

## Squires Shaking Heads 10/175

# ...And Now for the Bad News

By NELSON BROWN

Virginian-Pilot Sports Writer

VIRGINIA BEACH—With Mack Calvin sitting out an expected two months, Mike Green out at least until the regular-season opener Oct. 24, Dave Twardzik sick and David Vaughn giving no significant signs of a return to form, Jack Ankerson found himself a man bewildered Tuesday as he rose to address the Virginia Beach Sports Club.

"It's like a black cloud has descended over us," the general manager of the Squires said gingerly, hoping his words might be heard by a Force with a sympathetic ear.

Then Ankerson began relating his ABA team's tale of woe—oh yes, don't forget the dislocated thumb of Darrell Elston—with a final reminder that all cannot remain so bleak.

"After all," said Ankerson, "it's better for these things to happen early in the season than later. We're gonna be a good club, and we'll be ready by the time the playoffs roll around."

So much for the bad news.

Now for the Squire fan who asks, "What can happen next?" It did—already.

The Squires missed their plane home Monday night after absorbing their fourth straight exhibition defeat in Asheville, N.C., the Squires had been promised their flight would be held if the team was late.

So what happens? The team arrives and the plane is six minutes airborne. Back into town, find a motel, and spend the night—minus such overnight amenities as a toothbrush.

That plane wouldn't have dared allow the Denver Nuggets to miss it, of course. But right now the Squires are so low that, well, everything and everybody seems to be against them.

So much for more bad news.

Now for the good news.

Ticky Burden, it seems, has rapidly become "a player." In coaching terms, "a player" is a guy who can shoot, score the works.

While the Squires did lose, 114-111, to

David Thompson and the Nuggets in Asheville, Burden scored 33 points. It was the sort of show the Squires will need more of to stay competitive until Calvin returns to the backcourt.

"Ticky Burden, mercy, can he shoot the basketball," exclaimed Ankerson to the gathering. "This morning's Asheville paper ran the headline 'Denver, Thompson Beat Squires But Burden Steals the Show'."

"We had thought we might have to bring him along slowly," Ankerson said of the 6-2 rookie out of Utah, "but he's playing like a veteran."

Burden played only 12 minutes in the exhibition opener against Houston, when he left early with five fouls. But he has averaged 24.3 points in the last three games and is hitting 52 per cent of his shots for a team that is managing a mediocre 43 per cent.

"When everyone gets healthy, when we can put our whole team together, we're gonna be good," Ankerson implored his listeners to believe.

A couple more Ticky Burdens might help, though.

October 13, 1975

TO MY SCIENTISTS...as you know from your file material, some years ago I attacked the Norfolk Squires ABA basketball team...when they were ahead of New York in the champ playoffs 3-1, and helped New York win the next three games and beat the Squires. But since that time...the PK has 'grown', like corn in a field...and the owner went bankrupt and the team has fallen to pieces.

It is important...to keep an eye on these things...so that you can see how devastating are these other-dimensional powers that I utilize, with UFO help. Fear in mind...years ago I attacked the Philadelphia Eagles with PK power...and their owner, Jerry Wolman, went bankrupt and the team fell apart and for years has been a laughing-stock of pro football. (Now the effects just might be wearing off. But the effects for the Eagles go back to 1966-67...the beginning of the attack. So after I attack a team with PK...it takes years and years and years for them to recover from the effects.)

Next, as you know from your files and newspaper write-ups...I attacked the Baltimore Colts, then owned by Rosenblum. He was smarter than the others and didn't wait to go bankrupt...but traded his pro team for the Los Angeles Rams. The Colts fell apart and they, too, became a laughingstock of pro football. Just fell apart.

"Hindsight" reveals a great deal...with reference to the effectiveness of my 150 "PK" mechanisms.

Gwens XPK Man X

# Squires' Dream Now Ruptured Nightmare

By MIKE LITTWIN

Virginian-Pilot Sports Writer

Looking back on the disaster of Saturday night, the Squires can only wish it was a bad dream.

It wasn't.

Mack Calvin, the key to the Squires' offense, is indeed out for probably two months with a ruptured tendon in his left knee. The return of Mike Green, the hub of the defense, is more than two weeks away. And the curious virus that has at-

tacked Dave Twardzik, probably the best reserve guard in the ABA, lingers still.

Thus the men of Al Bianchi, already winless in three exhibition games, appear to be in for another rough time of it tonight, in Asheville, N.C., where they will take on the Denver Nuggets and David Thompson at 7:30.

"I'm not really feeling any better," said Twardzik, who sat out the second half of Saturday night's 130-113 loss to Philadelphia with complaints of dizziness and chest pains. "I've been resting all day, taking

fluids and aspirin. Hopefully, I'll be able to play against Denver."

Obviously concerned for his team's mental state, Bianchi will feel much relieved if Twardzik is on hand. Otherwise, the Squires will be without a proven playmaker.

"After the game," Twardzik said, "Al asked me to go if I could. That will have to weigh heavily in my decision."

There is no telling what the Squires' starting lineup will be. If Twardzik makes it, he'll team with Ticky Burden in back-

court. Otherwise, it will be Burden and Johnny Neumann. The forwards almost certainly will be Willie Wise and Jan van Breda Kolff.

At center there remains much question. The Squires have been outrebounded in each of their three games—at times badly—and David Vaughn has been woefully erratic. Neither of the rookies, Rick Darnell and Bill Bunton, has been particularly impressive.

**FAST BREAKS**—Marvin Webster, the Nuggets' other bonus baby, may be out for

the season with hepatitis. There is some talk the Nuggets are trying to void his generous contract, claiming prior illness. Former Squire George Irvine will be in Asheville, but not Fatty Taylor, who has been having contractual differences with the Nuggets. Bad luck seems to be haunting all the Squires. General partner Van Cunningham's Rolls Royce reportedly was vandalized in the Hampton Coliseum parking lot Saturday night. The Squires play Thursday in Salisbury, Md., against the Baltimore Claws and Sunday in Scope against Chicago of the NBA.

Evens (XPKMan)

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# Phnom Penh considers prospect of

## LONDON TIMES unconditional surrender

Discussions on the possibility of Phnom Penh's unconditional surrender to the attacking communist forces were said by reliable sources to be going on yesterday among the Cambodian leaders in the capital. However, Mr Long Boret, the Prime Minister, on his way home from Bali, said the capital "will not fall". Meanwhile, there were reports of widespread cannibalism among starving Government troops. In Washington General Frederick Weyand, the Army Chief of Staff, back from Saigon, reported that there was virtually no hope of saving South Vietnam.

### Cannibalism practised by Cambodian troops

From Bruce Palling  
Phnom Penh, April 6.

Unpaid Government soldiers killed and ate their paymaster only a mile away from the besieged Cambodian capital, it was reported here today.

In their reaction to the incident military observers seemed more concerned with the maintenance of discipline among the troops than with revulsion over the acts of cannibalism.

An inspection of the troops at a Buddhist temple where they have been temporarily stationed south-east of Phnom Penh has revealed that thousands of starving people have taken part in acts of cannibalism recently.

The paymaster was killed in a shooting incident, according to observers on the scene, when he refused to hand the soldiers their monthly pay of 14,000 riels (about £3) until they went to the northern front—about seven miles away. A superior officer was also shot and killed.

The soldiers had been airlifted from the besieged provincial capital of Kompong Seila late last week after the Government decided to abandon the town, about 70 miles south-west of Phnom Penh in

order to bring more troops into the capital. The troops, then numbering 1,500, and 5,000 inhabitants lived under siege from last May until January when pressure eased on the positions with the Khmer Rouge concentrating their efforts on their offensive against Phnom Penh.

A captain interviewed today said that everyone in his battalion of 500 men had eaten the corpses of Khmer Rouge killed in the fighting because they were starving.

"We ate grass, lizards and banana leaves and finally Khmer Rouge—everyone ate them, men, women and children", the captain said.

During the weekend, about 80 employees of the American Vinnell Corporation, which maintains and trains the Cambodian Army, withdrew entirely at the orders of the State Department in Washington.

The American Embassy also withdrew up to 30 of its 200 employees during the past four days in case the military situation deteriorates rapidly or Congress refuses to grant supplemental military aid to Cambodia when it reconvenes on Monday.

Scientists... in my former  
written predictions... I  
predicted the fall of South  
Vietnam... also cannibalism  
in 1975! *Omens*