

Canucks star out for season for hit on Av

NHL also fines Vancouver for failure to control team

By Adrian Dater
Denver Post Sports Writer

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — Steve Moore's season was ended by the actions of Vancouver Canucks star forward Todd Bertuzzi on Monday. Three days later, the NHL ended Bertuzzi's season as well.

Bertuzzi on Thursday was suspended for the rest of the regular season and the playoffs by the league's director of hockey operations, Colin Campbell. Bertuzzi, 29, will miss anywhere from 17 to 41 games through the postseason, depending on how far the Canucks advance in the playoffs.

The longest suspension in NHL history was imposed on Marty McSorley in 2000. McSorley initially was suspended for 23 games, but his case was reviewed before the next season, and the suspension was extended to one calendar year. McSorley never played again.

Bertuzzi's suspension is a punishment for hitting Moore with a blindside punch then riding him face first into the ice, causing a fractured neck and numerous facial injuries to the Colorado Avalanche forward.

As in McSorley's case, Bertuzzi is not guaranteed to return next season. Before the start of Canucks training camp, NHL commissioner Gary Bettman will decide whether Bertuzzi will be allowed to play for the 2004-05 season. The Canucks also were fined \$250,000 for what Campbell called failure to "take the temperature down" during the late stages of Monday night's game against the Avalanche. "It wasn't this time about whether it should be

SEE PENALTY ON 14A

IN SPORTS

Canucks' reaction: General manager Brian Burke blasts the \$250,000 fine levied against the team. **1D**

Avs' response: Players emphasize that their primary concern is for Steve Moore's quick recovery. **4D**

NCAA accused of dragging feet on recruit rules

By Anne C. Mulkern
Denver Post Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Reacting to reports of alcohol-fueled sex parties to recruit young athletes at the University of Colorado and other schools, U.S. lawmakers said Thursday that the NCAA should impose stricter standards.

At a hearing before the House Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade and Consumer Protection, the NCAA said it is considering a range of solutions, including banning colleges from paying for visits by potential recruits. Other options include eliminating off-campus entertainment, requiring the recruit to stay and eat in school facilities, and banning first-class or private plane trips.

Lawmakers accused the NCAA of foot-dragging. "Why are you not way ahead of the curve? Why have you not done something a long time ago," Rep. Cliff Stearns, R-Fla., asked NCAA vice president David Berst. "People say there is a need for huge reform. Why aren't you leading the charge?"

Berst said reforms were being developed, but he suggested it's difficult to control student behavior.

Rep. Diana DeGette, D-Colo., rejected that response. "I'm just wondering why the NCAA can't institute some rules that would prevent the specific type of activity that seems to be happening," DeGette said.

Such rules would ensure that schools like CU, SEE TESTIMONY ON 15A

RESERVOIR OK'D NEAR PARKER

A permit is allowed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to construct the Reuter-Hess Reservoir 3 miles southwest of town. **Denver & The West, 1B**

HIGH HOPES FOR 'CATS'

The Carousel Dinner Theater in Fort Collins snags the first Colorado production of the renowned musical. **Weekend Entertainment, 1FF**

COMING SUNDAY

Nearly a year after the war in Iraq first began, the routines of everyday life can often obscure the harsh reality that a battle still rages thousands of miles away. Yet in Trinidad, as elsewhere in the U.S., discussions about the merits of war go on. Sunday's Denver Post looks at the impact of the war from the viewpoint of the Las Animas County town.

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'March 11 now has its place in the history of infamy.' — Spanish Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar

Carnage tears Madrid

Al-Qaeda or Basque plot suspected as blasts kill more than 190



Firefighters carry a body from a train nearly blown apart by a multi-bomb, synchronized attack Thursday on commuter trains in Madrid, the deadliest terrorist attack in modern Spanish history.

By Elaine Sciolino
The New York Times

MADRID, Spain — In the bloodiest terrorist attack in modern Spanish history, 10 bombs exploded during Thursday morning's rush hour in three commuter train stations here.

The Interior Ministry said more than 190 people were killed and more than 1,200 wounded.

The highly coordinated explosions went off within a 15-minute period. Three other bombs were discovered and detonated by police.

As the country struggled to absorb the carnage just three days before general elections, Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar appeared on television and called the attacks "mass murder."

He vowed that Spain would never negotiate with "these assassins." Aznar added, "March 11 now has its place in the history of infamy."

Already some Spaniards are calling the attacks the country's "9/11," and the front page of a special edition of the biggest daily newspaper, El Pais, ran the headline "11-M."

At first, Spanish authorities blamed ETA, the Basque separatist group that has been seeking independence from Spain for more than three decades.

Later Thursday, however, the Interior Ministry said police had found a van with detonators and an Arabic-language tape of Koranic verses, according to news agencies, and said that it was considering all lines of investigation.

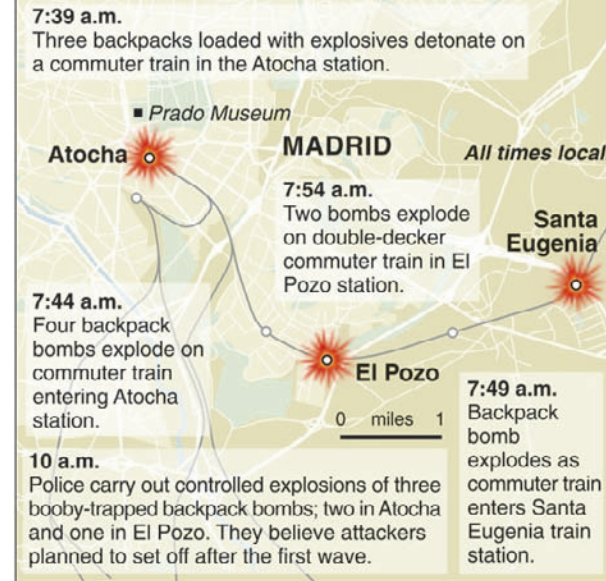
Despite overwhelming popular opposition, Spain was one of the most fervent supporters of the American-led war in Iraq, and there are 1,300 Spanish troops on Iraqi soil.

In October, two audiotapes reportedly made by Osama

SEE SPAIN ON 4A

Death toll mounts

More than 190 people were killed and 1,200 wounded when bombs tore through trains and stations at the height of the Thursday morning rush hour in Madrid, Spain.



Beauprez, Coffman leave GOP still searching

INSIDE
The Democrats' dance: What went on before Ken Salazar's rivals backed his run for Campbell's seat. **8A**

By John Aloysius Farrell and Julia Martinez
Denver Post Staff Writers

WASHINGTON — U.S. Rep. Bob Beauprez, R-Colo., spurned requests from White House officials that he run for the Senate and instead announced Thursday that he will seek re-election to the House.

And state Treasurer Mike Coffman, citing the demands of the state budget crisis, also said Thursday that he will not make the race.

Their decisions were the latest setback in national and state Republicans' search for a consensus candidate to replace retiring Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell.

In contrast, Democratic leaders, including two previously declared candidates, united Wednesday behind state Attorney General Ken Salazar.

Earlier this week, Gov. Bill Owens declined to enter the race. GOP leaders are now wooing Lt.

Gov. Jane Norton and waiting to hear from U.S. Rep. Scott McInnis of Grand Junction. McInnis, who previously said he would not run for re-election, is expected to make an announcement today.

Meanwhile, U.S. Rep. Tom Tancredo is "pretty much all but in," said his spokesman Carlos Espinosa. After talking with his family over the weekend, the Littleton Republican is expected to make an announcement Tuesday, Espinosa

said. Tancredo has clashed with the Bush administration over immigration issues.

Former U.S. Rep. Bob Schaffer says he is planning to run.

The Colorado Republican Party chairman, Ted Halaby, said Norton "is seriously considering it."

"She, among the others, would certainly merit serious consideration."

SEE SENATE ON 9A

BYU 79, WYOMING 74 • COUGARS ADVANCE



Brigham Young's Kevin Woodberry dives for the ball in front of Wyoming's Mikel Watson on Thursday in the Mountain West Conference men's basketball tournament at the Pepsi Center. BYU will meet Utah, a 75-69 winner over San Diego State, in the semifinals today.

COVERAGE IN SPORTS, 1C

The Denver Post / Hyoung Chang

Delays on rape-case evidence bring new scrutiny to military

By Miles Mofeit and Amy Herdy
Denver Post Staff Writers

Last June, 18-year-old airman Leah Kaelin lay shaking on a hospital bed as a nurse swabbed her body with Q-tips for forensic evidence that she had been gang-raped by four fellow service members at Sheppard Air Force Base in Texas.

It took eight months, however, for officials at the Texas training base to notify her that the laboratory analysis supported her story, she said.

In the meantime, Kaelin endured a torturous waiting period in which supervisors downplayed her allegations, allowed her alleged attackers to continue living in her dormitory and gave her a string of minor punishments that led to her discharge, according to Kaelin and military documents.

"Whatever happened with my case, I would hate to see other women go through the same thing," Kaelin said. "I thought about taking my life every single day.

They made my life a mess."

The Indiana native's story bears similarities to dozens of other reports by women who have accused the military of mishandling their cases. But Kaelin's ordeal has raised new concerns that have drawn the attention of top Pentagon officials: delays in the processing of forensic evidence so crucial to prosecuting rape cases.

A Sheppard spokesman denied that Kaelin's criminal complaint was disregarded but acknowledged that delays were caused by "protracted" processing of evidence at an outside Army laboratory — a potentially widespread problem that Air Force Secretary James Roche says is being investigated throughout the service.

"We are committed to doing everything we can to take care of victims, and we're confident our commanders will make appropriate decisions in order that individual cases are accurately processed in a timely

SEE SHEPPARD ON 14A