

Sabonis Could Start Russian Stream To NBA

NEW YORK (AP) — The National Basketball Association said Monday it has met with the Soviet Union on the possibility of allowing Soviet players to play in the league.

There have been discussions with the State Committee for Sport and the State Committee for Television and Radio of the USSR," Gary Bettman, NBA general counsel, said. "These discussions have covered a wide range of subjects, including... the possibility of circumstances under which Soviet players may play in the NBA. These discussions are ongoing on all topics, and although significant progress has been made, nothing has been finalized yet."

NBA Commissioner David Stern returns from the Soviet Union this week amid reports that the league is close to an agreement that would allow two Soviet players to play in the NBA after the Olympic Games. Stern met with Soviet sports officials last week at the same time the Atlanta Hawks were playing a three-game series with the Soviet national team.

The Atlanta Constitution reported Sunday that the NBA and Soviet sports officials are close to a deal that would allow center Arvydas Sabonis to play for the Portland Trail Blazers and guard Sharunas Marculionis to play for Atlanta.

In addition to discussions on Soviet players, Bettman said the Soviets also talked with the NBA about sponsored telecasts of NBA games, the sale of NBA licensed products and continued cooperation between the NBA and the Soviets on clinics for coaches, players and referees.

Trail Blazers owner Paul Allen was upbeat about the prospects of Sabonis playing for Portland.

"I'm waiting for Harry to come back," Allen said Sunday night. "I'll sit down and talk with him when he gets back. I remain optimistic."

Allen was asked whether the Blazers would reach a contract agreement with Sabonis or with the Soviet sports authorities, who would then pay Sabonis a stipend.

"That's really an issue for the whole league," Allen said. "That's something that David Stern has been spending a lot of time thinking about."

Sabonis left for home last week after spending three months in Portland rehabilitating a ruptured Achilles' tendon.

Another issue is whether the Soviets' pay would count on an NBA team's salary cap. The Trail Blazers, after signing center Kevin Duckworth to an eight-year, \$16 million contract, don't have much room under the cap.

Jack Schalow, a Portland assistant coach who spent several weeks working with Sabonis, said he thinks the 7-foot-2 center can be a good player.

"The whole thing is how quick he can pick up the English language so the coaching staff can have confidence in playing him."

"Communication with him is as big as anything. By the end of the season, he could contribute."

Coach Mike Schuler said it would take time for Sabonis to become adjusted to the NBA.

"He will also have tremendous pressure on him," Schuler said. "People cannot expect the world out of him."

ing on all topics, and although significant progress has been made, nothing has been finalized yet."

NBA Commissioner David Stern returns from the Soviet Union this week amid reports that the league is close to an agreement that would allow two Soviet players to play in the NBA after the Olympic Games. Stern met with Soviet sports officials last week at the same time the Atlanta Hawks were playing a three-game series with the Soviet national team.

The Atlanta Constitution reported Sunday that the NBA and Soviet sports officials are close to a deal that would allow center Arvydas Sabonis to play for the Portland Trail Blazers and guard Sharunas Marculionis to play for Atlanta.

In addition to discussions on Soviet players, Bettman said the Soviets also talked with the NBA about sponsored telecasts of NBA games, the sale of NBA licensed products and continued cooperation between the NBA and the Soviets on clinics for coaches, players and referees.

Trail Blazers owner Paul Allen was upbeat about the prospects of Sabonis playing for Portland.

"I'm waiting for Harry to come back," Allen said Sunday night. "I'll sit down and talk with him when he gets back. I remain optimistic."

Allen was asked whether the Blazers would reach a contract agreement with Sabonis or with the Soviet sports authorities, who would then pay Sabonis a stipend.

"That's really an issue for the whole league," Allen said. "That's something that David Stern has been spending a lot of time thinking about."

Sabonis left for home last week after spending three months in Portland rehabilitating a ruptured Achilles' tendon.

Another issue is whether the Soviets' pay would count on an NBA team's salary cap. The Trail Blazers, after signing center Kevin Duckworth to an eight-year, \$16 million contract, don't have much room under the cap.

Jack Schalow, a Portland assistant coach who spent several weeks working with Sabonis, said he thinks the 7-foot-2 center can be a good player.

"The whole thing is how quick he can pick up the English language so the coaching staff can have confidence in playing him."

"Communication with him is as big as anything. By the end of the season, he could contribute."

Coach Mike Schuler said it would take time for Sabonis to become adjusted to the NBA.

"He will also have tremendous pressure on him," Schuler said. "People cannot expect the world out of him."

ing on all topics, and although significant progress has been made, nothing has been finalized yet."

NBA Commissioner David Stern returns from the Soviet Union this week amid reports that the league is close to an agreement that would allow two Soviet players to play in the NBA after the Olympic Games. Stern met with Soviet sports officials last week at the same time the Atlanta Hawks were playing a three-game series with the Soviet national team.

The Atlanta Constitution reported Sunday that the NBA and Soviet sports officials are close to a deal that would allow center Arvydas Sabonis to play for the Portland Trail Blazers and guard Sharunas Marculionis to play for Atlanta.

In addition to discussions on Soviet players, Bettman said the Soviets also talked with the NBA about sponsored telecasts of NBA games, the sale of NBA licensed products and continued cooperation between the NBA and the Soviets on clinics for coaches, players and referees.

Trail Blazers owner Paul Allen was upbeat about the prospects of Sabonis playing for Portland.

"I'm waiting for Harry to come back," Allen said Sunday night. "I'll sit down and talk with him when he gets back. I remain optimistic."

Allen was asked whether the Blazers would reach a contract agreement with Sabonis or with the Soviet sports authorities, who would then pay Sabonis a stipend.

"That's really an issue for the whole league," Allen said. "That's something that David Stern has been spending a lot of time thinking about."

Sabonis left for home last week after spending three months in Portland rehabilitating a ruptured Achilles' tendon.

Another issue is whether the Soviets' pay would count on an NBA team's salary cap. The Trail Blazers, after signing center Kevin Duckworth to an eight-year, \$16 million contract, don't have much room under the cap.

Jack Schalow, a Portland assistant coach who spent several weeks working with Sabonis, said he thinks the 7-foot-2 center can be a good player.

"The whole thing is how quick he can pick up the English language so the coaching staff can have confidence in playing him."

"Communication with him is as big as anything. By the end of the season, he could contribute."

Coach Mike Schuler said it would take time for Sabonis to become adjusted to the NBA.

"He will also have tremendous pressure on him," Schuler said. "People cannot expect the world out of him."

ing on all topics, and although significant progress has been made, nothing has been finalized yet."

NBA Commissioner David Stern returns from the Soviet Union this week amid reports that the league is close to an agreement that would allow two Soviet players to play in the NBA after the Olympic Games. Stern met with Soviet sports officials last week at the same time the Atlanta Hawks were playing a three-game series with the Soviet national team.

The Atlanta Constitution reported Sunday that the NBA and Soviet sports officials are close to a deal that would allow center Arvydas Sabonis to play for the Portland Trail Blazers and guard Sharunas Marculionis to play for Atlanta.

In addition to discussions on Soviet players, Bettman said the Soviets also talked with the NBA about sponsored telecasts of NBA games, the sale of NBA licensed products and continued cooperation between the NBA and the Soviets on clinics for coaches, players and referees.

Trail Blazers owner Paul Allen was upbeat about the prospects of Sabonis playing for Portland.

"I'm waiting for Harry to come back," Allen said Sunday night. "I'll sit down and talk with him when he gets back. I remain optimistic."

Allen was asked whether the Blazers would reach a contract agreement with Sabonis or with the Soviet sports authorities, who would then pay Sabonis a stipend.

"That's really an issue for the whole league," Allen said. "That's something that David Stern has been spending a lot of time thinking about."

Sabonis left for home last week after spending three months in Portland rehabilitating a ruptured Achilles' tendon.

Another issue is whether the Soviets' pay would count on an NBA team's salary cap. The Trail Blazers, after signing center Kevin Duckworth to an eight-year, \$16 million contract, don't have much room under the cap.

Jack Schalow, a Portland assistant coach who spent several weeks working with Sabonis, said he thinks the 7-foot-2 center can be a good player.

"The whole thing is how quick he can pick up the English language so the coaching staff can have confidence in playing him."

"Communication with him is as big as anything. By the end of the season, he could contribute."

Coach Mike Schuler said it would take time for Sabonis to become adjusted to the NBA.

"He will also have tremendous pressure on him," Schuler said. "People cannot expect the world out of him."

ing on all topics, and although significant progress has been made, nothing has been finalized yet."

NBA Commissioner David Stern returns from the Soviet Union this week amid reports that the league is close to an agreement that would allow two Soviet players to play in the NBA after the Olympic Games. Stern met with Soviet sports officials last week at the same time the Atlanta Hawks were playing a three-game series with the Soviet national team.

The Atlanta Constitution reported Sunday that the NBA and Soviet sports officials are close to a deal that would allow center Arvydas Sabonis to play for the Portland Trail Blazers and guard Sharunas Marculionis to play for Atlanta.

In addition to discussions on Soviet players, Bettman said the Soviets also talked with the NBA about sponsored telecasts of NBA games, the sale of NBA licensed products and continued cooperation between the NBA and the Soviets on clinics for coaches, players and referees.

Trail Blazers owner Paul Allen was upbeat about the prospects of Sabonis playing for Portland.

"I'm waiting for Harry to come back," Allen said Sunday night. "I'll sit down and talk with him when he gets back. I remain optimistic."

Allen was asked whether the Blazers would reach a contract agreement with Sabonis or with the Soviet sports authorities, who would then pay Sabonis a stipend.

"That's really an issue for the whole league," Allen said. "That's something that David Stern has been spending a lot of time thinking about."

Sabonis left for home last week after spending three months in Portland rehabilitating a ruptured Achilles' tendon.

Another issue is whether the Soviets' pay would count on an NBA team's salary cap. The Trail Blazers, after signing center Kevin Duckworth to an eight-year, \$16 million contract, don't have much room under the cap.

Jack Schalow, a Portland assistant coach who spent several weeks working with Sabonis, said he thinks the 7-foot-2 center can be a good player.

"The whole thing is how quick he can pick up the English language so the coaching staff can have confidence in playing him."

"Communication with him is as big as anything. By the end of the season, he could contribute."

Coach Mike Schuler said it would take time for Sabonis to become adjusted to the NBA.

"He will also have tremendous pressure on him," Schuler said. "People cannot expect the world out of him."

ing on all topics, and although significant progress has been made, nothing has been finalized yet."

NBA Commissioner David Stern returns from the Soviet Union this week amid reports that the league is close to an agreement that would allow two Soviet players to play in the NBA after the Olympic Games. Stern met with Soviet sports officials last week at the same time the Atlanta Hawks were playing a three-game series with the Soviet national team.

The Atlanta Constitution reported Sunday that the NBA and Soviet sports officials are close to a deal that would allow center Arvydas Sabonis to play for the Portland Trail Blazers and guard Sharunas Marculionis to play for Atlanta.

In addition to discussions on Soviet players, Bettman said the Soviets also talked with the NBA about sponsored telecasts of NBA games, the sale of NBA licensed products and continued cooperation between the NBA and the Soviets on clinics for coaches, players and referees.

Trail Blazers owner Paul Allen was upbeat about the prospects of Sabonis playing for Portland.

"I'm waiting for Harry to come back," Allen said Sunday night. "I'll sit down and talk with him when he gets back. I remain optimistic."

Allen was asked whether the Blazers would reach a contract agreement with Sabonis or with the Soviet sports authorities, who would then pay Sabonis a stipend.

"That's really an issue for the whole league," Allen said. "That's something that David Stern has been spending a lot of time thinking about."

Sabonis left for home last week after spending three months in Portland rehabilitating a ruptured Achilles' tendon.

Another issue is whether the Soviets' pay would count on an NBA team's salary cap. The Trail Blazers, after signing center Kevin Duckworth to an eight-year, \$16 million contract, don't have much room under the cap.

Jack Schalow, a Portland assistant coach who spent several weeks working with Sabonis, said he thinks the 7-foot-2 center can be a good player.

"The whole thing is how quick he can pick up the English language so the coaching staff can have confidence in playing him."

"Communication with him is as big as anything. By the end of the season, he could contribute."

Coach Mike Schuler said it would take time for Sabonis to become adjusted to the NBA.

"He will also have tremendous pressure on him," Schuler said. "People cannot expect the world out of him."

Sports Scoreboard

AL Standings

AMERICAN LEAGUE		National League		
W	L	Pct.	GB	
East Division				
Detroit	61	42	.592	0
New York	50	53	.488	1
Boston	60	43	.583	1
Cleveland	52	53	.493	10
Milwaukee	52	54	.491	10 1/2
Toronto	42	54	.437	19 1/2
Baltimore	32	71	.311	29
West Division				
Oakland	63	41	.606	0
Minnesota	57	46	.553	6 1/2
California	54	51	.514	10 1/2
Kansas City	52	52	.505	11 1/2
Texas	48	57	.457	17 1/2
Chicago	46	59	.438	18 1/2
Seattle	40	65	.381	24 1/2

NL Standings

AMERICAN LEAGUE		National League		
W	L	Pct.	GB	
East Division				
New York	63	41	.606	0
Montreal	55	48	.534	7 1/2
Chicago	50	53	.485	12 1/2
Philadelphia	45	59	.433	18
St. Louis	45	59	.433	18
West Division				
Los Angeles	60	44	.577	0
San Francisco	57	48	.542	3
Houston	56	49	.533	4
Cincinnati	52	53	.495	8 1/2
San Diego	49	57	.462	12
Atlanta	35	70	.333	25 1/2

AL Leaders

Player	Team	Statistic
BATTING (312 at bats)—Boggs, Boston, .357; Puckett, Minnesota, .355; Winfield, New York, .346; Greenwell, Boston, .341; Brett, Kansas City, .339.		
RUNS—Canseco, Oakland, 87; Boggs, Boston, 78; Richardson, New York, 73; Winfield, New York, 70; Mollitor, Milwaukee, 68.		
RBI—Canseco, Oakland, 86; Greenwell, Boston, 84; Brett, Kansas City, 78; Winfield, New York, 73; Puckett, Minnesota, 77.		
HITS—Puckett, Minnesota, 150; Boggs, Boston, 135; Winfield, New York, 132; Franco, Cleveland, 129; Greenwell, Boston, 128.		
DOUBLES—Brett, Kansas City, 34; Gledhill, Minnesota, 30; Boggs, Boston, 29; Puckett, Minnesota, 27; Ray, California, 27.		
TRIPLES—Yount, Milwaukee, 9; Reynolds, Seattle, 8; Wilson, Kansas City, 7; Burks, Boston, 5; Garpo, Minnesota, 5; Manrique, Chicago, 5; Schofield, California, 5.		
HOME RUNS—Canseco, Oakland, 31; Gnetli, Minnesota, 24; McGriff, Toronto, 23; Carter, Cleveland, 20; Winfield, New York, 20.		
STOLEN BASES—R.Henderson, New York, 15; Pettit, Detroit, 14; Mollitor, Milwaukee, 28; Canseco, Oakland, 27; Redus, Chicago, 24.		
PITCHING (10 decisions)—Viola, Minnesota, 16.4, .800, 3.23; Clemens, Boston, 15.5, .750, 2.24; Robinson, Detroit, 12.4, 1.58, 2.86; Hurst, Boston, 11.4, .733, 3.11; Berenguer, Minnesota, 8.5, .727, 3.11; John, New York, 8.3, .727, 3.65; Russell, Texas, 8.3, .727, 3.37.		
STRIKEOUTS—Clemens, Boston, 232; Langston, Seattle, 162; Viola, Minnesota, 124; Guzman, Texas, 121; Hough, Texas, 121.		
SAVES—Eckersley, Oakland, 30; Reardon, Minnesota, 24; Plesek, Milwaukee, 25; Diones, Cleveland, 24; Thippen, Chicago, 21.		

NL Leaders

Player	Team	Statistic
BATTING (312 at bats)—G.Perry, Atlanta, .324; Dawson, Chicago, .318; Galarraga, Montreal, .316; Palmeiro, Chicago, .308; Sax, Los Angeles, .306.		
RUNS—Butler, San Francisco, 76; Strawberry, New York, 75; Bonds, Pittsburgh, 74; Gibson, Los Angeles, 72; Galarraga, Montreal, 71; Davis, Houston, 74; Strawberry, New York, 72; Vanslyke, Pittsburgh, 70; Bonilla, Pittsburgh, 65.		
RBI—McGee, St. Louis, 132; Galarraga, Montreal, 129; Sax, Los Angeles, 129; Palmeiro, Chicago, 126; Dawson, Chicago, 125.		
DOUBLES—Sabo, Cincinnati, 33; Galarraga, Montreal, 30; Hayes, Philadelphia, 27; Palmeiro, Chicago, 27; Bream, Pittsburgh, 26; Dumphy, Atlanta, 26.		
TRIPLES—Vanslyke, Pittsburgh, 14; Coleman, St. Louis, 10; Gant, Atlanta, 7; Samuel, Philadelphia, 7; Butler, San Francisco, 6; Rainey, Montreal, 6.		
HOME RUNS—Strawberry, New York, 28; Clark, San Francisco, 23; G Davis, Houston, 22; Galarraga, Montreal, 21; Dumphy, Atlanta, 19; Gibson, Los Angeles, 19.		
STOLEN BASES—Coleman, St. Louis, 54; GYound, Houston, 54; Osmith, St. Louis, 35; McGee, St. Louis, 34; Sabo, Cincinnati, 32.		
PITCHING (10 decisions)—Cone, New York, 10.2, .853, 2.47; J.Robinson, Pittsburgh, 8.2, .800, 3.00; Knepper, Houston, 7.8, .727, 3.02; Parrett, Montreal, 10.3, .769, 2.35; Scott, Houston, 10.3, .769, 2.91.		
STRIKEOUTS—Ryan, Houston, 157; DeLeon, St. Louis, 137; Scott, Houston, 129; Fernandez, New York, 121; Gooden, New York, 117; Leary, Los Angeles, 112.		
SAVES—Franco, Cincinnati, 22; Bedrosian, Philadelphia, 20; Worrell, St. Louis, 20; MadDavis, San Diego, 18; Osmith, Houston, 17; Gott, Pittsburgh, 17.		

Monday Sports Transactions

BASEBALL—American League—Cleveland Indians traded pitcher Greg Maddux to the Los Angeles Dodgers for pitcher Greg Maddux. Los Angeles Dodgers—Purchased pitcher Jose Gonzalez, outfielder from Albuquerque of the Pacific Coast League. San Francisco Giants—Purchased the contract of Ron Davis, pitcher, pitcher Terry Robinson, pitcher, on the 60-day disabled list.

BASKETBALL—National Basketball Association—Boston Celtics—Signed Reggie Lewis, forward, to a multiyear contract. Chicago Bulls—Agreed to terms with Sam Vincent, guard. Houston Rockets—Named John Killie assistant coach of personnel. Milwaukee Bucks—Signed Tito Horford, center, to a three-year contract. Phoenix Suns—Signed Andrew Lang, center, to a multiyear contract. Sacramento Kings—Signed Ricky Berry, guard, to a three-year contract. Seattle SuperSonics—Cot Henry Turner, forward, and Michael Tall, guard. Utah Jazz—Signed Bart Koford, guard, to a two-year contract.

Football—National Football League—Buffalo Bills—Cut Mike Aklis and Chas Fox, wide receivers; Willie Beecher, kicker; Tim Bockay, guard, and Kevin Starks, tight end. Signed Vincent Courville, wide receiver. Dallas Cowboys—Cut Tommy Duhon and Al Huges, defensive tackles; Tony Griffin and Sean Washington, cornerbacks; James Hardman, guard; Victor Harmon and Mark Wallace, linebackers; Alan Hooker, wide receiver; Harper Le-

Monday Sports Transactions

BASEBALL—American League—Cleveland Indians traded pitcher Greg Maddux to the Los Angeles Dodgers for pitcher Greg Maddux. Los Angeles Dodgers—Purchased pitcher Jose Gonzalez, outfielder from Albuquerque of the Pacific Coast League. San Francisco Giants—Purchased the contract of Ron Davis, pitcher, pitcher Terry Robinson, pitcher, on the 60-day disabled list.

BASKETBALL—National Basketball Association—Boston Celtics—Signed Reggie Lewis, forward, to a multiyear contract. Chicago Bulls—Agreed to terms with Sam Vincent, guard. Houston Rockets—Named John Killie assistant coach of personnel. Milwaukee Bucks—Signed Tito Horford, center, to a three-year contract. Phoenix Suns—Signed Andrew Lang, center, to a multiyear contract. Sacramento Kings—Signed Ricky Berry, guard, to a three-year contract. Seattle SuperSonics—Cot Henry Turner, forward, and Michael Tall, guard. Utah Jazz—Signed Bart Koford, guard, to a two-year contract.

Football—National Football League—Buffalo Bills—Cut Mike Aklis and Chas Fox, wide receivers; Willie Beecher, kicker; Tim Bockay, guard, and Kevin Starks, tight end. Signed Vincent Courville, wide receiver. Dallas Cowboys—Cut Tommy Duhon and Al Huges, defensive tackles; Tony Griffin and Sean Washington, cornerbacks; James Hardman, guard; Victor Harmon and Mark Wallace, linebackers; Alan Hooker, wide receiver; Harper Le-



PIRATE CRASH — Andy Van Slyke and Jose Lind collide chasing a flyball in a game earlier this season. The Pirates downed the Mets on Monday to keep the NL East race alive. (AP Laserphoto)

Giants Making The NL West Race Tight

The San Francisco Giants have lost four starters but rediscovered another.

With Dave Dravecky, Mike Krukow, Mike LaCoss and Terry Mulholland on the disabled list, the Giants turned to former All-Star Alee Hammaker for help. Hammaker, who began the season in the bullpen, pitched a five-hitter Monday night for his first victory in six starts as the Giants defeated the Houston Astros 4-1.

The Giants have won six straight and moved past Houston into second place in the National League West, 3 1/2 games behind the Los Angeles Dodgers, who lost 4-3 to Cincinnati.

"I feel good about going the distance. It's been a while," said Hammaker, 5-3, who pitched his first complete game since August of last season. "I was battling the whole game. I had to have good concentration."

Will Clark led the Giants' offense with two doubles and his 23rd homer and drove in two runs to give him a league-leading 81 RBI. But the first baseman preferred to talk about Hammaker.

The Astros, who took two out of three at Los Angeles last weekend, now trail the Dodgers by 4 1/2 games.

"It's a very important series. We're fighting for second place and the next couple of weeks we all (Dodgers, Astros, Giants) play each other, so it's a good opportunity to do something," Houston manager Hal Lanier said.

Nolan Ryan, 8-8, had 11 strikeouts in seven innings, the 179th time in his career he's struck out 10 or more in a game, and raised his major league-record career strikeout total to 4,703.

Reds 4, Dodgers 3

Chris Sabo's two-run single capped a four-run rally in the eighth inning and Danny Jackson won for the seventh time in eight starts to lead Cincinnati.

Jackson, 14-5, allowed seven hits in seven innings, struck out four and walked one in his first appearance ever against Los Angeles.

Pirates 7, Mets 2

Doug Drabek pitched six shutout innings and Mike LaValliere hit a two-run homer as Pittsburgh averted a four-game sweep at Shea Stadium.

The Pirates snapped New York's five-game winning streak and pulled to within four of the first-place Mets in the NL East. The teams play a four-game series in Pittsburgh starting Friday night.

LaValliere's homer broke a scoreless tie in the sixth. R.J. Reynolds had four hits and three stolen bases.

Drabek, 10-5, permitted six hits and won his fifth consecutive start. Dwight Gooden, 13-6, went 6-1-3 in innings and gave up four runs on 11 hits, matching the most he has allowed in his career.

Padres 6, Braves 3

Pinch-hitter John Kruk's two-run double highlighted a five-run sixth inning as San Diego handed Atlanta its seventh straight loss.

Ed Whitson, 10-6, scattered seven hits in six innings and won for the sixth time in his last eight decisions. Dave Leiper allowed two hits and struck out five in three innings for his first save.

Mets Box

Player	Team	Statistic
National at New York		
PITTSBURGH		
Bonds	1	0
Lin	2	0
Bonilla	3	0
Bream	1	0
Rreylida	1	0
LeVillre	1	0
Bullard	1	0
Orsbek	1	0
JRobson	1	0
Wilson	1	0
Gott	1	0
Totals	42	7
NEW YORK		
Bonds	1	0
Lin	2	0
Bonilla	3	0
Bream	1	0
Rreylida	1	0
LeVillre	1	0
Bullard	1	0
Orsbek	1	0
JRobson	1	0
Wilson	1	0
Gott	1	0
Totals	42	7

Canseco Blasts 31st Homerun In Victory

By KEN RAPPOPORT
AP Sports Writer

Jose Canseco hit 31 home runs for the Oakland Athletics last year, but his accomplishment was generally overshadowed by the extraordinary rookie year of teammate Mark McGwire, who had 49.

This year, Canseco is making some bigger news for himself with 31 homers so far — including five in the last four games. Homering in his fourth straight game Monday night, Canseco led the Athletics to a 10-2 victory over the Chicago White Sox.

"Basically, you get in a groove. Instead of hitting line drives, you hit them out," Canseco said. "They come in bunches. Sometimes you go a week without hitting a home run."

Canseco's 31 homers lead the major leagues. His two-run homer in the first inning Monday night, incidentally, was the 100th of his career.

Dave Henderson also had a big night for Oakland by driving in four runs with a homer and a single.

The victory was the third in the last four games and, coupled with Minnesota's 3-1 loss to Toronto, improved the A's lead in the AL West to 6 1/2 games. The loss was the fifth straight for the White Sox.

Blue Jays 3, Twins 1

George Bell hit a three-run homer in the eighth inning, leading Toronto over Minnesota and spoiling Frank Viola's bid to become the majors' first 17-game winner.

Viola, 16-4, was lifted with two outs in the eighth after giving up consecutive singles to Tony Fernandez and Manny Lee. Bell then greeted reliever Jeff Reardon with his 15th homer of the season.

Royals 5, Tigers 3

Bo Jackson hit his third home run in three games and fueled another rally with a double, leading Kansas City over Detroit.

The loss trimmed the Tigers' lead in the AL East to one-half game over New York and one game over Boston. Both were idle.

Mark Gubicza, who lost 3-1 to the Tigers last week in Detroit, improved his record to 13-6 with relief help in the eighth inning.

Angels 4, Mariners 4

Devon White, Bob Boone and Tony Armas hit home runs as California won a club-record 10th straight road game.

The victory was the sixth straight for the Angels, who have won 20 of their last 28 games. They previously established the club record for most consecutive wins on the road when they won nine straight last year.

Thomson Finds Much Red Tape

Schintzius Linked To Drugs?

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. men's basketball coach John Thomson has already had some Olympic logistics problems and it is his own government that has him upset.

Thomson told a telephone news conference on Monday that he has had problems with American military officials concerning use of a gymnasium at an Army base in Korea as a backup facility.

"It appears to me that I have to get an act from the President in order to use a United States facility and I kind of resent that," Thomson said from Washington. "I always get a kick out of people telling me this is our team, America's team."

"It is, until you're ready to use some facilities. We've had more problems with the U.S. Army and that facility than anything I've made a trip over to Korea for."

Thomson has expressed concern over the starting times of the games in the Olympics because they will be played in a time zone 13 hours from television prime time on the East Coast of the United States. That means for the game to start at 9 p.m. in the eastern United States, it would have to start at 8 a.m. in Seoul.

He has made trips to Seoul to make sure everything would go smoothly and securing practice facilities was a big part of those trips.

"The gym was a backup; it was not the primary place we would practice," Thomson said, his voice starting to rise. "What we wanted to do was know what we could do if the main practice facility that had been assigned to us had fallen apart. At least we would have had some where to go — and it was a U.S. military base for 45 minutes a day — without an act of Congress."

Thomson on Monday also confirmed published reports that Florida center Dwayne Schintzius was interviewed by agents from the Drug Enforcement Administration on the day he was released from the Olympic team.

Thomson emphasized the meeting came after he had decided to release the 7-foot sophomore and had nothing to do with his being sent home from the camp being conducted at Georgetown.

Schintzius, along with Randolph Keys of Southern Mississippi and Dyrton Nix of Tennessee, was released after being among the final 20 players in quest of the 12 berths on the team, which will defend the gold medal in Seoul in September.

A spokesman for the University of Florida said Monday that the school would have no comment. Coach Norm Sloan was out of the office Monday and could not be reached by telephone.

The reports of the meeting surfaced in Florida newspapers during the weekend.

White Leading La Mode Open Tournament

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP) — David White of Oklahoma City jumped from third place to the third-round lead Monday in the Professional Bowlers Association's \$125,000 La Mode Open.

White, who has yet to win a PBA crown, topped 3,911 pins for 18 games.

He led 24 qualifiers into 24 games of match-play competition, which began Monday night. Those 24, from the original field of 160, will be further pared to the five Tuesday night for Wednesday night's nationally televised championship round.

Joe Firpo of Lake Worth, Fla., who led after the first round, fell into second place. Firpo, whose lone PBA title came last year in Las Vegas, Nev., scattered 3,833 pins.

Second-round leader Leroy Bor-nhop of St. Charles, Mo., who also owns a PBA tour victory, held the No. 3 spot with 3,817 pins.

Pete McCordic of Houston, who is trying to become the first player since 1986 to win three titles in a year, is in fourth place after knocking down 3,799 pins.

Jimmy Keeth of West Palm Beach, Fla., who like White is gunning for PBA triumph No. 1, completes the top five, one pin behind McCordic with a 3,798 total.

Drug Arrest Gave White Big Break To NFL Return

FULLERTON, Calif. (AP) — Charlie White says the best break he ever got was when he was arrested last Aug. 21.

He was found wandering in a field near the Los Angeles Rams' training camp, muttering and wielding a trash can lid as if it were a shield.

White, who had relapsed into cocaine use, was jailed on a misdemeanor charge of being under the influence of a controlled substance. Many thought his career was over.

Far from it. White, who hadn't had much success in the pro game, had a stunning turnaround. Less than six months after being arrested, he had won the NFL rushing title and appeared in his first Pro Bowl.

"To change that now would mess something up in the whole order of things," the Rams' tailback said. "This way, it turned out to be positive in the long run."

Although he will likely have to share the coveted starting position with a rookie, first-round draft pick Gaston Green, White says he'll