SPORTS

Sat., May 9, 1987

MARC HANSEN

Agentgate hits sour note

A fellow stopped me at the Iowa Cubs game and, between bites on a hot dog, offered his thoughts on the Agentgate scandal that has stiff-armed the University of Iowa.

Agentgate is the mess involving former Hawkeye football players Ronnie Harmon and Devon Mitchell and agent Norby Walters, who gave them money while they attended the University of Iowa.

This fellow was angry and indignant. This is the University of Iowa, he growled, tearing into his hot dog. It isn't some renegade school whose athletes can't stay out of the news.

What's going on here? This: Success is spoiling the University of Iowa. Athletic success, that is. Success breeds corruption, among other things. True, Joe Paterno has somehow managed to avoid scandal at Penn State. Notre Dame seems to hover above it all.

Bo Schembechler keeps Michigan's nose clean, though he's so troubled by Agentgate he's pushing legislation to prevent people like Walters from getting their fingerprints all over his athletes.

BUT LOOK at Nebraska, look at USC, look at Oklahoma, look up and down the Southwest Conference. Look at most of the nation's football powers. Not many have escaped embarrassment.

If it isn't crime or drugs or graduation rates, it's trouble with the NCAA. It isn't just the downtrodden taking short cuts to get well. It's the well-heeled trying to get better.

In the good old bad days at Iowa, the fanaticism was high, but not so high as it is today.

Back when the Hawkeyes had few players worth a handful of 100-dollar bills passed under the table, someone like Walters wouldn't have given them the time of day.

And so we're saddled with Agentgate. The Iowa coaches and athletic department officials say they didn't know Harmon and Mitchell were receiving money, and I don't doubt it.

That doesn't mean Hayden Fry hasn't built a monster that won't be strapped down. He has. Big-time programs are susceptible to big-time headaches, and Iowa's program grows bigger every year.

Consider the case of blue-chip running back Tony Stewart, who took the SAT several times before meeting the NCAA requirement.

Suppose he was just another prospective student and not a high school all-America football player. Would the university be so concerned about his future? Not a chance.

Because of their phenomenal football success, the Hawkeyes now attract some of the best high school athletes in the country.

Suppose they attract a blue-chipper of the first magnitude. Suppose he is a marginal citizen. Do they tell him thanks for the interest, but he's better off looking elsewhere? It's doubtful.

SO WHO are the bad guys of Agentgate? Harmon's a bad guy and so is Mitchell. They betrayed their teammates for a motor scooter and other creature comforts.

It would have been different had Harmon or Mitchell been in need. By all accounts, that wasn't the case. Harmon made it clear how much fun he had living and playing in New York City. And what a drag Iowa was by comparison. The destitute don't have fun in New York City.

Walters is a bad guy. Not so much for walking all over the NCAA rulebook. Nowhere does it say he has to play by their rules. No, Walters is a bad guy more for the insulting way he courts black athletes.

Why didn't he visit Chuck Long's parents in Wheaton, Ill., and with the entire family watching, drop 25 hundred-dollar bills on *their* table? According to Larry Station Sr., that's what Walters did at the Station household in Omaha, Neb.

Why did he figure such a crude display would work with a proud, honorable family like the Stations? Why did he figure a stack of greenbacks would turn the head of Robert Smith, Iowa's speedy wide receiver? Smith will graduate this year, probably with a degree in integrity.

The answer is as simple as black and white.

The school is a bad guy for risking its academic conscience just so the football beast can be fed.

The athletic department, which must take ultimate responsibility, is a bad guy. The NCAA, with its dream-world rulebook, is a bad guy.

And the press is a bad guy. If Stewart lives up to his reputation he will leave Iowa with an overflowing scrapbook. He will be a hero, as Harmon was, for most of the wrong reasons. The bad guys are a big group.

Report: 3 NBA players tied to drugs, gambling

MILWAUKEE, WIS. (AP) — Dennis Johnson of the Boston Celtics and Milwaukee centers Jack Sikma and Paul Mokeski were linked to an Arizona grand jury's investigation into alleged drug use and illegal gambling, an Arizona newspaper reported Friday.

JACK SIKMA

All three players, who were in Milwaukee for Friday night's NBA playoff game between the Celtics and the Bucks, denied the allegations contained in a copyright story in the Mesa Tribune.

The newspaper reported that transcripts it had obtained said that former Phoenix Suns guard Johnny High told the county grand jury he used cocaine with Johnson on three occasions during the 1982-83 season.

"I do not use cocaine," said Johnson, who was with the Suns that season. "I did not. I hope my point is getting across. I have not, I will not. I don't intend to."

Betting Advice

The Tribune reported the transcripts also showed that testimony on April 9 alleged that Sikma and Mokeski, his backup, gave a Phoenix nightclub manager winning betting advice the night before the Bucks beat the Suns, 115-107, on Feb. 21.

"There's absolutely no truth to it," Sikma said Friday. "I have no knowledge of any investigation going on at this point concerning me anywhere."

The Maricopa County investigation reportedly is looking into allegations that a non-player won more than $100,000 by placing an "under-over" bet on that Feb. 21 game.

Sikma said he was at the Phoenix nightclub, Malarkey's, two nights before the game to "have a couple of beers" with Mokeski, a Bucks' trainer and a reporter from the Milwaukee Journal.

"Most of the time, I was talking to the people I came with, just shooting the breeze," said Sikma. "People come up and ask how you're doing and so forth. I left there with there with no knowledge of anything unusual."

Denies Cocaine Use

Sikma said he did not know James Jordan, the nightclub manager whom the newspaper said allegedly received the information.

However, Mokeski said he and Jordan were friends and had gone on a recent golf trip to Hawaii.

The transcripts indicated that a bartender at the nightclub said Jordan may have rewarded Mokeski with gifts of cocaine for the tip, according to the newspaper.

"Whatever the bartender thinks Jordan said to him, I can't control that," said Mokeski.

"He [Jordan] did not offer me cocaine. I did not take cocaine and did not give him any information about the game other than what I would give to an average fan who would come up and says 'how's the team playing?' "

"Unfair to Players"

Commissioner David Stern, in a statement issued by the league, said that while the grand jury investigation continued, "it is unfair for NBA players to be subjected to press reports of alleged 'links' and other vague references that are simply inadequate to support any accusation of wrongdoing."

"The NBA holds its players to the

DRUGS
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Indy drivers seek record speeds today

220 mph possible as race for pole position begins

INDIANAPOLIS, IND. (AP) — Qualifying speeds approaching 220 mph are possible today in the opening round of time trials for the 71st Indianapolis 500, with Mario Andretti and defending champion Bobby Rahal expected to vie for the pole position.

Even as he psyched out the competition this week in practice by turning two laps above 218, unofficially the fastest laps in the history of the 2½-mile Indianapolis Motor Speedway oval, Andretti joined the growing chorus of voices talking about slowing down the Indy cars.

"I will join the crowd when it's time to act. But I don't think there's any reason to panic, I really don't," said the 1969 Indy 500 winner.

"This isn't a situation we're passive about. Everybody is quite concerned, but you have to do something that you know will work, and right now I don't think anyone has a clear answer, even the engineers.

"You could really spoil the aerodynamics tremendously and have a lot more crashes, and those crashes at 190 can hurt just as badly."

Official records at the Speedway can be set only during the four days of time trials or in the race. The official marks of 217.581 mph for one lap and 216.828 for a four-lap, 10-mile qualifying run were set last May by Rick Mears. Both are expected to fall today.

Another driver taking aim at the top qualifying spot in what will be a 33-car field is Rahal, who has quietly gone about getting his car ready this week.

"If we get the pole, fine," said Rahal, who went on to win the Indy-car series championship last year. "If not, we'll be somewhere up front and, hopefully, the car will be ready for the race. That's what we're really here for."

Few people will ever know the sensation of driving a race car at high speed here or anywhere else. But Tom Sneva, one of the major proponents of slowing down the cars, tried to put into words what it's like.

"Think of yourself running on top of a fence in the shape of an oval, like the speedway," said the 1983 Indy winner and the man who broke the

INDY
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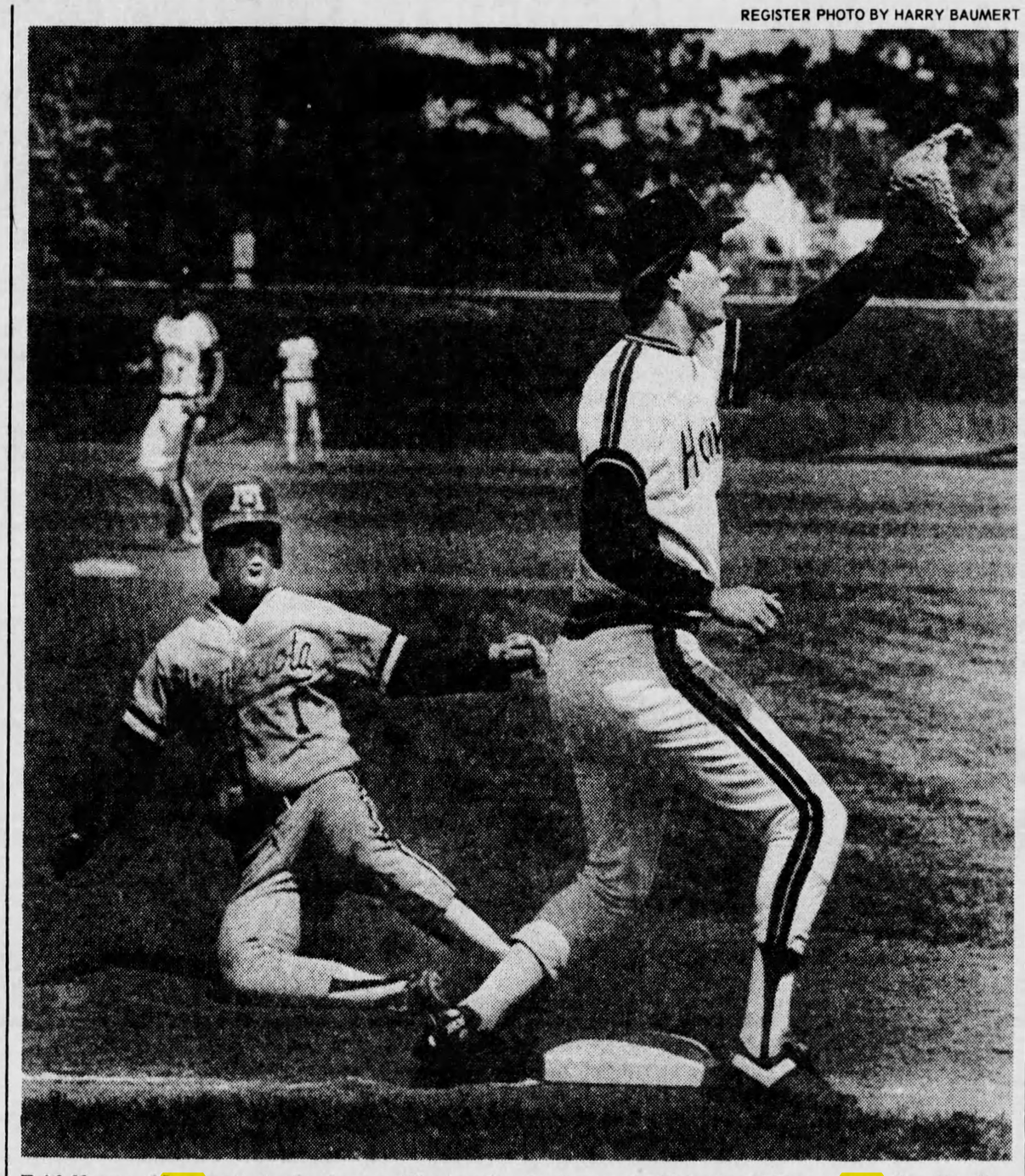
REGISTER PHOTO BY HARRY BAUMERT



Keith Noreen of Iowa waits for the throw as Minnesota's J.T. Bruett steals third base in the first game of a Big Ten Conference doubleheader Friday at Iowa City. The Gophers won the game, 4-2.

Four homers by Kuester keep Hawkeyes in race

By WAYNE GRETT
Register Staff Writer

IOWA CITY, IA. — A stress fracture of the left foot hampered John Kuester in the outfield a little Friday, but it had no effect on his hitting.

The Iowa senior from Watkins slammed four straight home runs, three in a 6-3 victory in the second game, to help the Hawkeyes split a doubleheader with Minnesota and stay in the running for a the Big Ten Conference's West Division championship.

Minnesota won the first seven-inning game, 4-2, and could have clinched the title with a victory in the second game. Iowa needs to sweep a doubleheader from the Gophers today to win the title.

The victory in the second game Friday moved the Hawks, now 9-5 in league play, closer to the Big Ten playoffs at Michigan next weekend. The top two teams in the West and East qualify.

"I'll never forget this day as long as I live," said Kuester. "I have hit back-to-back home runs before, but never four straight.

"I was seeing the ball real well and I was laying off the pitches I can't hit and waiting for him to lay one in

HAWKS
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Dickerson says college offered him $50,000

BOYS TOWN, NEB. (AP) — Eric Dickerson of the Los Angeles Rams says he once turned down $50,000 in cash from a college that tried to recruit him.

"When I got recruited, I got offered a lot of stuff from a lot of schools," Dickerson said Thursday. "The things they offered, you're just amazed they could offer."

Dickerson, the National Football League record-holder for yards rushing in a season, spoke Thursday night at the Boys Town Boosters' athletic banquet in Omaha.

Dickerson, a college star at Southern Methodist University, said a school offered him $50,000 and brought it to his home in a briefcase.

Dickerson said he didn't accept the offer because he didn't like the school.

Although the offer violated NCAA rules, Dickerson said he didn't report it.

"I've got to play against those guys," he said. "They're going to hate me. What's the sense?"

Dickerson said he received benefits in violation of NCAA rules when he played at SMU.

"Just like anyone else, I got it," he said. "If I asked for $50, if I needed some spending money, they would

DICKERSON
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Grand slam in 9th inning sinks Twins

Six-run burst by Yankees provides 11-7 victory

NEW YORK, N.Y. (AP) — Mike Pagliarulo hit a grand slam, his second home run of the game, capping a six-run rally in the ninth inning as the New York Yankees beat Minnesota, 11-7, Friday night and became the eighth team in major-league history to win its first 10 home games in a season.

Rickey Henderson hit a two-run homer off Minnesota relief ace Jeff Reardon before Pagliarulo's shot.

The Twins led, 7-3, on home runs by Tom Brunansky and Mark Davidson, both of which struck the left-field foul pole.

The Yankees began their comeback in the seventh when Gary Ward's second home run of the game and Pagliarulo's first chased Minnesota starter Mark Portugal and made it 7-5.

Reardon took over for Keith Atherton with the bases loaded and two out in the eighth and struck out Rick Cerone. But Reardon walked Wayne Tolleson to start the ninth after going ahead, 0-2, in the count and Henderson hit the first pitch far over the 375-foot sign for his seventh home run.

Willie Randolph walked, stole second, and went to third on catcher Tim Laudner's throwing error but stayed there as Don Mattingly flied to shallow left. Dan Pasqua walked, and after an intentional walk to Dave Winfield loaded the bases, Reardion fanned Ward for the second out.

Pagliarulo, who, like Ward, came into the game with only one home run this season, lined the next pitch over the right-field fence for his second career grand slam.

Cecilio Guante, the third New York pitcher, worked out of a bases-loaded, no-out jam in the eighth and earned the victory with two hitless innings, striking out five.

The Yankees are the only team in baseball that has not lost in its own stadium this year. The record for consecutive victories at home to start the season is 12 by Detroit in 1911.

Brunansky's RBI single capped a three-run first inning and he hit a two-run homer off Tim Stoddard in the third after the Twins, who batted only .216 in their previous eight games, tagged Tommy John for six hits and four runs in 1⅔ innings.

Davidson hit his first major-league homer off Stoddard in the seventh to give the Twins a 7-3 lead.

MINNESOTA	ab	r	h	bi	NEW YORK	ab	r	h	bi
Newman ss	5	0	0	0	R.Henderson cf	4	1	2	2
Gladden rf	5	1	2	1	Randolph 2b	4	1	0	0
Puckett cf	5	1	3	0	Mattingly 1b	5	0	0	0
Gaetti 3b	5	1	1	1	Pasqua lf	3	2	2	0
Hrbek 1b	3	1	1	1	Winfield rf	4	2	1	0
Brunansky dh	3	1	2	3	G.Ward dh	5	2	3	4
Laudner c	4	0	0	0	Pagliarulo 3b	4	2	2	5
Lombardozzi 2b	4	1	2	0	Skinner c	2	0	0	0
Davidson rf	2	1	2	1	Cerone c	1	0	0	0
Smalley ph	1	0	0	0	Washington ph	1	0	0	0
Bush rf	0	0	0	0	Tolleson ss	3	1	1	0
Totals	37	7	13	7	Totals	36	11	11	11

Two out when winning runs scored.

Minnesota	312	000	100	— 7
New York	030	000	206	— 11

Game-winning RBI—Pagliarulo (2). E—R. Henderson, Guante, Lombardozzi, Laudner. DP—Minnesota 2, New York 1. LOB—Minnesota 6, New York 6. 2B—Gladden, Winfield, R. Henderson. HR—G. Ward 2 (3), Brunansky (4), Davidson (1), Pagliarulo 2 (3), R. Henderson (7). SB—Puckett (5), Gaetti (2), Tolleson (2), Randolph (2). S—Davidson.

Minnesota	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Portugal	4	7	5	5	2	2
Atherton	1⅓	2	0	0	1	0
Reardon L, 1-2	2	2	6	6	4	1
New York	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**
John	1⅔	6	4	4	0	1
Stoddard	5⅓	7	3	3	0	4
Guante W, 2-1	2	0	0	0	2	5

Portugal pitched to 2 batters in the 7th. U—Kaiser, Morrison, Phillips, Palermo. T—3:07. A—25,921.

Kirk's $550,000 stimulates investigators' interest

MEMPHIS, TENN. (AP) — Investigators looking into the finances of Dana Kirk, former Memphis State basketball coach charged with fraud and tax violations, were surprised to find he had $550,000 in certificates of deposit, court records show.

"What is a basketball coach doing with that kind of money? It caused us to question about his tax situation," court papers quote U.S. Attorney Hickman Ewing Jr. as saying during a closed meeting with Kirk's lawyers and a federal judge.

Ewing's comments are included in papers filed this week by defense lawyers seeking transcripts of grand jury proceedings that led to Kirk's indictment late last year.

Kirk is scheduled for trial June 22.

The former coach has refused to talk with reporters since his indictment, and law office secretaries said his attorneys were unavailable for comment Friday.

Defense lawyers contend the investigation of Kirk began with allegations of sports gambling that were never substantiated. They contend in the court papers that Ewing "poisoned the minds of the grand jury" and used his office to "persecute not prosecute" Kirk.

Ewing said he regards grand jury meetings as secret and has indicated he will oppose the defense request for the transcripts.

"We'll file a response to the specifics they have set out," he said.

A hearing on pretrial motions in the case is set for May 22.

Since his indictment, Kirk has complained that the jury was called to investigate sports gambling but ended up focusing on his personal finances.

He was charged following an 18-month investigation that spurred heavy news coverage, including re-

KIRK
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MORNING REPORT

☐ **IOWANS HONORED.** Three Iowans have been named to the 1987 Asics-Tiger All-America wrestling team as selected by the editors of Wrestling Masters and Pennsylvania Roundup magazines. Dan Knight, a 126-pounder from Clinton, and Bart Chelesvig, a 167-pounder from Webster, were first team selections. Steve Hamilton, a 138-pound standout from Emmetsburg, was named to the third team.

☐ **NAPOLEON MOVED.** Napoleon McCallum, the Navy officer who played running back for the Los Angeles Raiders last year, has been ordered to a San Diego-based Navy command, according to a service official. McCallum commuted last year from Long Beach to the Los Angeles Coliseum, a trip of about 20 miles. San Diego is about 120 miles from the coliseum. A Navy official told The San Diego Union on Thursday that McCallum was denied his first three choices of duty — all on ships based in Long Beach.

☐ **IT'S HOW YOU SAY IT.** "They played extremely well. We played well. Extremely was the difference," said Milwaukee forward Paul Pressey after the Buck's 126-124 loss to the Boston Celtics in the second game of the Western Conference semifinals.

☐ **NEW DAY.** Jockey Pat Day, now the straightest of arrows, makes no secret of his days of wine and roses and nose powder, when he was known around tracks for temper and belligerence. Could he ride while under the influence of cocaine? "I got so I couldn't ride without it," says Day.

☐ **DADDY DOMINIQUE?** A woman from Ypsilanti, Mich., says she has filed a paternity lawsuit in Ann Arbor against the Atlanta Hawks' Dominique Wilkins, a Detroit newspaper reported Friday. Marti Bass, 22, said she is asking Wilkins to pay $78,000 a year to support her 3-month-old daughter, Ashley Marie. Wilkins, 27, says he is not the child's father.

☐ **PUNCHED OUT.** Misdemeanor battery charges were filed in Los Angeles Friday against Southern California running back Aaron Emanuel, who allegedly punched Sharon Hatfield, a member of the Southern California women's track team, in the face at a party last weekend. Emanuel, 20, has been suspended from the football team and his student status is under review.

☐ **IN MARIS' NAME.** A $5 million cancer treatment center in Fargo, N.D., will bear the name of the late baseball great Roger Maris, who succumbed to the disease two years ago, according to project officials. Maris grew up in Fargo and went on to play professional baseball with the Kansas City A's, New York Yankees and St. Louis Cardinals. In 1961, he hit 61 home runs with the Yankees, a major-league record that still stands.