa., who narrowly missed being on the airplane carrying members of the boxing team that crashed in Warsaw two weeks ago.

"I don't think it should be necessary for the president to tell us not to go to Moscow," he said. "The president made it crystal clear to us that the Soviet Union in Afghanistan is a direct threat to our national security."

"I would rather boycott the Olympics today than go to war tomorrow," said Clark.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Members of the athletes advisory council to the U.S. Olympic Committee mulled over a plan Saturday which would permit them to participate in the Summer Games in Moscow but also protest the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

The Citizen Sports

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The 47-member council continued its regular weekend meeting after spending Friday at the White House where President Carter told them and other athletes and coaches that the United States would not participate in the Summer Games.

"I can't say at this moment what other nations will not go to the Summer Olympics in Moscow," Carter said. "Ours will not go. I say that not with any equivocation. The decision has been made."

Some athletes believe, however, that perhaps a plan can be devised to allow them to compete but still protest the Soviets' military presence in Afghanistan.

Andy Toro of El Cerrito, Calif., a canoeing coach who participated in two Olympics for Hungary and two for the United States, made the proposal to the council but declined to give details until the panel took some action on it.

It was learned, however, that the plan calls for the athletes to compete but boycott the opening and closing ceremonies, not stay in Russia but fly in only for their events and refuse to accept any medals.

"Every time a Russian gets a bronze medal, there would be two other empty places because the other two didn't show up," Toro said. "How are they (the Russians) going to explain it. We would be able to hit them every day, 24 hours a day, for two weeks. Even the poor peasants will be able to see that and ask what's happening."

Toro said he believes it would be effective because the United States has athletes who are among the top three in all sports, but he cited specifically track and field, swimming and gymnastics.

Soccer uproar solution closer?

by MARK ALLAN
Citizen Sports Reporter

Players spoke and executive members listened.

Between 60 and 70 players from last year's seven-team North Cariboo Soccer Association expressed their opinions at a Sunday information meeting about the split that has occurred in the NCSA executive.

While voices were raised by both sides at the meeting, there were lengthy stretches of reasonable discussion.

The word compromise was mentioned several times, raising hopes the seemingly unresolvable differences between the two factions might be worked out in time for the start of the season.

The generally constructive atmosphere of the gathering was marred only when old wounds were opened.

When talk centred on what has to be done for the good of the sport in Prince George, both sides seemed to have few differences.

The consensus reached by both sides was that each team in the league should be represented on the executive.

At the moment, there is a six-team league with an eight-member executive registered in Victoria with the Societies Act, plus the remnants of a 10-member executive elected following last season.

This group still speaks for at least three teams and feels it should be represented on the NCSA executive.

At one point, amid confusion about who was in control of the meeting, an informal vote indicated almost unanimous support among the players for a motion that each team be represented.

Two possible routes were mentioned, considering Al Auld of the eight-member group formed several months

ago made it clear that the conditions of the Societies Act forbade another election until next year.

The new constitution of Auld's group permits them to appoint a committee.

If a committee, with representation from all teams was formed and both executives resigned, the newly-formed committee could run the league's business until an election following the season.

A more likely solution is an amendment to the new constitution, allowing additional executive members and ensuring every team in the league has a voice on the executive.

Both executives meet tonight at 7:30 p.m. in room one of the Civic Centre, with a representative from the Civic Properties and Recreation Commission handling the meeting.

CPRC has the hammer in the dispute because it says it might withhold the allotment of fields unless the problem is solved internally.

A further steady force will likely be exerted by the B.C. Soccer Association.

Auld's group has applied for affiliation with the BCSA and he says the bid has been provisionally approved, with a few conditions that have to be met. The BCSA affiliation implies a degree of regulation and order which has been missing in past years and which can only benefit the league in the long run.

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Losses hurt Canucks' chances

VANCOUVER (CP) — The playoff chances of Quebec Nordiques got a shot in the arm from an unlikely source Sunday night — reserve goaltender Goran Hogosta.

The native of Sweden played his first National Hockey League game since Dec. 6 and backstopped the Nordiques to an impressive 6-2 decision over the slumping Vancouver Canucks. Hogosta blocked 36 shots, including 12 in the hectic final period, as the Nordiques concluded a four-game road trip with their second win.

"Our regular goalie (Michel Dion) said he needed a rest and Hogosta is considered a major league goaltender," said Quebec coach Jacques Demers. "He gave us major league netminding tonight so no one can second-guess the decision."

"I don't know what it is, but Vancouver seems to play much better on the road. They were a much different team last week in our building when they beat us 3-2."

"We went out there tonight

with the idea of checking first. That was our main objective. We checked first and then got the goals. Sometimes people say we're too defensive, but you've got to check to win."

Checking line centre Bob Fitchner scored two of the Quebec goals, both on power plays, with Paul Stewart, Michel Goulet, Ron Chipperfield and Marc Tardif getting the others. Stewart's goal was the first in the NHL, coming in his 15th game.

Quebec now has 59 points, just two less than Vancouver, Washington Capitals and Detroit Red Wings, all tied for 15th spot with 61 points each. Edmonton Oilers are next with 60. Sixteen of the 21 teams advance to the playoff round. Demers made a key strategic move in the third period after Vancouver got goals from Stan Smyl and Darcy Rota to pull to 4-2. Demers called a 30-second time out and the Nordiques regained their composure during the break.

Hogosta, who started the

season in Quebec, had been playing in the minors until the Nordiques recently traded netminder Ron Low to Edmonton for Chipperfield. He said he was surprised to get the start and "just happy I could do something for the team at this stage of the season."

Quebec has eight games remaining — three at home, the rest on the road, compared with six for Vancouver.

The Canucks lost for the second straight time at home and showed little finishing touch around the net despite their numerous chances.

"We didn't put it away when we had real good chances, especially in the first period," said Vancouver coach Harry Neale. "We worked hard, ran into people, but couldn't score, which is what the other team did when it had rare chances."

"Our power play cost us again because we didn't put any sustained pressure on the netminder. That's been our biggest problem all season. We just don't show any poise and I wish I had the answer

because it's driving us crazy." Netminder Gary Bromley of the Canucks, losing for only the second time in 11 games since being recalled from the minors, stopped just 15 shots.

VANCOUVER (CP) — Detroit Red Wings responded to the coaching of Marcel Pronovost, playing a solid defensive game to defeat Vancouver Canucks 5-2 Friday night in a National Hockey League game.

Pronovost was behind the Detroit bench after coach Bobby Kromm was fired earlier in the day by general manager Ted Lindsay, who will share the coaching responsibilities with Pronovost for the rest of the season.

The Wings, led by defenceman Reed Larson, played a solid game in front of goaltender Rogie Vachon, who turned aside 38 of the 40 Vancouver shots before a crowd of 15,079.

The win gives Detroit 61 points and a tie for 15th place in the over-all standings.

BRIBE SWINDLE CHARGED

Italian soccer stars arrested

MILAN (AP) — Eleven soccer stars and the president of Italy's defending champion Milan club were arrested Sunday on charges of swindle, police said.

The arrests came three weeks after the Italian soccer world was shaken when persons described as disgruntled bettors charged that some of Italy's top players took bribes to influence games.

Customs police, waiting in the dressing rooms of stadiums in Milan, Pescara, Rome, Palermo and Genoa, took the players into custody at the end of major-league and second-division

games and served them warrants issued by various prosecutors.

Lazio centre-forward Bruno Jordano, defenders Giuseppe Wilson and Lionello Manfredonia and goalie Massimo Calciatori were taken to Pescara police headquarters at the end of the Pescara-Lazio match.

Milan veteran goalie Ricky Albertosi and midfielder Giorgio Morini were arrested after the Milan-Torino match as was their club president, industrialist Felice Colombo.

Maurizio Della Martira and Luciano Zecchini, defenders with the Perugia

club, were able to end their match against Roma, in Rome, before being taken away by policemen.

Stefano Pellegrini, a forward with Avellino, was arrested in Avellino. Sergio Girardi, goalie of second-division Genoa, and Guido Magherini, a forward of second-division Palermo, also were arrested.

If convicted, the players would be banned from the sport for life. There also would be repercussions on the weekly staterun soccer pool, a major source of revenue for the Italian Olympic Committee. Italians bet \$6.7 million on a slate of 13 games played Sunday.

B.C. junior girls; Lakewood fourth

High school basketball teams from the Lower Mainland aren't having one of their best seasons.

First, the Duchess Park Condoers won the AA boys' championship March 15 in Vancouver, now another northern team has won a girls' championship.

The host Kitimat club defeated Cranbrook 46-43 in the title game Saturday, at the eight-team junior girls' final.

Victoria placed third, while the Lakewood Grade 10 girls were fourth, as they won two and lost two.

The Prince George girls downed Skeena of Terrace 38-28 in their first game Friday, then lost 42-39 to Victoria in another Friday game.

Lakewood dumped Quesnel 44-29 Saturday morning, but lost to Kitimat 43-31 in an afternoon game.

Kitimat was defeated by Cranbrook by one point in overtime Friday night and was

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Two ski titles to Burns Lake

BOZENAN, Mont. (AP) — Esther Miller of Burns Lake, B.C., captured the senior women's 10-kilometre race Friday in the Dannon Series-West cross country ski competition.

Miller covered the 10-kilometres in 33 minutes 41.80 seconds to beat Sissel Bjerknes of Laramie, Wyo., who finished second in 34:21.40. Judy Rabinowitz of Fairbanks, Alaska, was third in 35:03.80.

Defending Dannon women's champion Sharon Firth of Banff, Alta., was fourth.

In the junior division, Marvin Strimbold of Burns Lake won the men's 10-kilometre race in 30:47.71, and Kristen Petty of Townsend, Vt. won the women's race in 35:41.70.