

PICK Patrick Ramsey was a lock to make the roster once he signed.

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VICKI CRONIS/THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT

# Let 'em strike; we can find other ways to pass the time

**S**HOULD THE baseball players go on strike, sports fans can easily occupy themselves with the country's two national pastimes - pro football and waiting to hear if Michael Jordan is coming back again. **Now he tells them:** Yao Ming, the Houston Rockets' No. 1 draft pick, says he didn't dunk the ball in China because it's disrespectful to opponents. Just the kind of attitude you want in an NBA center. **Gray bar hotel:** Starting in October, ex-Cowboy fatty Nate

## Weekly Briefing



**BOB MOLINARO**

Newton will go on a weight-loss program, also known as prison food.

**No shows:** A sign that the Cowboys have fallen off America's radar screen: For the first time since 1990, Dallas

will not appear on Monday Night Football this season.

**Simply amazing:** In winning his 21st game Wednesday night, Curt Schilling swept through the first three innings on only 18 pitches, 17 of which were thrown for strikes. For the season, he has 259 strikeouts and only 20 walks.

**Net results:** Nataly Cahana, a current Old Dominion University tennis All-American, keeps winning, most recently

claiming the Virginia State women's singles title. Then she teamed with former Monarch Mily Kannarkat to win the doubles.

**Cool reception:** I'm still waiting for America to break out in a rash over Barry Bonds' 600th home run.

**Shut him up:** Why should football players be seen and not heard? Arkansas' Jermaine Brooks on what it's like to play nose guard: "It's like Vietnam in there. Every play is like a war." Brooks sounds like he's played too many downs without a helmet.

**Police blotter:** It's no accident that the Southeastern Conference developed a reputation for cheating. At the moment, six SEC football programs are either on probation (Kentucky, Alabama) or undergoing NCAA investigation (Tennessee, LSU, Arkansas, Mississippi State).

**In passing:** I don't trust the accuracy of those radar guns used to clock tennis serves and fastballs. I'm convinced they register a little high. This is the same argument I use on state troopers.

**No kidding:** Ed Headrick, the man who patented the Frisbee, died recently at 78. By his request, his ashes will be molded into memorial disks.

**Dynamic duo:** Just as they did as players, Magic Johnson and Larry

**Some of us will be watching Mister Wizard — will he stay or will he go?**

Bird will combine to enhance the NBA's image when Bird stands up for Johnson at Magic's Hall of Fame induction next month.

**Outdoor life:** We're accustomed to reading about athletes running afoul of the authorities, but for violating fishing laws? Wizards first draft pick Jared Jeffries was fined \$150 for keeping too many bass he pulled from an Indiana fishing hole.

**Wondering:** Think we might see more triples in the big leagues if fewer players preened after hitting the ball deep?

**Re-Pete:** After

