# Odds&



By Skip Myslenski & Linda Kay

Way down yonder in New Orleans . . . FYI: The three officials who worked Monday night's championship game between Indiana and Syracuse progressed to that finale much as the teams themselves. They were selected for tourney work by their conferences and then, as the tourney went along, judged to be the best at their craft. But right there is where the similarity ends. While each school received \$1 million for its evening's efforts, each offical received only \$350. Says LSU coach Dale Brown: "They're getting shafted."

## Listening in

We caught up with Brown when he dropped by a New Orleans' hotel to guest on "Costas Coast-to-Coast," the syndicated radio show hosted by NBC announcer Bob Costas. The Tiger coach is a loquacious and opinionated man, and during the two hours he shared with [among others] De Paul's Joey Meyer, Purdue's Gene Keady and ESPN's Dick Vitale, he made reference to [again among others] Normandy, Dunkirk, Hitler, Jimmy Swaggart, Oral Roberts, Jim and Tammy Bakker, Douglas MacArthur, Lee Harvey Oswald, Sirhan Sirhan, Sigmund Freud, philosopher William James, and Jim Jones and the mass murders he precipitated in Guyana. He also got around to Indiana coach Bob Knight, and here he declared: "[He] gets away with more on the sidelines than any coach in the country, and afterwards he complains about it."

## The Tiger attacks

Knight's influence on officials and the intimidation factor were topics much discussed during the Final Four, and Brown vented his opinions with emotion that was palpable. Most of his coaching conferees are afraid to take on Indiana's tempestuous general, but here Brown declared: "I deserved every technical foul I've gotten. Bobby doesn't think he deserved any he's ever gotten. He thinks he walks on water. He dehumanizes people, and I resent that. A lot of times he influences games through intimidation, and I resent a ref who doesn't have enough guts to tell Bobby Knight enough's enough, to sit your butt down and be quiet. Some people operate with a halo around their heads, but if you listen to them, all they are doing is influencing people."

## On the other hand ...

... Keady was also asked about Knight, but the Purdue coach diplomatically deflected the question and talked of worrying only about his own program. When he concluded, Brown looked at him and said, "The reason he is saying that is because he stands up to Bobby Knight. If I was in a foxhole on the 38th Parallel, he's one sucker I'd want in there with me. You cut this sucker's head off, you better hide it. He's tough enough to go looking for it."

## That's the way it is

Yes, it is true that more people than ever watched this year's Final Four festivities, but at the same time the cavernous Superdome robbed the event of the atmosphere that has long given it a special flavor. Despite that, the National Association of Basketball Coaches came out of its meeting last summer and recommended that all future Final Fours be held in arenas with a minimum of 30,000 seats. Next year's is already set for tiny Kemper Arena in Kansas City and, after a stop in Seattle's dome in 1989, the new decade will kick off in Denver's McNichols Arena, but after that it's bigger is better. "I think, sure, when you have an arena that seats 17,000, you have the atmosphere that we all like," says Miami [Ohio] athletic director Dick Schneider, who is a member of the NCAA Selection Committee that received the coaches' recommendation. "But many times the true basketball fan doesn't get in. Only the cigar smokers with the big wallets get in. In a place like this [the Superdome] the seats might not be good, but people can be part of March Madness and they like that."

"Like everyone else, they [the coaches] wanted more tickets for their association," added Notre Dame athletic director Gene Corrigan, who is also on the Selection Committee. "It just makes sense to play in places like this, and I think everyone is over the sense of emptiness you get playing in a big place."

## Can't get no respect

A Syracuse alum here for the tournament tells us that The Orange Tonsorial, Syracuse's on-campus barber shop, has blown up a photo of Jim Boeheim during his playing days and hung it on the wall. Boeheim is dressed in the shiny uniform of the day, outfitted in horned-rimmed glasses, wearing the obligatory flat-top and looking, in the words of our source: "Just plain ugly." If that isn't insult enough, there's more. Think for a moment of those plastic containers that sit next to cash registers and ask you to contribute your change to fight a dread disease. Well, one of those containers is taped to the bottom of his picture and next to it is the plea: "Boeheim. Will you help?"

## News, notes and nonsense

To no one's surprise, the Big 10 is almost certain to go to a postseason tourney after the 1988-89 season. Says one Big 10 coach: "The vote will be nine to one, but we're going to do it." It isn't too hard to guess who'll vote no. . . . Big numbers: From Thanksgiving Day to the end of the regular season, there were a staggering 1,050 college basketball games on televi-

And finally, the Superdome is accustomed to getting calls from folks claiming their tickets to the Final Four have been lost or stolen, but one caller topped all others. "My husband got the tickets and put them in the pocket of his good suit," she said, "but he died and we buried him in that suit. What should I do?" "Exume the body," she was told.



SPORTSPEOPLE

Tribune photo by Walter Kale

Gov. James Thompson tries a balancing act during Monday ceremonies in Chicago honoring North Park College's NCAA Division III basketball champs. Players shown with Thompson, a North Park Academy grad, are Mike Barach [left] and Michael Starks.

# Robinson: Navy can't torpedo NBA career

All-American David Robinson says the Navy has made "a commitment" to allow him to play professional basketball, and he doesn't think James Webb can rescind that decision when he takes office as Secretary of the Navy next month.

"They have made a contract with me and we have a commitment," Robinson said.

Webb reportedly is considering a reversal of the agreement reached between Secretary John Lehman Jr. and Robinson that would reduce his obligation to the U.S. Naval Academy when he graduates in June. The deal would enable him to play in the National Basketball Association or on the 1988 U.S. Olympic team.

Under the agreement, the 7-foot-1-

inch Robinson would serve two years of active duty and four years of reserve duty instead of the standard five

years of active duty. Robinson made the arrangement with Lehman after former Navy running back Napolean McCallum was allowed to play last season for the Los Angeles Raiders of the National Football League while serving as a duty officer on a ship stationed off the coast of Southern California.

Webb's decision on Robinson also could affect McCallum's professional sports future. "I don't know if he can rescind it or

not," Robinson said. A spokesman for the Department of the Navy also was unsure of the policy, according to the Washington Post.

# Minnie's return set for 1990

Minnie Minoso says in three years he plans to make one final swing at the major-league record book and become the only player to swing a bat during six decades.

Minoso, 64, holds the record as the only player in modern history to appear at the plate in five decades from the 1940s through the 1980s.

The former White Sox star, who was the Sporting News' American League Rookie of the Year in 1951 with a .326 batting average, said plans call for him to extend his record to six decades in 1990.

"It's already done," he said at a baseball card show in Davenport, Ia. "The Sox said they'd activate me and I'd play a couple of days. And anyway, I need one more hit to make my career average .300. That's when I'm going to get it."

Minnie's last trip to home plate came on Oct. 4, 1980, when he donned a Sox uniform and popped out against the California Angels. These days he works in public relations for the White Sox, making a number of personal appearances.

In 1976, at age 53, Minoso became the oldest major-league player to get a base hit when he went to bat in three games as a Sox designated

It was former White Sox owner Bill Veeck who first brought Minoso into the American League and brought him back in 1976 and 1980 to keep his decade streak alive.

"There is no word to express Bill Veeck. To me, he was like my daddy, my brother, my son, everything," said Minoso. "He might have died physically, but mentally he will be with me everywhere I go. I owe him everything."

Minoso was selected to the All-Star team seven times and his No. 9 is one of only four White Sox uniforms—along with those of Nellie Fox, Luke Appling and Luis Aparicio-to be retired.

# Final 4 Club grows by 3

This season's Final Four has been healthy in one respect. It has added three new names to the list of active coaches who've gotten teams to the NCAA semifinals in the '80s.

Before this year's playoffs, the 28 possible spots [1980-86] had been filled by 13 coaches: Dean Smith, Mike Krzyzewski, Jim Valvano, Terry Holland, Hugh Durham, Denny Crum, Dale Brown, John Thompson, Rollie Massimino, Larry Brown, Bob Knight, Lou Carnesecca and Lute Olson.

Now, of course, you can add Jim Boeheim, Rick Pitino and Jerry Tarkanian to the list of active Final Four coaches for this decade.

I don't care how he hits. I just want him around for the fights.'

-Phillie pitcher Kent Tekulve, on how much the signing of muscular catcher Lance Parrish means to Philadelphia as it battles the Mets this season

# A few off-the-cuff deals

Can you judge a tennis player's worth by her patches? Yes, if the patches on her clothes are used to advertise products.

Because her contracts with ComputerLand and Porsche AG have expired, Martina Navra a has placed spots on both sleeves up fo. sale for the first time in three years.

In advertising circles, this news is almost of the magnitude of the Marlboro Man's making a return to TV. And why not, with an asking price of \$200,000 a year per patch.

"We've had lots of contacts," said Navratilova's agent, Peter Johnson, vice president of International Management Group in Cleveland. "These are highly desirable sleeves. Who wouldn't want to advertise with Mar-

Professional tennis players, who sometimes resemble walking billboards, are permitted to wear patches endorsing each bit of equipment they use or clothing they wear.

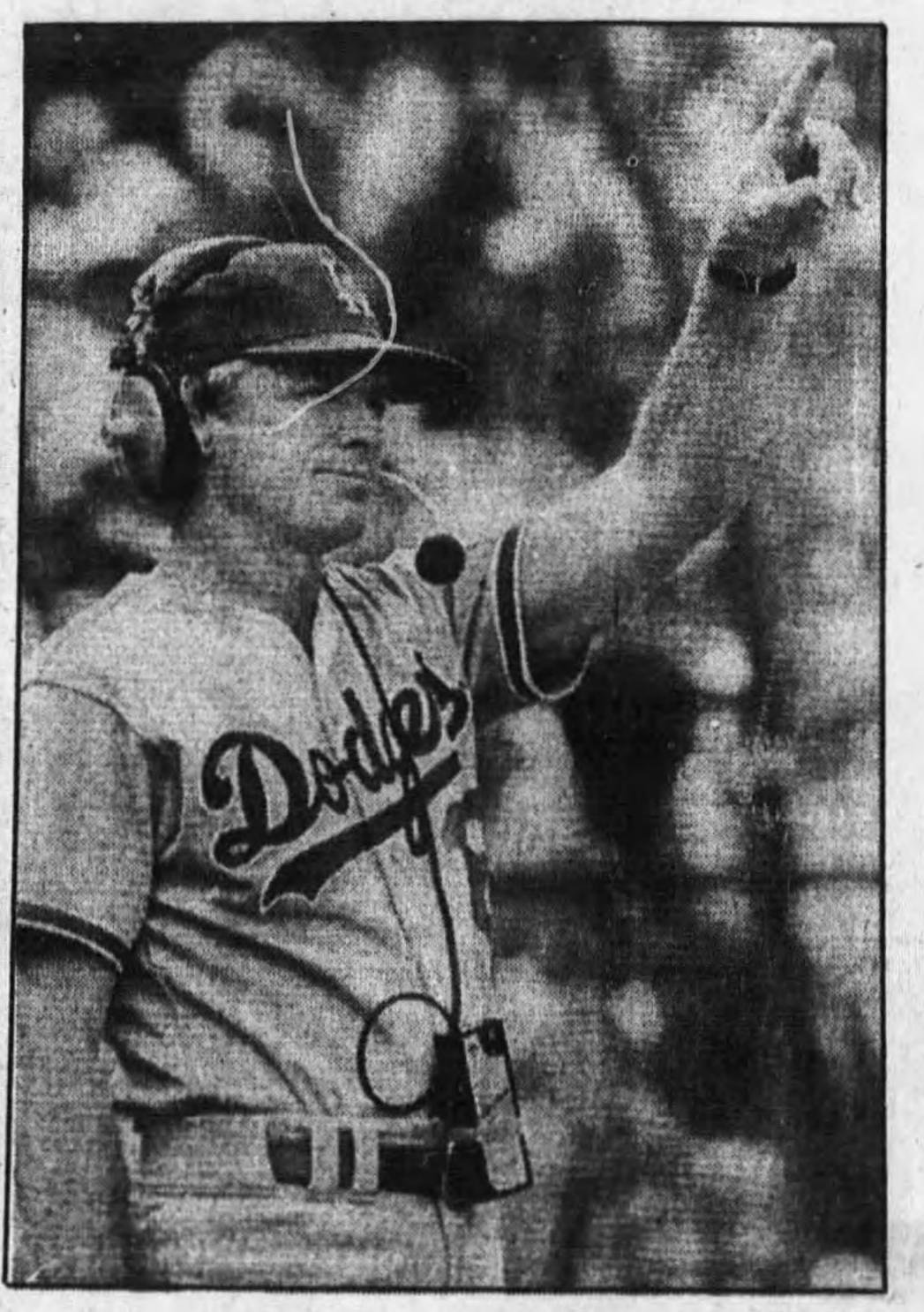
Navratilova, for example, has deals to endorse Puma sportswear, Yonex tennis rackets, Thorlo socks and VS Gut racket strings.

But in tournament play, tennis pros are limited to two patches not related to tennis. The demographics of the sport's audience make those patches highly desirable commod-

Spectators at the Volvo Tournament taking place this week may note a lack of such advertising during the competition because top seeds Ivan Lendl and John McEnroe missed the event. According to an event spokesman, that left only Jimmy Connors [Golden Arches] and Yannick Noah [Evian Water] with patches on their sleeves.

A recent survey by the Simmons Market Research Bureau found that tennis has a very desirable audience in terms of consumer spending power. Tennis fans tend to be single, college graduates and professionals or managers. People with annual household incomes above \$50,000 are 49 percent more likely to watch tennis on TV than the average adult, the survey showed.

The advertising space on Navratilova's sleeves becomes available this summer. The early favorites: Lufthansa German Airlines and Vuarnet sunglasses, both of which Navratilova already endorses.



Dodger artillery spotter-er, coach-Bill Russell positions L.A. outfielders with help from an "eye in the sky" scout.

## Good health for wrestling

Jeff Blatnick, the wrestler who overcame cancer to win a 1984 Olympic gold medal, now wages a battle for his sport.

"I have a dream and that is to find a national sponsor for amateur wrestling," Blatnick said recently. "If we want to survive, we must find corporate sponsorship."

Blatnick also is concerned about confusion in the public's mind between amateur wrestling and the professional version.

"We live in the shadow of an entertainment that also shares the name wrestling," Blatnick said. "It bothered me for a while when kids would come up to me and ask, Could I beat Hulk Hogan? Initially, I sort of attacked pro wrestling, but now I have nothing against it."

### BRIEFS

Mike Tyson, the World Boxing Association and World Boxing Council heavyweight champion, will defend his titles against Pinklon Thomas on May 30 at the Las Vegas Hilton. Murray Goodman, a publicist for promoter Don King, said the Tyson-Thomas fight is scheduled for 15 rounds, the WBA limit. WBC championship bouts normally are 12 rounds. WBC president Jose Sulaiman said his organization had not decided whether it will sanction the bout.

Dr. Charles Filippini, head of Nevada's medical advisory board on boxing, complained that the board "has been kept in the dark" about Sugar Ray Leonard's once-damaged eye and said it would accept no responsibility if Leonard is injured in his April 6 bout with Marvelous Marvin Hagler.

Chicago's Lee Roy Murphy, the former International Boxing Federation cruiserweight champion, raised his record to 25-1 Saturday with an eighth-round knockout of Steve Mormino in Italy. Murphy's next fight is schedule for April 28 in Chicago.

Sting forward Teddy Krafft has been selected Major Indoor Soccer League offensive player of the week. In the Sting's two victories last week, Krafft scored four goals and

added three assists. Developer Angelo Tsakopoulos says he has had two meetings with Los Angeles Raiders' owner Al Davis about moving the team to Sacramento if Davis can't resolve his dispute with Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum officials.

Second-seeded Miloslav Mecir needed only an hour to defeat Ugo Colombini 6-2, 6-3, and No. 5 Emilio Sanchez rallied to beat Laurie Warder 4-6, 6-2, 6-3 in the first round of the \$345,000 Fila Trophy indoor tennis tournament in Milan, Italy.

Hu Na posted the biggest victory of her career when she upset third-seeded Kathy Rinaldi 1-6, 6-4, 6-3 in the first round of the \$150,000 U.S. Women's indoor tennis championships in Piscataway, N.J. No. 2 seed Helena Sukova defeated Dianne Balestrat 6-4, 6-0, and sixth-seeded Wendy

Turnbull beat Leslie Allen 7-6 [7-2], 6-2. The Hartford [Conn.] Civic Center has been selected as the site for the July 24-26 Davis Cup match between the United States and West Germany.

University of Houston golf coach Dave Williams, who has won more national championships [16] than any other

NCAA coach, has resigned after 36 years. University of Pittsburgh football coach Mike Gottfried

said he believes defensive end Tony Woods, in an apparent violation of NCAA rules, signed with an agent before the end of the 1986 season. Gottfried said he confronted agent Lloyd Bloom last December and "he told me he didn't [deal with any Pitt players], so I felt a little more at ease," Gottfried told the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. "But I kept looking into it. Finally, a lawsuit was filed, and Tony came to see me." Woods was named last week in a New York Supreme Court suit filed by Bloom and agent Norby Walters, who are seeking damages of \$50,000 from Woods for allegedly reneging on a contract signed sometime last year.

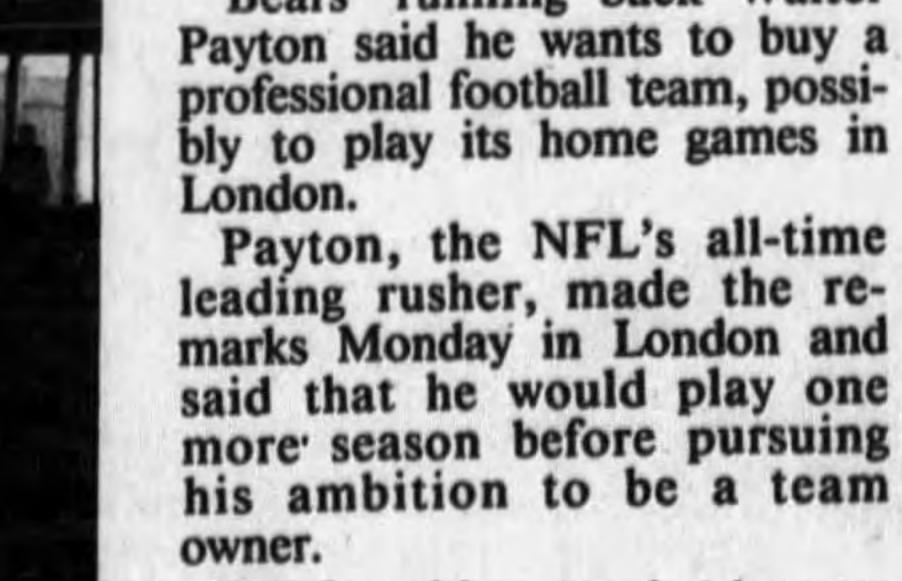
The Milwaukee Bucks' Junior Bridgeman will miss the rest of the season because of a torn knee cartilage. Three-time world drag racing champion Shirley Mul-

downey was reported in satisfactory condition after undergoing emergency surgery in Carrollton, Tex. Hospital officials declined to release the nature of Muldowney's surgery, which they described as routine.

The United States, skipped by Seattle's Jim Vukich, joined Sweden and Denmark as the only undefeated teams in the men's world curling championship in Vancouver, B.C. The U.S. defeated Scotland 4-2 and then edged England 7-6 in 11 ends to complete its sweep of the first two draws in the round-robin tournament. Sweden downed West Germany 7-3 in nine ends, then was forced to the limit in a 7-5 victory over Scotland. Denmark routed England 9-2 and France 7-1. In the opening draw, France rebounded from a 4-1 deficit to upset defending champion Canada 7-6. Canada, which has won four of the last five world titles, bounced back to defeat tournament favorite Norway 6-4.

Compiled by Mike Conklin, Rich Strom from staff, wire reports.

#### Running back to Her Royal Majesty But I think the time is coming Bears' running back Walter Payton said he wants to buy a



AP Laserphoto

Could "Sweetness" be-

come Sir Walter?

bly to play its home games in Payton, the NFL's all-time leading rusher, made the remarks Monday in London and said that he would play one

more season before pursuing his ambition to be a team owner. Britain, with a growing interest

in American-style football, is a possible site for his team, Payton said in reiterating statements he first made last "For a long time now I've

wanted to own a professional in a preseason game this team, in London or the States. August.

when a British team could compete in the NFL," Payton said. "We'd be going into uncharted waters, but the potential is there for a gold

About 90 teams play in semipro football leagues in Britain each fall, and weekly television shows with highlights of the previous Sunday's NFL games draw respectable ratings.

Last summer, the Bears and the Dallas Cowboys played an exhibition game at sold-out Wembley Stadium, where the Denver Broncos and Los Angeles Rams are scheduled to meet

## TANK MCNAMARA







## GIL THORP



ON THE LONG QUIET BUS RIDE BACK TO MILFORD, BRAD ELLIS THINKS ...

