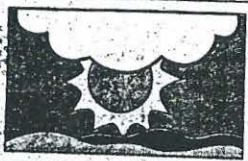


O'Dowd bounces

THIRTY-FIVE CENTS



Cloudy, unsettled
— full weather, A-2

The Argus

of FREMONT, NEWARK and UNION CITY CALIFORNIA

Logan from playoffs / SPORTS DAY

SATURDAY, MARCH 4, 1995



Timely addition

Oakland's Amtrak station receives a new clock, but the status of the station's main commuter line is in doubt. [A-4]

Argus

and UNION CITY CALIFORNIA

Taxing situation: Umpires cry foul over MVAL tactics

By Matt Malocco
STAFF WRITER

FREMONT — This storyline is not original: Replacements are being sought so ball games can be played.

However, the players are already in place. It is umpires who are needed.

The Mission Valley Athletic League, comprised of seven high schools in the Tri-Cities, said Friday it will begin recruiting and certifying replacement baseball and softball umpires to work this season.

More than 20 MVAL home games have already been affected by an impasse involving the Fremont Umpires Association and the North Coast Section. Without umpires, the games have either been postponed, switched to road games or played as unofficial scrimmages.

"I'm surprised and chagrined," said FUA board member Walt Wood when informed of the league's decision to seek replacements just three days before a scheduled meeting between the sides arranged by the office of Rep. Pete Stark.

The dispute involves the wording in a mandatory NCS accreditation form. The umpires have refused to submit the application because they believe it could jeopardize their tax standing as independent contractors.

"The MVAL is seeking umpires by surveying the employees of its member school districts and welcoming individual umpires from the Fremont Umpires Association and North Coast Section accredited umpires association," stated a release sent from the league office Friday.

The MVAL is a member league of the NCS. Only NCS certified umpires are permitted to work games for the league.

The league's three school district superintendents supported the decision to recruit and certify umpires for the season. The FUA was set to enter the final year of a multi-year contract with the league.

MVAL board of managers president John DiPaola said the superintendents contacted lawyers, who believe the FUA's contract is "not exclusive." The FUA believes the contract is binding and will move forward with

appropriate legal action, Wood said.

The first meeting between the conflicting parties is scheduled for Monday. At the urging of Stark's office, the umpires will meet with the NCS and MVAL. Ben Triposis, a Stark aide, will mediate.

"I'm still anticipating moderating a meeting Monday afternoon in Fremont, unless anyone tells me otherwise," Triposis said.

DiPaola said the league had no choice to

Please see **Umpires**, A-15

FATE NOT YET SEALED



LED



Catellus pulls rug on project

Pacific Greens faces rezoning

Pacific Greens business park? Fremont learns the fate of 600 acres on Monday

pinpointing a precise time she said she saw the Bronco parked out- p.m. on the night of suggesting in at least that it was about 10:20 p.m., but other he could not be sure 10 p.m. it was.

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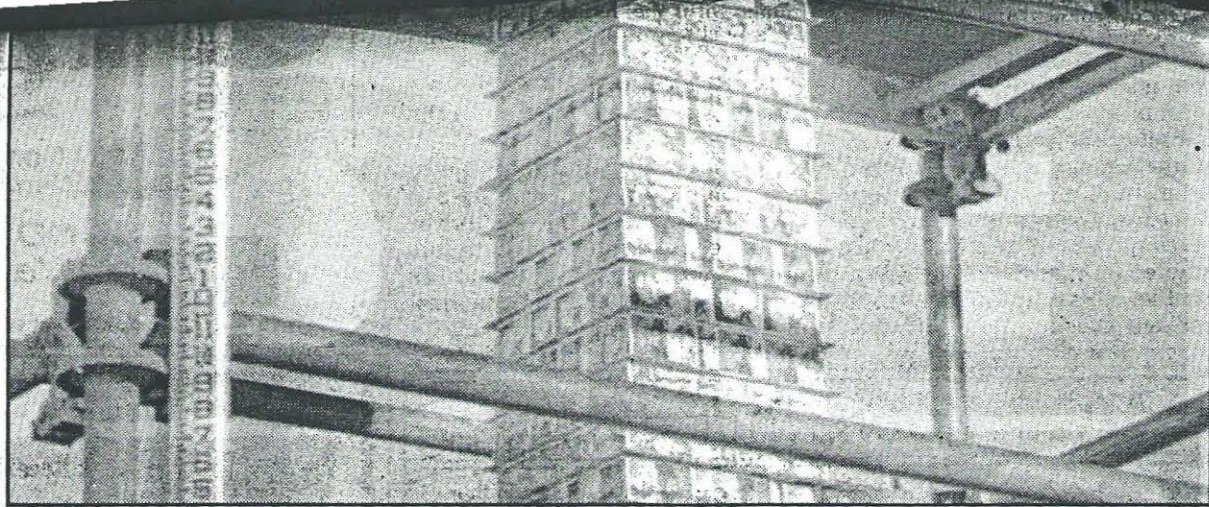
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ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bryan Berg, 20, of Spirit Lake, Iowa, stands on scaffolding as he applies the final story of cards to a record 16-foot, 1-inch tall house of cards Friday in Boston. The structure took more than 23,000 cards and 70 hours to build. Berg beat his own record of 15 feet, 8 inches set in 1992.

Umpires: Hope for resolution to prep officiating impasse

Continued from A-1

move ahead seeking replacement umpires prior to the meeting Monday. He remains guardedly optimistic something can be resolved.

"I'm always hopeful, but I didn't see the two sides moving," DiPaola said.

The MVAL will even be looking to secure members of the currently unaccredited FUA to serve as replacements.

"As far as them seeking our officials, our officials are free to work for whomever they want because they're independent contractors," Wood said. "Obviously, they're independent contractors; that's what we're fighting for."

However, it is unlikely any FUA members will seek individual certifi-

cation through the MVAL. Wood said the organization's 40 members who umpire high school baseball and softball have voted unanimously to stay united in the conflict with the NCS.

The FUA is the first association in the NCS to question the form, which was mandatory for the first time this school year for officials in all sports.

Two years ago the FUA was audited by the state, so its members are sensitive about the distinction between independent contractor and employer.

That ambiguous line may soon disappear. Last Friday, a bill was introduced by Assemblyman Tom Hannigan (D-Fairfield) that calls for amateur sports officials to be de-

clared independent contractors. Five states already have such legislation, and three more have had cases decided by the courts.

San Francisco attorney Don Collins, who helped draft the model legislation, said the implications of officials, schools or sections being deemed employers would be disastrous to amateur sports because of the increased costs that would follow.

"Hopefully, when this is over, there will be sufficient guidance through legislation so that the problems like those involving the Fremont association and the NCS will never again have to occur," Collins said.

Fans battle at basketball game

By Robert Salladay
STAFF WRITER

OAKLAND — A championship basketball game between two Oakland high schools ended in a near-riot Friday night after about 300 spectators battled each other, throwing rocks and bottles at a battalion of police.

Two officers suffered minor injuries from punches and flying objects as they waded into the melee about 9 p.m. outside the Henry J. Kaiser Convention Center near Lake Merritt.

In addition, two teen-age girls were arrested. One girl reported

Police Lt. Ron Herron said the fight broke out after an Oakland Athletic League championship game between Fremont and McClymonds high schools. Fremont won the championship 53-52 with no time left after James Thompson sank a free throw shot.

"It was very close. The crowd emptied out of the arena. People came out, and some were happy and some were mad," Herron said. "Two girls started to fight and it just spread."

The melee soon grew into a fight between about 300 spectators

Police divided the crowd and sent them running into a nearby park and back toward downtown. Officers spent the next hour dispersing crowds throughout the immediate area as a police helicopter circled and illuminated the park and city streets.

McClymonds beat Fremont on Thursday night in the first of two championship games.

It was considered a big upset that likely sent more McClymonds fans to the second game on Friday night.

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