## TPG growing into a major golfing event

By MARK JOHNSON

© 1987 Dallas Morning News PONTE VEDRA, FLA. — The field is the best in golf, no question. The course, once controversial, has matured into one of the finest and fairest tests on the PGA Tour.

The purse has grown to \$1 million, and the winner gets something money can't buy - a 10-year exemption from Tour qualifying. The champions include Jack Nicklaus (three times), Raymond Floyd, Hal Sutton, Lanny Wadkins and Lee Trevino.

So does that make this week's Tournament Players Championship a major? Maybe yes, maybe no.

For all the lists that clutter pro golf these days, nobody has established a list of criteria that a major championship must meet. Do you have to award the winner a green blazer? Do you need hourglass fairways pinched by ankle-high rough?

If tradition is your main ingredient, the TPC comes up short. Same goes with visibility. No sporting event in America can knock heads with the Final Four and expect to come out ahead. You don't hear anyone talking about "The Road From New Orleans," site of last week's tournament.

Still, the TPC has developed into something of a minor major, a label that would also fit the PGA Championship. For all its prestige, the TPC still lacks the history and ambiance of the three major majors: The Masters, U.S. Open and British Open.

Still, it has set itself apart from all the major minors, a group that would probably include the MONY Tournament of Champions, the Memorial Tournament and the NEC World Series of Golf.

Of course, any such ranking is purely subjective. But then, so is the notion that golf can have only four major championships - or that it must have at least four.

Since it went from match to stroke play in 1958, the PGA has for the most part blended into the scenery.

But already, the TPC is recognized by many players - probably by most players — as the fifth major. Unlike the four established majors, it does not make room for amateurs, club pros and minitour guys who survived a couple days of qualifying. Scott Verplank did get here as an amateur last year, but only because he won the 1985 Western Open. This year, as a struggling pro, he did not earn a spot in the field.

Maybe what the TPC needs most is a real name, instead of initials that make it sound like some golf course fungicide. One suggestion is "The Players Tournament." Good idea. This event is the centerpiece for the PGA Tour, which is the proving ground for the world's greatest players. This is their show.

That doesn't mean it can rub shoulders with The Masters or either of the big-time Opens. But if we need at least four majors, then we must make room for No. 5.

## Norman leads by 1 as rain suspends TPC

By The Associated Press

PONTE VEDRA, FLA. - Greg Norman's last-hole birdie gave him the lead Thursday in the storm-disrupted, penalty-littered and uncompleted first round of the \$1 million Tournament Players Championship.

Norman, the Australian who dominated world golf last year, came back from a 1-hour 20-minute storm delay

### GOLF

and dropped a 4-foot putt for the birdie that lifted him into the overnight lead alone at 5-under-par 67.

Half the field of 144 was stranded on the Tournament Players Club at Sawgrass by a series of storms. They marked their positions on the rainsodden course and were scheduled to return this morning to complete first-round play.

Hale Irwin, a two-time U.S. Open winner, led a large group of early finishers at 68, one shot behind Norman. Also at that figure, 4 under par, were Dave Stockton, Isao Aoki of Japan, Hal Sutton, Mark O'Meara, Paul Azinger, Dan Pohl, Mark Brooks, Dave Rummells of West Branch, Ia., and Blaine McCallister.

### Foyer, Pulz take lead at LPGA Turquoise Classic

PHOENIX, ARIZ. - Martha Foyer, playing in only her seventh tournament as a professional, birdied the final hole Thursday for a 69 to tie Penny Pulz for the lead in the opening round of \$300,000 LPGA Turquoise Classic golf tournament.

Foyer, 22, who joined the Tour a few weeks before her December graduation from Southern Methodist University, sank a 16-foot birdie putt on the par-4 18th hole of the 6,419yard, par-73 Moon Valley Country Club course.

Patti Rizzo, twice a winner since joining the tour five years ago, headlined a group a shot back at 70. Among the others were Spain's Marta Figueras-Dotti, Deb Richard, Lisa Young and Colleen Walker.



Los Angeles goalie Roland Melanson deflects the puck as teammate Mark Hardy (5) checks Detroit's Steve Yzer-

man from the play in the first period Wednesday night at Joe Louis Arena. Los Angeles won, 6-1.

## FBI probing players' harassment

By PETER H. FRANK

© 1987 New York Times DALLAS, TEXAS — The FBI has begun investigating alleged incidents of threats and violence involving sports agents and players. According to sources familiar with the investigation, Norby Walters and Lloyd Bloom, two New York agents, are among the subjects of this inquiry.

The Dallas office of the FBI, the sources said, has a recorded phone conversation between Bloom and former Southern Methodist University receiver Ronald Morris in which Bloom threatened to have Morris' hands broken if he were to sign with another agent.

The sources also said the FBI was investigating alleged threats made against another former SMU player, Jeff Atkins. Both Atkins and Morris are currently under contract with another management concern, Athletic Associates, in Dallas.

The FBI in Dallas would neither confirm nor deny the existence of the investigation or the recording.

Lonn Trost, an attorney with Shea and Gould in New York who is representing Walters's firm, World Sports and Entertainment Inc., in a number of lawsuits, said that he was unaware of any FBI investigation concerning his client. Neither Bloom, who was in Los Angeles, nor Walters, whose office in New York was called repeatedly Thursday, could be reached for comment.

The Chicago office of the FBI has

Jordan, Dr. J

fly high amidst

fans' adulation

CHICAGO, ILL. (AP) - Michael

Jordan watched as Julius Erving

made his farewell speech to basket-

ball fans in Chicago on Tuesday night.

spect some day," Jordan said later.

"I hope I can have that type of re-

The two NBA stars - one nearing

retirement and the other a relative

newcomer; one the third all-time

scoring leader in professional basket-

ball, the other the current NBA

scoring leader - did not face each

other on the court. But it seemed nat-

honoring Erving's 16-year career,

Mayor Harold Washington gave Erv-

ing a doctor's bag embossed with the

city seal and assured Dr. J that his

legacy would be carried on "with our

television to Children's Memorial

Hospital of Chicago in Erving's name

and the sellout crowd - many of

whom would never forget the Doc-

tor's soaring slam dunks - gave him

Then, it was Erving's turn to

watch. A fractured finger prevented

him from playing with his Philadel-

the bench as Jordan scored 56 points

to lead the Bulls to a 93-91 victory.

for the shot," Erving said.

life he has lived," he said.

no comparisons are needed.

compare, not me."

body," Collins said.

anybody," he said.

phia 76er teammates, so he was on

"I could tell by his strut and the

But any comparison seemed un-

"I've never watched myself," Erv-

ing said. "It's up to the spectators to

Jordan said he sees Erving as a

role model. "I try to live the type of

Erving and now coaches Jordan, said

has played 11 years in the NBA, who

doesn't have to be compared to any-

has played three years in the NBA.

who doesn't have to be compared to

"Let them both be great."

"It's the great Julius Erving who

"It's the great Michael Jordan who

gleam in his eye when he was going

The Bulls presented a wide-screen

own doctor Michael Jordan."

a standing ovation.

In a special pregame ceremony

ural for people to compare them.

also been brought into the police investigation of an assault on a sports agent who recently signed two players formerly associated with Walters, other sources said.

Kathe Clements, a vice president of the Zucker Sports Entertainment Group, in Skokie, Ill., and the wife of Tom Clements, a former quarterback for Notre Dame who plays for the Winnipeg Blue Bombers of the Canadian Football League, was beaten unconscious and stabbed in the arm by a man in a ski mask in her office on the morning of March 16, according to the Skokie police.

According to a story in the March 30 issue of The Sporting News, Walters and Bloom signed 15 football players during the last year. Other sports agents familiar with some of the players said that only two, Paul Palmer of Temple and John Clay of Missouri, were still under contract with them. The loss of players as clients, either previously under contract or merely associated with the company, is believed to be the primary reason behind the threats.

### Two agents say money changed hands with stars

ATLANTA, GA. (AP) - Two New York-based agents say in lawsuits filed against former college football stars Brent Fullwood and Terence Flagler that they gave money to the athletes, an apparent violation of NCAA rules, according to published

The suits, filed in New York Supreme Court, accuse Fullwood, of Auburn, and Flagler, of Clemson, of reneging on contracts signed before their eligibility expired last season. The Atlanta Constitution reported

The agents, Norby Walters and Lloyd Bloom, seek \$500,000 in dam-

ages from each athlete. It has been previously reported that Walters has filed suits against Purdue defensive back Rod Woodson and Buffalo Bills running back Ron nie Harmon, formerly of Iowa.

The suit against Fullwood contends that he signed a contract a month before the start of his senior season at Auburn last fall and that he had received \$8,038 by the end of the

The suit against Flagler says that he, too, signed a contract before his senior season last fall and received

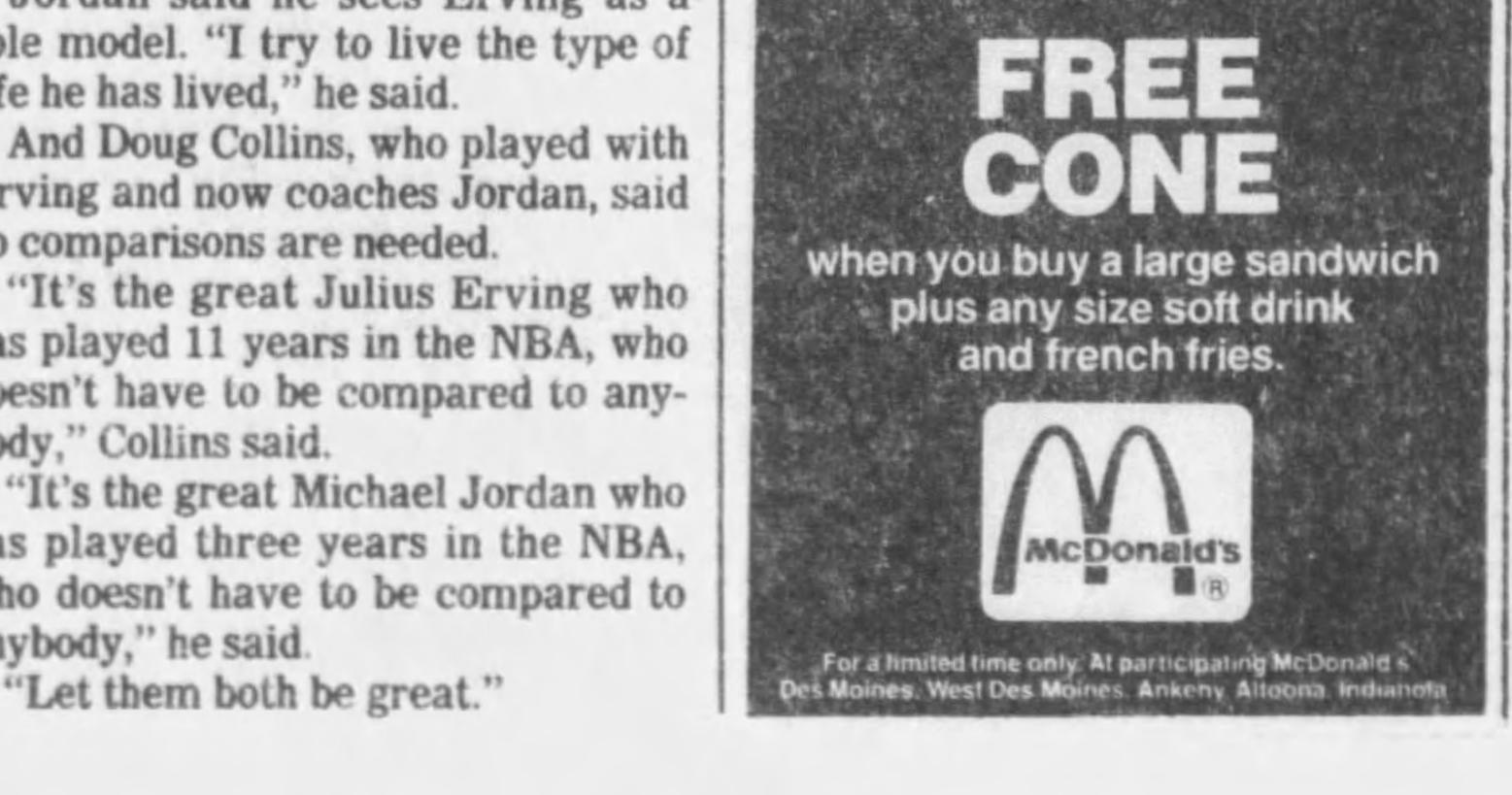
In addition to the suits against Fullwood and Flagler, Walters and Blo have filed suit in New York against University of Pittsburgh linebacker Tony Woods, who the agents claim also signed a contract during his senior season last fall and accepted money, according to the Constitution.

The suit alleges that Woods received \$2,500.

AP PHOTO

## The arms have it

Washington's Manute Bol extends his arm to block the shot of the Boston Celtics' Robert Parish during first-quarter action at the Capital Centre in Landover, Md., Thursday. The Bullets won, 106-103.





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## Black helps Newton to three victories in Dickinson Relays

By DAN McCOOL

Register Correspondent CEDAR FALLS, IA. - Diane Black of Newton had a hand in three victories for the Cardinals, while Teresa Newcomb of South Tama and Shawn Magnall of Waverly-Shell Rock both were double winners at the second annual Girls' Dickinson Relay indoor track and field meet Thursday night at the UNI-Dome.

Black won the 440-yard dash and then ran a leg on the victorious 880yard and mile relay units for the Cardinals. Her victory in the 440 was her second in a row at the meet.

Newcomb, who was third in the Class 2-A 3,000-meter run last spring, kicked off her senior season with victories in the mile and two-mile runs. Magnall, a junior who had never beaten Waterloo West's Molly Goodenbour in either track or cross-country meets before, beat the sophomore twice Thursday night. Goodenbour won last year's two-mile run title.

Black was the only returning individual champion from last year's meet to repeat. Tina Billerbeck of Dysart-Geneseo knocked off defending shot put champion Krista Knoploh of Sumner with a 34-foot 7-inch effort on her final throw.

Margaret Beck of Dubuque Senior lost her bid for a second high jump championship as she placed second to teammate Stephanie Davis. Both cleared the bar at 5-4, but Davis made it on her first try and Beck on her third.

Defending Class 3-A 100-meter dash champion Robin Threatt of Cedar Rapids Jefferson won the 60-yard dash title. And despite having a state title under her belt, Threatt said she still gets nervous before the start of each race.

"I'm a little more confident but still feeling the same way as last year," she said. "I'm just as terri-

Threatt was named Sunday to the first-team all-state roster for fiveplayer girls' basketball. Black was a first-team selection for the six-player team. Black said she's running stronger this year because of a new weight training program she started.

Black also said she plans to concentrate on the 400-meter dash this season as well as helping out on the Cardinal relay teams.

Anamosa swept the relay field in Class A Thursday night as Gerae Hermesch, Missy Ruess and Tami Twachtmann all ran on two winning

### Cowboys' Septien has trial delayed

FORT WORTH, TEXAS (AP) -The trial of Dallas Cowboys placekicker Rafael Septien, accused of sexually assaulting a 10-year-old girl, has been delayed, officials said.

The trial was scheduled for Monday in Denton. Denton County prosecutor Lee Gabriel said she did not know when a new trial date would be set.

Septien has pleaded innocent.

The Results

34-7; 2. Krista Knoploh, Sumner, 33-111/4; 3. Kim Larrimore, Anamosa, 33-81/4.

High jump - 1. Tina Sauser, Cascade, 5-1; 2. Becky Krammer, Jesup, 5-1; 3. Missy Barden, 440 - 1. Sue Helfter, Osage, 1:02.54; 2. Dawn iller, Northern University High, 1:05.58; 3. Nan

versity (Cedar Falls), 16-1; 2. Karin Davis, Inde-880 relay - 1. Anamosa (Tami Twachtmann

Gerae Hrmesch, Kim Folkerts, Missy Rivers)

:52.75; 2. Monticello 1:54.57; 3. Dyersville Beckman

60-hurdles - 1. Malinda Purdy, LaPorte City, 8.97; 2. Keri Barney, Monticello, 8.99; 3. Holy Deong, Oelwein, 9.03. 60 - 1. Kris Christian, Dysart-Geneseo, 7.53; 2. Kristin Tow, Ballard (Huxley), 7.55; 3. DeAnn Feltus, Allison-Bristow, 7.61. Two-mile run - 1. Newcomb, South Tama, 12:27.48; 2. June Swisher, Anamosa, 13:01.86; 3

Jacquie Bullerman, Denver, 13:51.51. 880 - 1. Maura Murphy, Sumner, 2:36.7; 2. Mo Ryan, Northern University (Cedar Falls), 2:38.09; 3 Kris Greiner, Reinbeck, 2:38.88. Mile relay - 1. Anamosa (Leslie Humpal, Ge rae Hermesch, Tami Twachtmann, Missy Ruess)

4:23.13; 2. Woodward-Granger 4:24.68; 3. Jesup CLASS 2-A FINALS Mile - 1. Shawn Magnall, Waverly-Shell Rock, 5:24.36; 2. Molly Goodenbour, Waterloo West,

5:25.11; 3. Christine Thornburn, Pleasant Valley, 5:34.08. er Carver, Cedar Rapids Kennedy, 1:01.53; Two-mile relay - 1. Ames (Susan Reece, Sue Bernard, Lynn Carney, Brittany Wombacher) 10:04.48; 2. Indianola 10.26.53; 3. Pleasant Valley

Rock, 36-91/2; 2. Wendy Bishop, Pleasant Valley. 36-7; 3. Tracy Walker, Cedar Rapids Jefferson. 4 x 220 relay - 1. Newton (Diane Black, Stacy Simpson, Kris Jessen, Linda Harris) 1:50.31; 2. Ames 1:50.60; 3. Indianola 1: 51.13. 60 hurdles - 1. Amy Wheeler, Waverly-Shell Rock, 8.48; 2. Michelle Dunn, Mason City, 8.50; 3

Shot put - 1. Cheryl Behne, Waverly-Shell

Chris Long, Mason City, 8.75. 60 - 1. Robin Threatt, Cedar Rapids Jefferson 7.13; 2. Toni Ferguson, Waterloo East, 7.25; 3. tie, Ovan Fluhrer, Charles City, and Gloria Shorty, Ce-High jump -- 1. Stephanie Davis, Dubuque Senior, 5-4; 2. Margaret Beck, Dubuque Senior, 5-4 Two-mile - 1. Christine Thornburn, Pleasant

Valley, 11:53.1; 2. Tami Droegmiller, Mason City 12:03.41, 3. Cherie Fisher, Charles City, 12:27.94. 880 - 1. Magnall, Waverly-Shell Rock, 2:28.90. Molly Goodenbour, Waterloo West, 2:31.03; Anne Coady, Ames, 2:33.25 Long jump - 1. Kris Long, Mason City, 16-734; Theresa Long, Cedar Rapids Washibgton, 16 41/2; 3. Laura Strathman, Cedar Rapids LaSalle.

Mile relay — 1. Newton (Lisa Larson, Kelly Barton, Stacy Simpson, Diane Biack), 4:18.03; 2. Ames 4:19.16; 3. Cedar Falls 4:21.59.

# to quarterfinal

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (AP) -Mats Wilander swept past Australian Mark Kratzmann, 6-0, 6-2, Thursday to join three other Swedes in the quarterfinals of the \$315,000 Belgian Indoor Championships of tennis.

Earlier Thursday, Jakob Hlasek of Switzerland came from behind to beat American Mike Leach, 2-6, 7-5, 6-3, and Anders Jarryd of Sweden defeated Andrei Chesnokov of the Soviet Union, 6-2, 6-3, to reach the quar-

Swedes Jonas Svensson and Jan Gunnarsson and Israeli Gilad Bloom qualified Wednesday for the quarterfinals. Top-seeded Boris Becker and U.S. star John McEnroe played their second-round matches late Thursday.

Wilander, the defending champion, pressured his opponent from the start with deep shots, which Kratzmann was unable to handle.

## Players get newcomers settled on the convention's opening day

NFL

Continued from Page One

jority of whom were not in the league in 1982. A union official estimated less than 20 percent of the players who will be on NFL rosters next season were in the league five years They heard from four former union

presidents — John Mackey, Tom Condon, Jeff Van Note and Upshaw himself, who took over as executive director from Ed Garvey when Garvey left in 1983 to enter politics. "Today was really a day of getting

everyone settled, of getting everyone to see what a convention is like.' Upshaw said at a joint news conference with the current president, Marvin Powell of Tampa Bay. Upshaw reiterated what has

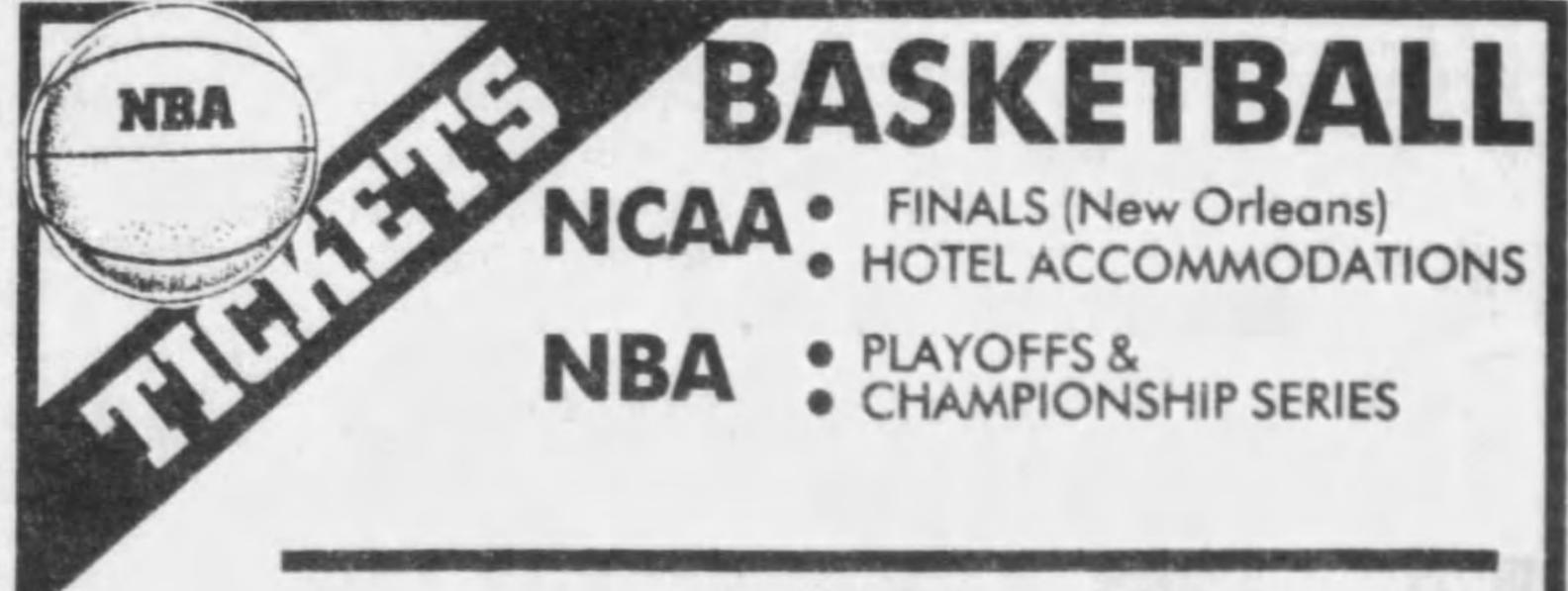
become a standard position recently: that while free agency, guaranteed contracts and drug testing are the issues getting attention, they are all equal. He also said that while he has far

better relations than Garvey had with the NFL's chief negotiator, Jack Donlan, that doesn't mean that negotiations will be totally smooth. "Management will test us to see

how much we can take," he said.

Powell said the present statements from both sides are basically for public consumption and predicted the major progress will probably take place in the weeks and days before the contract expires Aug. 31.

"As you get close to the expiration date of the collective-bargaining agreement you'll get good faith bargaining," he said. "I'm not calling them [the owners] liars. They are good businessmen and they wouldn't be in the position they are at the head of great sports enterprises if they weren't."



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