

SPORTSPEOPLE

Odds & **INS**



By Skip Myslenki & Linda Kay

On tap: It's Miller Lite Tankard Mug Day at Wrigley Field Tuesday, which just happens to be the day Harry Caray, that noted Bud Man, returns to the broadcast booth. Not only that, but it just happens to be Old Style Day at the Friendly Confines on Wednesday. To put a head on it, Caray holds a press conference Monday, and WGN radio plans to interrupt the "Roy Leonard Show" to cover it live. Who is Leonard's guest that day? A man named Michael Jackson, who just happens to be a beer expert.

**Don't think ...**

... the folks at Budweiser are crying in their beer. No way. That enterprising crew has arranged for a souvenir cup to be distributed Tuesday at the watering holes around Wrigley Field. One side features their Cub Fan, Bud Man dressed in his Blues Brothers suit. The other side reads "Welcome back, Harry."

**Roll out the red carpet**

The state of Illinois has declared Tuesday Harry Caray Day, and Gov. Thompson is trying to clear his schedule to attend the game. . . . President Reagan has been asked to tape a greeting for the broadcaster. . . . And yes, Caray does plan to entertain the fans during the seventh-inning stretch with his inimitable version of "Take Me Out to the Ballgame."

**Caray to Caray**

Bulls coach Doug Collins is moonlighting during the NBA playoffs as an analyst for Turner Broadcasting, and he was behind the mike last Friday when the Pistons' Isiah Thomas lit up the Hawks with 25 third-quarter points. Those 12 minutes displayed the Detroit guard at his very best, and sometime during his spectacular performance, Turner play-by-play man Skip Caray gushed, "Have you ever seen a guard take control of a game like this?"

"Yeah," deadpanned Collins. "About 60, 70 times this season."

"Oh, my, what was I thinking about," Caray immediately said, and then he went on to profusely apologize for not thinking of Michael Jordan.

**In the catbird seat**

The NBA holds its lottery Sunday, and then the winner will face the choice of drafting Navy All-World center David Robinson or selecting a lesser talent who does not have a two-year military commitment. With that in mind, we thought we might refresh you on a couple of rules that make Robinson's situation quite envious. (1) If he is picked and does not sign with the team or play any type of pro ball during the next year, he goes back into the draft. But if he spends a second year as he did the first, he becomes a free agent the third time around and able to sign with the highest bidder. And (2) if he wishes to make money and play in the Olympics and fulfill his military commitment without interruptions by NBA games, he can sign with a team but not play for it, put the money in escrow, draw a specified amount for expenses and still be an amateur under international rules.

**No bush league**

Golfer Mark Calcavecchia took home \$64,800 for finishing second in the Byron Nelson Classic last Sunday, but a year ago, he was thrilled to take home \$15,000 for finishing first in a tourney. Calcavecchia was then playing Tournament Player's Association—or TPA—a golf circuit akin to Triple-A baseball. In its second season, TPA consists of 28 tourneys this year, including the North Shore Open at Foss Park the week of June 15. At that time, Chicagoans Lance Ten Broeck, Roy Biancalana and Gary Pinns cover the same ground as Calcavecchia, all very eager to follow in his footsteps.

**No gain without pain**

Dick Voit's Warriors wage the fitness battle at Lehmann Courts three times a week, and that effort is partly responsible for the healthy state of the American Conservatory of Music. The Conservatory, which went bankrupt a year ago and had to leave its Michigan Avenue site, was able to rebound and relocate with the help of three guys who knew each other only because they'd granted through Voit's strenuous workouts. Warrior Ray Tate, a member of the Conservatory faculty, asked Warrior Vern Nelson, a management consultant, to direct the bailout. Warrior Morrie Kalish then offered the Conservatory a new home on the top two floors of the Stevens Building. The dedication was held last week, and no, the Warriors did not hit the floor for push-ups.

**News, notes and nonsense**

In case you haven't noticed, the Celtics' Larry Bird went on a diet before the NBA playoffs began and dropped some 10 to 15 pounds. . . . Former Loyola center Andre Moore has signed with the Philadelphia Aces of United States Basketball League and will play for them Friday when they face Staten Island. He has been promised a week off at the end of May to attend the NBA tryout camp in Chicago. . . . "Master of Motivation" Joe Newton, track coach at York High School and a member of the coaching staff for the 1988 Olympic track team, speaks to runners and triathletes at Libertyville High School on Tuesday. . . . About 100 top-notch players and officials travel here from Ireland for games of Gaelic football and hurling Sunday at Gaelic Park.

And finally: As if Mets pitcher Dwight Gooden doesn't have enough problems, the June issue of Penthouse has handwriting analyst Harlette Surovell dissecting Gooden's signature. According to Surovell, Gooden is "full of vitality and sensual energy," but "the oversized D in his penmanship shows an attachment to the past and his mother."



Marvin Rotblatt, shown in 1951, says: "When these kids first called me about this, I thought they were kidding."

**It's time once again to play Rotblatt**

They've always done things a little differently at Carleton College, a private, liberal arts school in Northfield, Minn., about 35 miles south of Minneapolis.

Ten years ago, Carleton was the site of what was believed to be the nation's first all-metric football game. But measuring the field a different way didn't help the Knights, who lost 42-0.

This weekend, with spring in full bloom on the school's picturesque campus, the fancy of Carleton's young men will turn to Rotblatt and not love.

That's Marvin J. Rotblatt, a former White Sox pitcher who won four games in 35 appearances spread over the 1948, '50 and '51 seasons. At the plate, he reached his high point when he drew a walk. Otherwise, he was 0-for-15.

At Carleton, those totals made him a perfect choice when students decided in 1964 to start an intramural softball program and name it for a mediocre baseball player whose name might challenge trivia buffs.

According to legend, one of the league's student-founders (probably a Chicagoan) remembered the name of the Sox pitcher from his baseball card collection. *Voilà!* Rotblatt was born, and the Warthogs beat the Sugar Kings in the first title game.

(Carleton's women students later started their own prog, Wombat.)

Tradition now dictates that each year a game be played in which the number of innings equals the age of the school. Saturday, Rotblatt czar (the program is directed by czars) Paul Hemstreet will oversee a 121-inning game that starts at 6:30 a.m.

Rotblatt, 60, a Chicago-area insurance salesman, will not be there to throw out the first ball. He has, however, been the honored guest at banquets and games on the campus.

"When these kids first called me about this," he once told a reporter, "I thought they were kidding. I mean, what am I going to do in Northfield? Where is it?"

Several years ago, Rotblatt (the person) attended a Carleton function at which he was introduced to someone who made it to the big leagues after playing Rotblatt (the sport). He was Ballard Smith, president of the San Diego Padres.

Smith told the audience how, as a young lawyer, he fought his way up the legal ladder following his carefree Rotblatt days in Northfield.

Then, in a manner representative of the sport, he told how he hit it really big and became the Padres' president.

"I married the boss' daughter," said Smith, whose wife is the daughter of Ray Kroc, the late chairman and founder of the McDonald's Corp.

**Maybe it's because they can't take him to arbitration**

New York Yankees owner George Steinbrenner apparently tolerates a baseball loss at his high school alma mater with better humor than he takes a Yankee defeat.

Steinbrenner watched his son, Harold, play in a 15-5 loss Saturday to LaSalle High School at Culver Academy in Culver, Ind. Steinbrenner was graduated from the military academy in 1948.

LaSalle coach Scott Sill of South Bend said the Yankees boss was generous to the players on both teams after the game.

"In fact, Mr. Steinbrenner went out of his

way to say some nice words about our team after the game," Sill said. "He was pretty quiet during the game. As I recall, I think I might have heard him just once—getting on an umpire."

Steinbrenner strolled around the park during the game taking pictures, talking to parents and signing autographs.

"He was there for batting practice, and he was one of the last people to leave the field after the game," Sill said. "When he left, he waved at us and said he was off to Dairy Queen to get a shake."



Bet Twice (right) gets a different view of Alysheba at Pimlico Wednesday. Alysheba beat Bet Twice by three-quarters of a length to win the Kentucky Derby.

**Eat your heart out, St. Andrews**

Move over, Masters. Step aside, British Open.

The first H.J. Whigham Cup golf tournament was held Tuesday at Algonquin's Golf Club of Illinois, and it won't be long before this team event takes its rightful place among the sport's legendary stops.

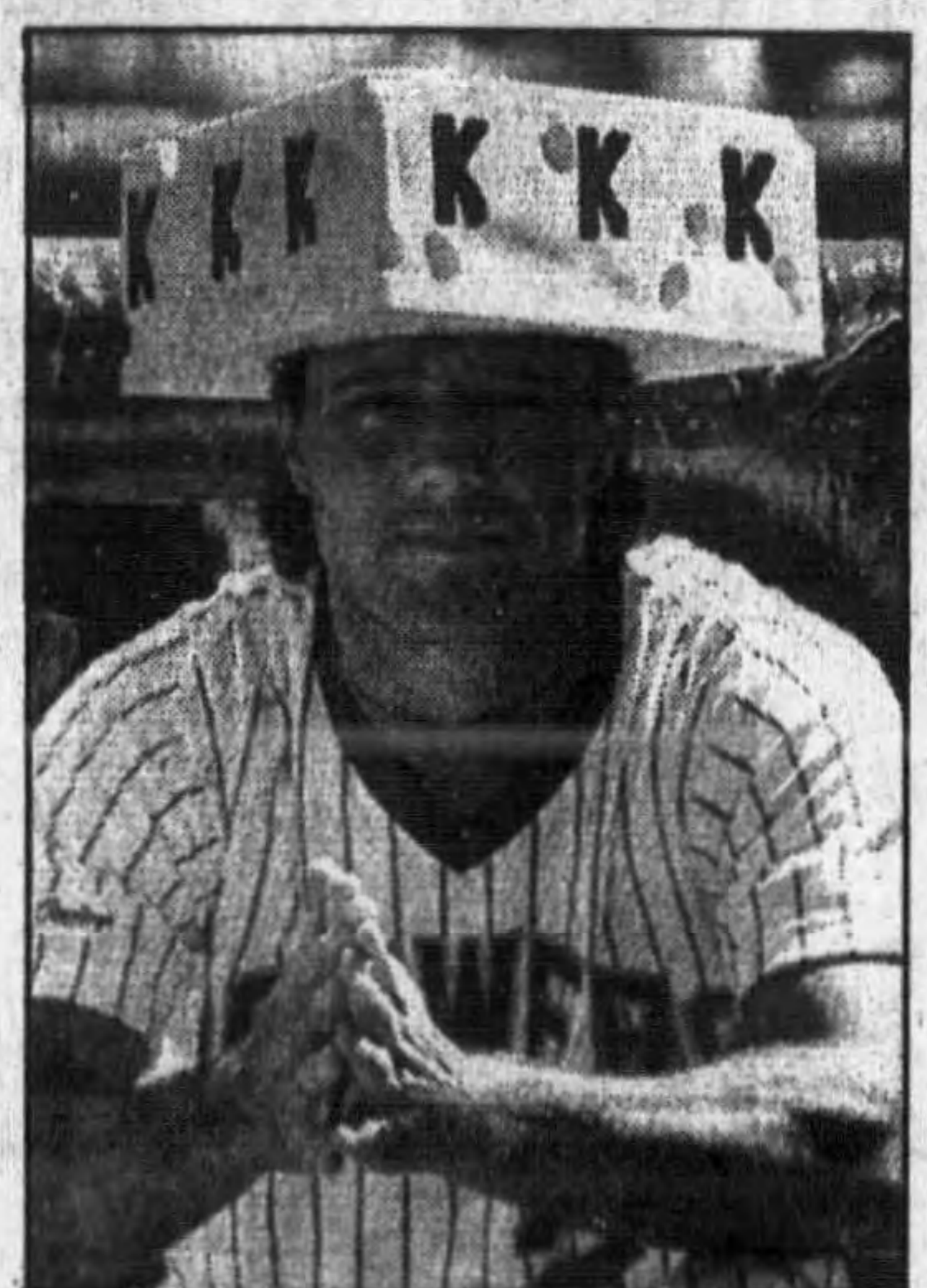
After all, it's got what it takes: a distinctive course, a unique hole [678 yards] and plenty of lore, which is supplied by the person the event honors.

H.J. Whigham, if you'll pardon our bragging, was a Tribune reporter who was so good at golf that he won the U.S. Amateur in 1896 and 1897. Whigham was dispatched to cover the Spanish-American War, where he contracted malaria. He died after returning to the U.S.

The Western Golf Association's Brian Fitzgerald, one of the event's organizers, even made sure the inaugural had an appropriate-looking Cup to present to the winners.

"When I ordered it, I told the company to tie it to a rope and drag it behind a car for six blocks to give it some scuffs and dents," he said. "We wanted the Cup to have age."

So who plays in the H.J. Whigham Cup? Well, according to Fitzgerald, it's open to media "remotely connected to sports," and the initial winner was WLS-TV, which edged WGN-TV. Sad to say, Whigham's old paper could do no better than third in the 24-team field.



People can get desperate during a losing streak. Real desperate. Outfielder Rick Manning wears a cheesehead hat Wednesday to try to help the Brewers end their losing streak. It didn't work. Milwaukee lost its eighth in a row.

**5**

If a manager's road to the major leagues is through the minors, not many blacks can expect to be managing major-league teams. Only 5 of the 151 minor-league teams have black managers. According to Baseball America, they are Tommie Reynolds of Modesto [A's] in the California League, Tommy Spencer of Geneva [Cubs] in the New York-Penn League, Jerry Manuel of Sarasota [Expos] in the Gulf Coast League, Derrel Thomas of Boise [Independent] in the Northwest League and Dan Norman of Miami [Independent] in the Florida State League.

**This kid keeps her on the run**

Theresa Bertram, a 17-year-old from Peachtree City, Ga., has been awarded a cross-country scholarship to Georgia State, where she will be a teammate of her mother.

Bertram's mother, 39-year-old Nora Weed, has been a member of the Panthers' cross-country squad for two seasons. Bertram signed with Georgia State after leading McIntosh High School to a regional championship in cross country last fall.

Weed was named an All-New South Women's Athletic Conference performer last season. National Collegiate Athletic Association officials said they had no record of a parent-child duo ever participating on an intercollegiate team for the same school at the same time.

Weed said she took up competitive running at an older age as a way of spending more time with her second husband, Bob. In her only competition against Theresa, a 5-kilometer race last fall, Nora won by nearly 1½ minutes. "The time will come when her age and my experience will get together," said Weed.

**BRIEFS**

■ Former Phoenix Suns guard Johnny High denies he told authorities that he shared cocaine with former teammate Dennis Johnson and ex-Seattle SuperSonic Fred Brown. In grand jury transcripts published last week by the Mesa (Ariz.) Tribune, High was quoted as saying he used cocaine with Johnson three times during the 1982-83 season.

Johnson, now with the Boston Celtics, denied the charge. "I didn't give Dennis Johnson's name," High said. "They asked me a question about Dennis Johnson and I said, 'No.'" Asked about his alleged link with Brown, High said: "I don't even know Freddie Brown that much or well. I played ball against Freddie Brown. That's it." Brown also has denied using cocaine with High.

Since publication of the transcripts, High said he has been threatened.

Two brothers, implicated as cocaine dealers in testimony by Suns guard Walter Davis, have been indicted on drug-trafficking charges, according to the Arizona Republic. The newspaper reported Wednesday that Wynn Lesure, 36, was indicted last month, but the indictment was not made public pending efforts to locate him. Lesure's brother, Kim, also was indicted, the newspaper said.

■ Lowell "Cotton" Fitzsimmons has been named director of player personnel with the Suns. Herb Brown, 51, a former Detroit Pistons head coach, will be an assistant under Suns head coach John Wetzel. General Manager Jerry Colangelo said Fitzsimmons and Brown agreed to two-year contracts with options on a third year. Fitzsimmons, 55, was Phoenix's coach in 1970-72. He also was coach in Atlanta, Buffalo, Kansas City and San Antonio.

■ Guard Earvin "Magic" Johnson of the Los Angeles Lakers has been named the NBA Player of the Year by The Sporting News. Also selected on the all-league team were Michael Jordan of the Bulls, Houston's Akeem Olajuwon, Boston's Larry Bird and Philadelphia's Charles Barkley. Indiana's Chuck Person was chosen rookie of the year.

■ Only a week after Alabama basketball star Derrick McKey was declared ineligible for signing a contract with agent Norby Walters, Athletic Director Steve Sloan said Crimson Tide guard Terry Coner will be questioned about his possible dealings with Walters. . . . McKey and former Virginia center Olden Polynice top a list of nine underclassmen who applied for next month's National Basketball Association draft. The others were Vincent Askew of Memphis State, Ricky Brown of South Alabama, Morris Coleman of Kansas State, Kenny Drummond of North Carolina State, Russell Pierre of Virginia Tech, Reinhard Schmuck of Baruch and Kevin Smith of Minnesota. Polynice left Virginia after his sophomore year and spent last season playing in Italy. The NBA draft will be June 22.

■ A charity basketball game between a group of pro players and former De Paul players will be held at 7:30 p.m. June 18. Marge's Game benefits the Marge Meyer Scholarship Fund. The game is named after the late wife of former De Paul coach Ray Meyer. The ex-De Paul team consists of Mark Aguirre, Terry Cummings, Dave Corzine, Tyrone Corbin and Dallas Comegys. The team of pro players consists of Terry Porter, Reggie Theus, Craig Hodges, Gene Banks and Alfredrick Hughes. Ray Meyer will coach the ex-De Paul stars. Son Joey, the De Paul coach, will direct the other squad. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at Alumni Hall. . . . St. Louis coach Rich Grawer has signed a three-year contract.

■ Illinois State Athletic Director Bob Frederick, 47, has been named the Kansas athletic director. He was an assistant athletic director at Kansas for four years before leaving for Illinois State in 1985. Frederick succeeds Monte Johnson, who announced his resignation in March.

■ Any Louisiana university employee who deliberately commits major NCAA infractions that result in sanctions must be fired under a bill approved by the state legislature's House Education Committee. The measure also would prohibit a university from hiring anyone who had committed a major offense at out-of-state schools.

■ Sportscastrer Pete Franklin, 59, was in serious condition at the Cleveland Clinic with severe blockage in three arteries of his heart. His situation reportedly was considered extremely serious.

■ Loren Wallace, who coached Lincoln High School the last 12 years, has been named basketball coach at Bloomington High School. He replaces Bob Spahn.

■ Southern Methodist running back Jeff Atkins has signed with the Winnipeg Blue Bombers of the Canadian Football League. Atkins entered a drug rehabilitation center in December. He wasn't selected in the National Football League draft. . . . Washington's entry in the new Arena Football League is named the Commandos. The other finalists were Monuments, Heat, Wizards, Diesel and Power. Many entrants suggested Ruginskins to complement the NFL's Washington Redskins.

Compiled by Mike Conklin, John Dowd and Rich Lorenz from staff wire reports.

**TANK McNAMARA**



**GIL THORP**

