

SPORTS

Speedway tests 'soft wall'

CONCORD, N.C. (AP) — Lowe's Motor Speedway, reacting to the on-track deaths of Adam Petty and Kenny Irwin, tested a new "soft wall" Tuesday that could lessen the trauma on a driver when cars hit the retaining wall.

The soft wall is a block of plastic foam covered in cases made out of polyethylene — the same kind of material used to make gasoline containers. The polyethylene is molded into a one-piece shell that is filled with a full foam core of the plastic foam.

The theory is that when a car hits the wall at high speed, it can absorb the blow and limit the collision's effects on the driver.

We Are Moving!

Store Wide Clearance on now
until September 15, 2000

25% Off Drycleaning*

JACK JIL
dry cleaners Ltd.
shoe repair • retro gifts

NEW LOCATION:
2ND & VICTORIA
564-7261

PARKWOOD
960-1484

NEW LOCATION:
RACETRACK GAS
HART HWY. S.
962-1744

*Excludes Suede & Leather *Expires: Sept 15, 2000. Upon drop-off.

McBean forced to back out

Canadian rower will miss Olympics due to injury

ROCKHAMPTON, Australia (CP) — Marnie McBean's dream of one more chance at Olympic glory came to a painful end Tuesday.

The three-time Olympic gold medalist was forced to withdraw from the rowing competition at the next month's Sydney Games due to a herniated disc in her lower back.

It was an emotional decision for McBean, who had said these were to be her last Games. "I love rowing," said McBean, who could barely choke back the tears while reading a statement via satellite from Australia where she had been training. "It's always been fun for me. It's always been a challenge, dream, a game."

"The Olympics to me are about pushing myself to my limits, testing my preparation and my abilities. I don't want to push myself and go through some sort of heroic effort to get to the Games and find for the rest of my life that I regret it because I can't enjoy my sport again."

When McBean, a native of Toronto, arrived at the Canadian rowing team's training centre in Rockhampton, she experienced severe pain in her right leg and lower back. The pain got

so severe that she was stranded in her boat while training.

"That afternoon I went for a row and I went out about 2 1/2 kilometres at which point, my leg just went into a spasm," McBean explained from the team's training centre. "I felt searing pain in my right leg, the feeling was so acute, I was actually having a tough time breathing."

"I knew something was pretty bad then. To not be able to physically row back into the dock, that's pretty serious, then I knew I was in trouble."



AP file photo
Former Olympic medalist Marnie McBean will not row for Canada in Sydney.

McBean was stranded in her boat until rowing coach Al Morrow could bring her back to shore.

"When (the doctor in Rockhampton) asked if I wanted the bad news or the really bad news, I knew then that this part of my Olympic dream was over," McBean said.

A lumbar spine MRI showed a large disc protrusion.

"Once I saw these images, I knew I was done," she said. "The disc is obviously herniated and you can see where it's pushing on the nerve where it runs down my leg and on the area around my spinal column. I'm not a borderline case."

She is currently undergoing therapy for the back, including anti-inflammatories and acupuncture. She does not expect to need surgery.

In 1992 at the Barcelona Games, McBean won gold in both the sweep oar pairs and the eight. She won a third gold in 1996 at Atlanta in double sculls.

McBean said she plans to stay with the Canadian rowing team throughout the

Laettner ends up in Dallas

DALLAS (AP) — Christian Laettner, who almost went to the NBA champion Los Angeles Lakers in a proposed four-team deal, instead was traded on Tuesday by the Detroit Pistons to Dallas.

Laettner and Terry Mills, another veteran forward, are going from Detroit to the Mavericks in exchange for forwards Cedric Ceballos and John Wallace, guard Eric Murdock and cash. Wallace and Murdock never played a game for Dallas, having been acquired by the Mavs in separate trades on draft night in June.

This deal is much less involved than the proposed megadeal earlier this month in which Laettner would have gone to the Lakers. That deal, which fell apart last week, also would have involved the SuperSonics and Knicks and included Patrick Ewing, Glen Rice and Vin Baker among at least 11 players included.

Detroit reportedly killed what would have been the largest deal in NBA history, and then reached an agreement Tuesday with the Mavericks.

Laettner (six-foot-eleven), a former first-round draft pick from Duke, averaged 12.2 points and 6.7 rebounds as he started all 82 games last season for Detroit. In his seven NBA seasons, he has averaged 15.7 points and 7.6 rebounds.

"This is another piece to our puzzle," Mavericks general manager and head coach Don Nelson said. "We felt that getting another big player was a priority this summer."

Laettner, who will split time with centre Shawn Bradley and play forward in Dallas, was in the last year of his contract in Detroit. His contract is worth \$6.7 million this season.

Mills, a 10th-year pro, started 78 games last season and averaged 6.7 points and 4.8 rebounds. Mills played for NCAA champion Michigan in 1989 before Laettner helped Duke win NCAA titles in 1991 and 1992.

Ceballos, a six-foot-seven forward and 10-year NBA veteran, averaged 16.6 points and 6.7 rebounds last season.



Carter may be wearing Nikes

LAHAINA, Hawaii (AP-CP) — Vince Carter denied an Internet report Tuesday that he has reached agreement with Nike on a six-year, \$30 million (\$44.5 million Cdn) endorsement contract.

"There's no deal," Carter said at the U.S. Olympic basketball team training camp. "I just got out of a Puma suit, so how can I have a deal ready?"

"Everybody's jumping the gun." The Toronto Raptors forward broke his contract with Puma last season, and an arbitrator recently ruled that Carter owes the company \$13.5 million, plus \$1 million in attorneys fees.

The Web site HoopsTV.com reported that Carter's deal with Nike was agreed to, but an attorney for Puma also disputed that.

Quoting anonymous sources, the report said between \$18 to \$20 million of the \$30 million will go to Puma to free Carter from his previous shoe contract.

Try This Great Deal Of A Meal!

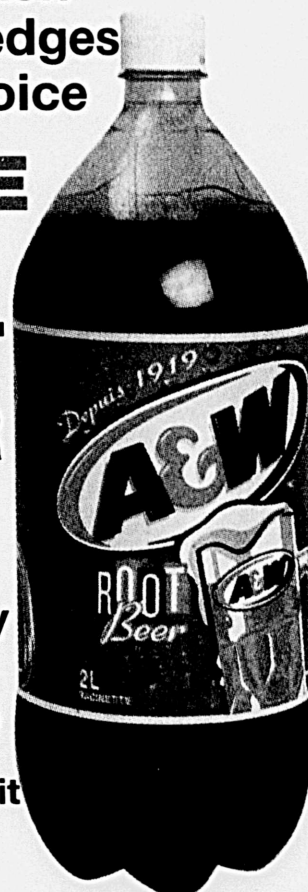
Homestyle CHICKEN DINNER

9 Pieces Golden Chicken
Large Potato Mojo Wedges
8 oz. Salad of your choice

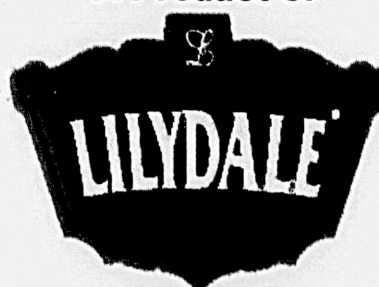
Plus a FREE
**A&W
ROOT
BEER**

2 Litre
Bottle
with every
dinner
purchase

bottle deposit
required



A Product of



"CANADIAN QUALITY"

Prices Effective:
August 30th to
September 10th



A Great Back To School Idea!

SPECIAL

NOW ONLY

\$49.99



INCLUDES:
A Quality
Motorola Pager, AND
UNLIMITED PAGES...

Exclusively at



- Still the Prince George's #1 paging solution provider
- Full Service paging supplier - 24 hour service
- Locally Owned and operated for over 25 years

Call Today!

24 HOUR HOTLINE:
561-2592

*Prepaid accounts are non-refundable. Activation fee may apply. Taxes extra.