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'Dream Team' coach dies aged 78

Chuck Daly's striking appearance - his finely tailored suits and his meticulously combed hair - sometimes overshadowed his skills as a basketball coach.

But Daly showed time and again as a head coach at every level - in college at Penn. in the NBA with the Detroit Pistons, and internationally with the original U.S. Olympic Dream Team - his talent as a keen basketball strategist able to mesh players with dissimilar personalities into a successful team.

Daly, who won four Ivy League championships with Penn and two NBA titles with the Detroit Pistons, and coached the Dream Team to an Olympic gold medal in 1992, died on Saturday morning of pancreatic cancer at his home in Jupiter, Fla. He was 78.

Daly won 638 games in 14 seasons as an NBA head coach with Cleveland, Detroit, New Jersey and Orlando, and led his team into the playoffs 12 times. His nine seasons with the Pistons included NBA titles in 1989 and 1990.

He resigned from the Pistons after the 1991-92 season, saying that his players "needed to hear another voice." That summer, however, he led a team that included Michael Jordan, Magic Johnson, Charles Barkley, and Larry Bird to the gold medal, the first time the United States had gone with an Olympic team of NBA players.

Daly was inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame in 1994. The NBA Coaches Association had dedicated



In this July 27, 1992, file photo, U.S. men's basketball coach Chuck Daly talks with the team during a preliminary-round basketball game with Croatia at the Summer Olympics in Barcelona, Spain. Daly, who coached the Dream Team to the Olympic gold medal in 1992 after winning back-to-back NBA championships, died Saturday, May 9, 2009, in Jupiter, Fla. (AP)

the 2009 playoffs to him, and all coaches are wearing "CD" pins on the sidelines in his honour.

Born Charles Jerome Daly on July 20, 1930, in St. Mary's, Pa., he graduated from Kane Area High School and attended St. Bonaventure before transferring to Bloomsburg State (now Bloomsburg University), where he averaged 13.0 points in two seasons.

After two years in the military, he got his first head coaching job at Pottsville High School, where he spent eight years before moving up to the college ranks in 1963 as an assistant at Duke. His first college head coaching experience was at Boston College, where he succeeded Bob Cousy and went 26-24 for two seasons.

Daly took over as Penn's head coach in 1971 and compiled a 125-38 record in six seasons, including a 20-5 mark in Big Five games. One of his players during that time was Ed Stefanski, now president and general manager of the Sixers.

Daly was ready to begin a seventh season with the Quakers when the 76ers, and new head coach Billy Cunningham, came calling to offer him a job as assistant coach.

"Billy hadn't coached at any level, not

even CYO, and he wanted Chuck on the staff," Williams recalled. "I met Chuck after a practice and asked if he'd rather be an NBA assistant than a college head coach. He said he wanted to be in the NBA. Penn's administrators gave me the green light, and I paid him \$35,000.

"Any time I saw Chuck after that, he'd always say 'You stole me. You got me on the cheap.'"

Winning with 'Bad Boys'

Daly learned early on that the NBA was a players' league, and he found a way to get disparate personalities to play as a team. He managed to unite the "Bad Boys," Bill Laimbeer and Rick Mahorn, with the unpredictable Dennis Rodman and Hall of Fame guards Joe Dumars and Thomas.

"Part of my philosophy," Daly said during that time, "is that everybody gets their slice of the pie along the way if they're willing to hang in there. If you have the ability, you'll get the chance."

While basketball purists grumbled over the Pistons' rough style of play, Detroit found success, defeating the Los Angeles Lakers for the 1989 championship and doing the same the next season by beating the Portland Trail

Blazers.

"He was always so positive," Massimino said. "He changed the structure of NBA coaching with his style. He knew how to handle all his players. You mention Dennis Rodman - Dennis loved him like a father. Dennis used to go to his house on Christmas and bring him gifts. That's the way Chuck was."

Daly's ability to relate to players helped him as he entered the pressure cooker of coaching NBA players in the 1992 Barcelona Olympics. With the world watching, he found ways to keep all his superstars happy and productive while using a different lineup in each game.

Two of those players remembered him yesterday.

"Chuck was a great leader," Michael Jordan said. "I only wish I could have played for him outside of the Dream Team."

"In 1992, he handled that team and its talent as well as anybody could," Larry Bird said. "He treated us all with respect and had us all vying for the same goal. For me, it was an honor to play for him."

Daly is survived by his wife, Terry; his daughter, Courtney; and grandchildren Sabrina and Connor.

Telegraph

Kingswood expose St. Joseph's

by Rukshan Razak

Defending champions Kingswood College, Kandy ran riot over St. Joseph's College as they annihilated last year's 'B' Division champions in their inter-school under-20 rugby league match by a massive 51 points to 8 at Royal College Sports Complex at Reid Avenue yesterday.

The proceedings during the first half were largely quiet as the Randle Hills boys took an 11-0 lead, but what followed after the break was mayhem.

Pre-match predictions were that this encounter would turn out to be a thriller after St. Joseph's registered a sensational win against Trinity College, but it turned out to be an anticlimax as the Joes display of rugby was nothing better than that of the minnows.

In contrast, the huge score card does not reflect the true picture of the Kingswoodians too since they missed out a number of good moves that could have been transformed into points in spite of the fact that they reached almost a cricketer's score of a half a century. The lads from Randle Hills did not live up to expectations particularly in ball handling and it seemed that they could not execute their game plan quite well. Had they been smarter in that department they could have reached a record breaking score this season to replace their previous best of 81-0 against Mahanama last week.

The Joes on the other hand were on the attack during the first 15 minutes of play but the stiff defence of Kingswood left no room for the Joes to budge. Thus, their attack eventually died a natural death. Lack of a proper game plan and being disoriented to a great extent caused their downfall in this encounter, while the aggressive play that they displayed in Pollokdale last week against Trinity was hardly witnessed in yesterday's game.

The winners collected their points off five goals, two tries and two penalties while Joes shot back with a solitary try and adding to that were two penalties.

It was almost a shared effort in respect to try scoring for the boys of Randle Hills and doing the honours were wing-three-quarter Indul Bandara, scrum-half Mohamed Adzal, centre Sanjaya Weerasinghe, wing-three-quarter Prabath Jayalath, full-back Rajitha Sanson, flanker Jananath Dharmawardana and skipper cum fly-half Roshan Weeraratne. They all contributed with a try apiece while skipper Weeraratne as usual had his boots tied this day too and managed to put through five conversions gang on target in addition to two penalties that he fired across.

For St. Joseph's, it was second row S. Dasanayake who scored the solitary try and taking the kicks was his number eight Malintha Soysa who succeeded in putting over two penalties to reduce the gap.

Dilroy Fernando refereed.

Button wins Spanish Grand Prix

BARCELONA, Spain (AP) - Jenson Button won his fourth Formula One race of the season on Sunday by taking the Spanish Grand Prix ahead of Brazil GP teammate Rubens Barrichello.

Button's two-stop strategy proved decisive as he became the ninth straight winner from pole position at the Circuit de Catalunya, even after Barrichello overtook him out of the start.

"I crossed the line first and this is a race where I didn't really think I was going to," Button said.

Barrichello's extra pit stop allowed Button to make up the difference, and the Briton won by 13 seconds to extend his championship lead over his teammate to 14 points after five races.

"I had the race in my hands and I was quite surprised when they told me they were switching Jenson to two (stops)," Barrichello said. "I would like to understand why they changed that."

Mark Webber finished third ahead of Red Bull teammate Sebastian Vettel, who trails Button by 18 points in third overall.

Webber overtook Vettel in the closing laps for his second top-three finish of the season after Vettel had finally passed Felipe Massa with four laps remaining following a battle between the two drivers throughout the 66-lap race.

Massa would eventually finish sixth - behind Renault's Fernando Alonso - as Ferrari remained without a podium finish for its longest opening period of a season since 1993.

BMW Sauber's Nick Heidfeld was seventh, while Nico Rosberg of Williams picked up the final point in eighth place.

Button leads with 41 points, Barrichello has 27 and Vettel 23.

Button is off to the most dominating start to a season since Michael Schumacher won the last of his seven titles for Ferrari five years ago.

"It gives me a lot of confidence for the rest of the season," Button said. "Even when times are tough, we've been able to get the wins. I feel on top of the world."

But it didn't look so certain early on.

Barrichello overtook Button on the outside to hit the lead, while Massa applied a boost of KERS to pass Vettel down the long straight into the first corner to sit third.

"I had a great start and went to the lead. I was running a tiny bit quicker than Jenson to begin with," Barrichello said. "Then they changed the strategy and I had to keep on pushing."

Barrichello stretched his lead over Button to nearly eight seconds after all the leaders had visited the pits. But then came the strategy change, which left both drivers a little puzzled.

"Initially, I didn't think it was a good idea," said Button, who called it one of his most aggressive drives. "That's not normally my style but it's the style I had to take on this race. Every lap was flat out."

But Barrichello's second stop - with 35 laps remaining - saw him return fourth behind Vettel,

with Button opening up some distance before his second pit with 19 laps left.

Button was in front for good with 16 laps remaining when Barrichello, who was No. 2 to Schumacher at Ferrari for many years, pitted for the last time three laps later.

"My third set of tires was not good - I couldn't keep my pace up," Barrichello said. "From there on it was a struggle, a big struggle to keep the car on the track. I then had to go flat-out. And I did, but I couldn't do anything better."

Defending champion Lewis Hamilton of McLaren finished ninth, while Ferrari's Kimi Raikkonen retired early with a mechanical problem soon after four cars exited following separate accidents after the first corner.

Heidfeld finished his 33rd straight race. The German's last retirement was at Indianapolis in 2007.

The next stop on the calendar is the Monaco GP.



Britain GP driver Jenson Button of Britain celebrates with champagne after winning the Spanish Formula One Grand Prix at the Circuit de Catalunya racetrack on Sunday, May 10, 2009 in Montmelo, near Barcelona, Spain. (AP)