THE ATLANTA CONSTITUTION Tuesday, March 31, 1987

Sports etcetera

Braves expecting 40,000 for opener vs. Phillies

By Tim Smith Staff Writer

Atlanta Braves officials expect more than 40,000 fans for next Tuesday night's opening game against the Philadelphia Phillies.

Because of a new 20-game season ticket package, field level and dugout level seating for the opener is scarce, said ticket manager Andre DeLorenzo. He said figures are unavailable for total opening day or season ticket sales.

Medical board

County Stadium, which seats 52,006 for baseball. The University of Georgia Redcoat Band will perform before the game; 40,000 shakers will be distributed to fans, and fireworks will follow the game. Last year's opener drew a crowd of 37,858.

A Monday parade and rally in downtown Atlanta will kick off the welcoming of baseball season. The parade will start at noon on Marietta Street in front of the CNN Center, pro-The Braves will unveil their new uniforms ceed north on Peachtree Street to West Peach-

and play their first game on a new surface, tree and end at Ralph McGill Boulevard. Prescription Athletic Turf, at Atlanta-Fulton Braves players and manager Chuck Tanner Braves players and manager Chuck Tanner will participate, along with various local college and high school bands and mascots.

> Last year, the Braves sold 10,000 season tickets. The club says it has exceeded that this year but could not provide figures.

> The new 20-game package allows the buyer to attend any 20 games during the year. The Braves still offer the regular 81-game season-ticket package and a 41-game package for weekend games.



Ramirez tries second in case of emergency



WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. - Rafael Ramirez, the Atlanta Braves' reluctant utility player, has added another position 1 to his portfolio: second base. Ramirez, who played second briefly in the Dominican Republic winter league, was assigned Monday to coach Al Monchak for individual tutoring on the

art of second base. Manager Chuck Tanner said Ramirez would be used at second "in an emergency" during the absence of starter Damaso Garcia, who will have arthroscopic surgery on his left knee Wednesday in Atlanta. ... Outfielder Trench Davis has returned to the minor-league camp. Davis' wife wanted him to quit after he was cut from the major-league camp, but he talked her out of that sentiment. Davis will be the starting center fielder with Class AAA Richmond. . . . The Braves were reminded of how thin they are at catcher when Bruce Benedict was hit in the right hand with a



worried about Leonard's eye

Tennis Results, Page 6-D From Staff and Wire Reports

In Las Vegas, the head of the Nevada's state

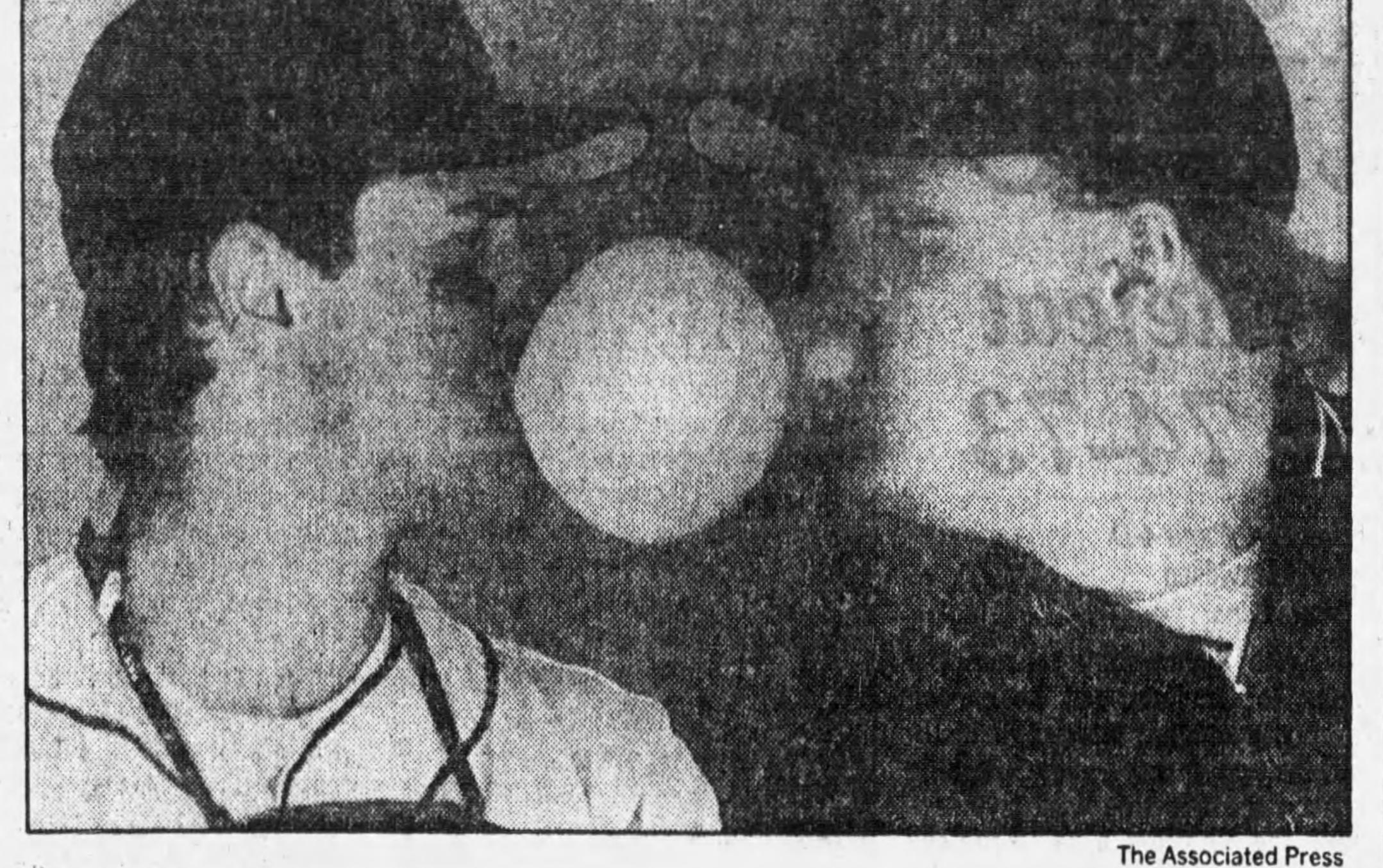


medical advisory board on boxing complained Monday that the board "has been kept in the dark" about Sugar Ray Leonard's once-damaged eye and said the board would accept no re-

sponsibility if Leonard is injured in next week's boxing match against Marvelous Marvin Hagler. Dr. Charles Filippini said his fivemember board has tried without success to have imput in the examination and licensing of Leonard but has been rebuffed by the Nevada State Athletic Commission.

MORE BOXING: Mike Tyson, the World Boxing Association and World Boxing Council heavyweight champion, will defend his titles against Pinklon Thomas in a scheduled 15rounder on May 30 in Las Vegas, Nev.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL: Pitt 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. Woods, a 6-foot-4, 240-pound three-year regular at Pitt, is expected to be taken in the first or second round of next month's NFL draft. Woods was named last week in a New York Supreme Court suit filed by agents Lloyd Bloom and Norby Walters, who are seeking damages of \$50,000 from Woods for allegedly reneging on a contract signed sometime last year. **DOG RACING:** VictoryLand Greyhound Park in Shorter, Ala., will have its first "Hot Box" race Tuesday night, matching the eight dogs with the best power ratings over the past month in the featured 10th race. The top two rated dogs are T.K. Satisfaction and Dealmaker. T.K. Satisfaction has won four in a row and six of its last eight races. Dealmaker has won two of its last three and has run the 5/16-mile course in less than 31 seconds in 14 of its last 21 races. First post time is 8:30 p.m. (EST) at the track on Initerstate 85, 150 miles southwest of Atlanta. **TENNIS:** Controversial tennis umpire Jeremy Shales, who has clashed with such top players on the Grand Prix circuit as John Mc-Enroe and Jimmy Connors, has been fired by the governing body of men's professional tennis after "a complete review of his work habits." Shales, 43, has officiated at five Wimble-



Bubble time

PHOENIX, Ariz. - San Francisco's Will **Clark out-bubbles teammate Mark Grant**

before the Giants' 19-8 victory over the Oakland A's on Monday afternoon.

don finals in a 27-year umpiring career. ... Second seed Miloslav Mecir warmed up with a quick 6-2, 6-3 first round victory over Italian qualifier Ugo Colombini and Spain's Emilio Sanchez, the No. 5 seed in the Fila Trophy indoor tournament in Milan, Italy, survived a third-set scare before beating Australian Laurie Warder in a first-round match. Sanchez trailed Warder 1-3 in the third set before winning five consecutive games and the match 4-6, 6-2, 6-3.... In Piscataway, N.J., Wendy Turnbull and Sylvia Hanika both struggled with unseeded opponents before advancing to the second round of the \$150,000 U.S. Women's Indoor Championship. Turnbull, seeded sixth, defeated Leslie Allen, 7-6 (7-2), 6-2, and Hanika, the eighth seed, beat Jo Durie of England, 3-6, 6-4, 6-3.

tory condition after undergoing emergency surgery at a Dallas-area hospital. Hospital officials declined to release the nature of Muldowney's surgery.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL: Kansas State forward Norris Coleman said he has decided to give up his senior year of eligibility and apply for the NBA draft. Coleman, an all-Big Eight selection the past two seasons, told coach Lon Kruger of his decision this morning. "After weeks of long, hard thinking and exercising my options, I feel as though it is in my best interest to forego my senior year of eligibility and enter this year's NBA draft," Coleman said. . . . Midland College coach Jerry Stone has been named coach at the University of Texas at Arlington. Stone, who led his team to a 32-4 record during the past season, replaces Bob "Snake" LeGrand, whose contract was not renewed last month.



Rafael Ramirez pitch during the 6-1 win against the Yan-

kees. The Braves do not have a catcher with major-league experience waiting at Richmond. They are still trying to either re-acquire Larry Owen or trade for Juan Espino of the Yankees to fill the role. Brian Harper, with Detroit last year, called to apply for the job. ... The Braves have agreed to supply players to the Charleston franchise in the South Atlantic League. The team does not have a working affiliation, and the Braves needed a place for several of their Class A players to play.

- Gerry Fraley

Wilkins says sore hip feels no better

Dominique Wilkins said his sore left hip was no better Monday. "It feels like something pulls every time I take a step," he said. But there is no question, Wilkins said, that he will play Wednesday against Milwaukee. "I'll be out there, and it'll probably feel pretty good by then." Wilkins was kicked by Dallas' James Donaldson last Thursday night. ... Due to the imbalance of the Eastern Conference, which has six Central Division teams and five from the Atlantic, there are always six games scheduled against eight conference opponents, five against the remaining two. This season the Hawks drew short schedules against Washington (5-0) and New Jersey (3-0), which the Hawks meet twice more. Detroit drew short schedules against Philadelphia (5-0) and Boston (2-2) with one game remaining.

- Jeff Denberg

Dogs' baseball team drops to second in SEC



TIMENS - Georgia's baseball team, which has lost five out of its last seven, has fallen to second in the SEC with a 7-4 record. Florida leads at 6-2. The Bulldogs, 17-8 overall, lost two of three to Ole Miss in Oxford over the weekend. But coach Steve Webber says those losses aren't a critical blow. "Things like that happen in this conference," said Webber. "It's just like basketball. It's a dogfight. The Bulldogs are one of only two SEC teams to have played four conference series so far. All other teams have played three. ... Star relief pitcher Cris Carpenter continued to have problems. In Sunday's 5-4 loss, he allowed four hits, two earned runs and two walks in 23/3 innings ... The top-ranked women's gymnastics team, which won the SEC title on Saturday, averages 189.62 points a meet. The winning score at least year's NCAA championships was 186 ... The women's athletic department reports that 53 percent of its athletes made a 3.0 grade-point average or better for the winter quarter. ... The women's volleyball team, which reached the NCAA tournament for the second straight year, has signed four high school players, including Kelly Pentacost, the MVP of state champ Athens Academy. The others are Kristen Hackley of Endicott, N.Y., Stephanie Dunkle of Lafayette, Ind., and Christie Lord of Sylvania (Woodward Academy).

AUTO RACING: NASCAR driver Terry Labonte suffered a "significant fracture" of his shoulder blade in a wreck in the TranSouth 500 at Darlington International Raceway but may be able to race next week. ... Defending NASCAR Winston Cup champion Dale Earnhardt strengthened his lead in this season's standings with his first-place finish in the TranSouth 500 at Darlington, S.C. Bill Elliott is .71 points back in second place at 769. . Three-time world drag racing champion Shirley Muldowney, 46, was reported in satisfac-

PRO FOOTBALL: Chicago Bears running back Walter Payton said he wants to buy a pro football team, possibly to play its home games in London. ... Developer Angelo Tsakopoulos says he has had two meetings with Los Angeles Raiders owner Al Davis about moving the NFL team to Sacramento if Davis is unable to resolve his dispute with Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum officials.

- Thomas O'Toole

Tennis team faces No. 4 Georgia

Georgia Tech's tennis team, ranked 18th in the nation in the Head Intercollegiate Tennis Standings, plays No. 4 Georgia on at 1:30 Tuesday at the Bortell Tennis Center on the Tech campus. Tech's No. 1 player, Kenny Thorne, has been limited by a hamstring pull and is 3-7 for the season. ... Kathy Harrison, Tech's jack-of-all-trades in track and field, ran the 400-meter hurdles this past weekend for the first time and qualified for the NCAA outdoor meet with a time of 58.33 seconds in the Florida Relays. Harrison has now competed in six different events. ... James Purvis also qualified for the NCAA meet, June 3-6 at LSU, in the 110-meter high hurdles with a time of 13.66 seconds. ... A large crowd is expected at 2,000-seat Chandler Stadium for Tuesday night's baseball game against Florida State. "It's great. People have been calling all day," said Tech coach Jim Morris. "If we don't freeze them out, we're going to have a great crowd." ... Tech still has a .369 team batting average, but some key members of the lineup are in slumps. Center fielder K.G. White is 1-for-13, right fielder Riccardo Ingram 2-for-10, first baseman Billy Parham and third baseman Carl Sitler 0-for-8, shortstop Keith Kerver 0-for-10. - Tom Whitfield

Turf Club meeting will focus on reduced purses

Tuesday's graded entries, Page 6-D By Darrell Simmons Staff Writer

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. - The fifth week of horse



racing at the Turf Club starts Tuesday, with a meeting scheduled between the track management and horse owners to discuss reducing the purses. With daily handles below pro-

jections, the Turf Club has been paying more than \$50,000 a day more in purses than the takeout allowed from the handle can cover. Purses averaging about \$85,000 a day were guaranteed for the first 65-day spring meeting, which ends May 31. If a reduction in purses before then is proposed, some horsemen might go

along with it. They'd like to see the scheduled 175 days of racing a year here survive, though in the long run reduced purses could dilute the quality of races.

Other horsemen said they would leave.

"They guaranteed purses for 65 days. That's why most of us came here," Danny Switzer said. "If they say Tuesday they're cutting back, and if the other trainers will go along with it, I won't enter Wednesday. They can't race without horses.'

TURF CLUB NOTES: Counted in the parking

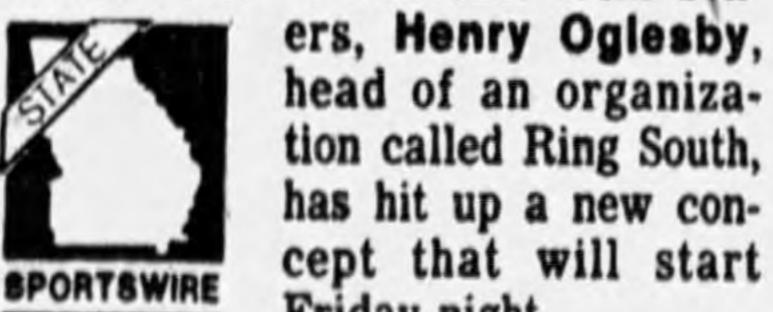
Derby, Saturday afternoon April 11, are still available. Reserved seats are sold out. ... Wade Rini, who gets first call on Dogwood Farm horses at the Turf Club, took a busman's holiday Saturday afternoon. Rini flew to Aiken, S.C., and rode four Dogwood mounts in the 54th Annual Aiken Trials. Rini had two winners - 2-year-old Baby Lillo in a 2-furlong race and 3-year-old Well Enough Alone at 4 furlongs. He flew back to Birmingham and was scheduled to ride Med Student in Saturday's feature race, but the 3year-old gelding was scratched. ... Going into this week's races, Gene St. Leon is leading Turf Club jockeys in purses won, with \$168,040 after winning Saturday night's feature, the Hoop Jr. Stakes. Winner's purse in that \$29,200 race was \$18,980.

lot last Saturday night - 20 charter buses from Georgia. . . . A marketing and ticket office in Atlanta is scheduled to open within the next week. ... General admission tickets for the Alabama

Decatur nightclub to host boxing

From Staff Reports

In an effort to showcase local box-



Friday night. How about this - in a nightclub setting?

A little dancing, then an exhibition bout. A little dancing, then and exhibition bout. A little dancing, then ...

In all, four exhibition fights, scheduled to go four rounds each, will be held at Club Catch, which is located at 2549 Gresham Rd. in De-Kalb County.

The first bout of the night will feature Atlantan Ricky Stackhouse against fellow middleweight Eddie **Evans.** Welterweights Leland Hart

and David Taylor will take to the ring next, before David Nalls meets an opponent yet to be named in a lightweight match.

The final bout of the evening will feature Jack Jackson and James Shula in a confrontation of heavyweights. Admission to the four-bout card, which Olglesby and promoter Gino Jordan hope to make a monthly event, is \$6 in advance, \$8 at the door.

- Earnest Reese

TRACK: The Georgia Amateur Athletic Union has scheduled its 1987 Georgia track and field championships at Woodruff Physical Education Center at Emory University on June 12 and 13. All register Georgia AAUJO athletes and teams may compete, but all competitors must be pre-registered. For further information, call Robert Eberhart at 289-6498.

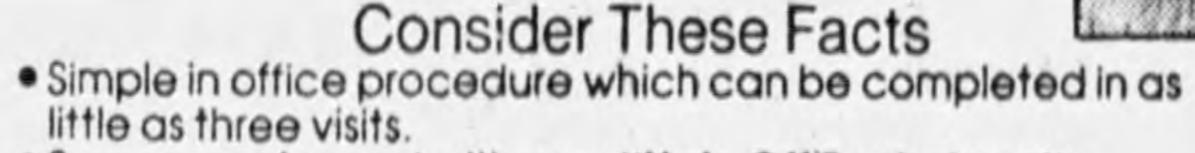


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