Tech wins in ACC tournament; Georgia opens SEC with Mississippi St. Page 11-E

THE ATLANTA CONSTITUTION SECTION Thursday, May 14, 1987

Hawks come crashing to earth



Pistons laughed all way to next round of playoffs

A whimper. Nothing more. It ended sadly for the Hawks, once so proud. Detroit 104, Atlanta 96.

The Hawks once were shiny with the golden threads of promise. On this night they came unraveled in sad denouement. This was one where you wanted to shut your eyes against what you were seeing, for this was a nervous breakdown in sneakers.

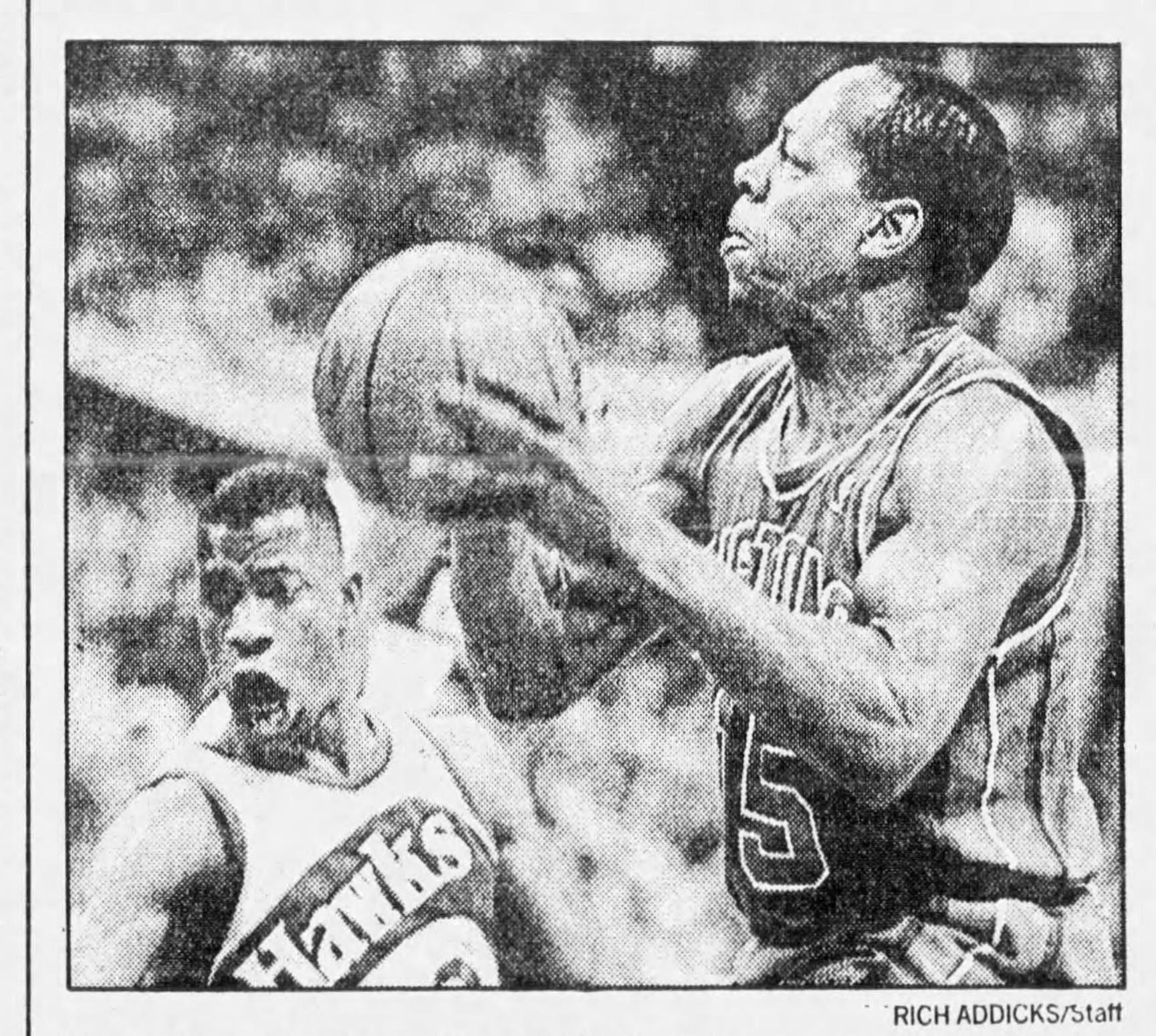
You knew it was coming. You could see the Hawks angry at every slight, as if their magnificent selves ought not to be touched when taking the ball to the hole. This is the NBA. You go to the hole at your own risk, eager even for foul shots. Too often on this night, the Hawks looked to fight instead of to score.

Once dreammakers looking for a fast break, the Hawks ended it looking for a rumble. You knew the Hawks were in trouble when you saw the Pistons laughing. This was the fourth quarter and the Pistons were a dozen down.

This was in Atlanta and the Pistons were laughing at how much fun this was. They sensed an improbable victory. Already up three games to one with the next game in their place, the Pistons had a game to give. But why give it away if Atlanta didn't want to take it?

On a night when Isiah Thomas made only six of 23 shots, the Pistons yet won. And you knew they would when the Hawks failed to put Detroit away in the third quarter. That failure is instructive, not only for what it said about Atlanta's offense but about the Hawks' will.

Players and coaches on Hawks' bench watch as the final seconds tick away on their season Wednesday night at The Omni.



Pistons eliminate Atlanta on 104-96 comeback win

Hawks did nothing great in third

Look at it: The Hawks led 57-44 a minute and a half into the third period. The lead was 59-52 two minutes later. Here came Detroit. But then the Pistons' offense went dead. For the next four minutes, Detroit scored one bucket.

Through such a window of opportunity, great teams leap with savage glee. At the first sign of weakness, great teams slide a shiv between your ribs. A great team playing at home with a sevenpoint lead when the enemy falls flat - a championship team then runs that 59-52 lead to 20 with an impassive and unrelenting discipline.

The Hawks did none of that. Six times downcourt, they failed to score. Doc Rivers threw a pass to nobody. Randy Wittman shoved off. Antoine Carr missed a 17-footer. John Battle gave, away a pass. Carr threw one away. Dominique Wilkins traveled.

By the time Detroit scored again, it had reduced Atlanta's lead to 63-57. The window of opportunity was closed. Detroit might have mailed in the rest of this one had Atlanta made a big move here. Instead, Atlanta gave Detroit reason to think, 'Hey, we can win here right now. No reason to risk a Game 6."

You looked out there in the late going and saw Isiah Thomas put up a shot like a mortar shell, straight up, no good, an air ball of the purest definition. Hammered to the floor, this is what Isiah did: He laughed and spoke into John Salley's smiling face, the two of them having a laugh riot.

Meanwhile, the Hawks were desperate men with no poise. Four times this night, the Hawks tried to start fist-fights, perhaps thinking the loser's thought: A good fight might wake them from a self-induced coma of inefficiency. Twice this night, the Hawks were called for technical fouls; the second on coach Mike Fratello, a call that gave Detroit its first tie of the last quarter at 93all with 3:05 left. Whatever Fratello's beef, however just his argument that play started with a Hawk off the floor, he only added to his team's troubles. From there Detroit outscored Atlanta 10-1 the next 2:51.

Hawks' John Battle stumbles as Vinnie Johnson sets up for a shot.

By Jeff Denberg Staff Writer

Even as they stood on the threshold of a satisfying victory, the Atlanta Hawks crumpled Wednesday. Detroit blew past them in the late minutes at The Omni for a 104-96 win that brought Atlanta's enormously successful season to an ignoble finish.

The Pistons trailed by 12 points with 9:15 to play, but an aroused Isiah Thomas and Vinnie Johnson marshalled forces in a 39-19 final period.

"Isiah kept saying we're gonna win this. game. He was right and I couldn't be happier," Detroit coach Chuck Daly said.

After trailing 83-71 with 9:15 left, Detroit tied it 93-all at 3:05 on a technical against Atlanta coach Mike Fratello for his protest of a

play that started with four Hawks on the floor. Dominique Wilkins left the court in pursuit of John Battle's wild pass with 3:22 to play. He landed on the second row of press tables and was not back when the Pistons inbounded on a play that led to a Thomas layup six seconds later.

JOHN SPINK/Staff

Chief of officials Darell Garretson, an observer in the stands Wednesday while Jack Madden and Mike Mathis worked, said, "Quite honestly I didn't even get to see the play." Given a reconstruction he said, "Probably you would give him (the player off the floor) ... some amount of time, a reasonable amount, and they did hold up play according to their conversation in there. I would rather look at

See HAWKS, Page 7-E

Braves overpower Phillies with 4 homers

By Gerry Fraley Staff Writer

PHILADELPHIA - The running game is a forgotten promise. The Atlanta Braves are returning to their past.

They win on power. For the Braves without Bob Horner, that is a noteworthy accomplishment.

The Braves produced four homers two by Dale Murphy - and nine extrabase hits in their 10-5 bludgeoning of Philadelphia Wednesday night at Veterans Stadium. The team that talked about

stealing runs one at a time takes them at will and has climbed above .500 again.

Let the record show that David Palmer has received 25 runs in winning his last three starts. That never happened last year.

"I don't think you can look at our club and assume we wouldn't score," Ted Simmons said. "We're capable of scoring. If you think different, you're wrong."

The Braves, 11th in the league in home runs three weeks ago, have 24 in their last 15 games. They are 10-5 in those games.

The power extends beyond homers. With five doubles in this game, the Braves have 51 doubles in their last 21 games and lead the league with 71. They finished eighth in doubles last season.

All the hits have put this offense up to fourth in scoring at 5.1 runs per game. The Braves finished 11th with 3.8 runs per game last year.

"The reason why we're hitting doubles is that we're thinking at the plate," manager Chuck Tanner said. "We're try-

ing to do something up there. The offense comes from thinking about the game and concentrating on what to do."

The centerpiece for the offense is Murphy. He has become the league's hottest hitter whose first name is not Eric. Murphy has homered in five of his last six games and has seven homers in his last 34 at-bats.

The last two games could stand as a description for Murphy's whole career.

See BRAVES, Back Page

Hawks learned lesson of defeat

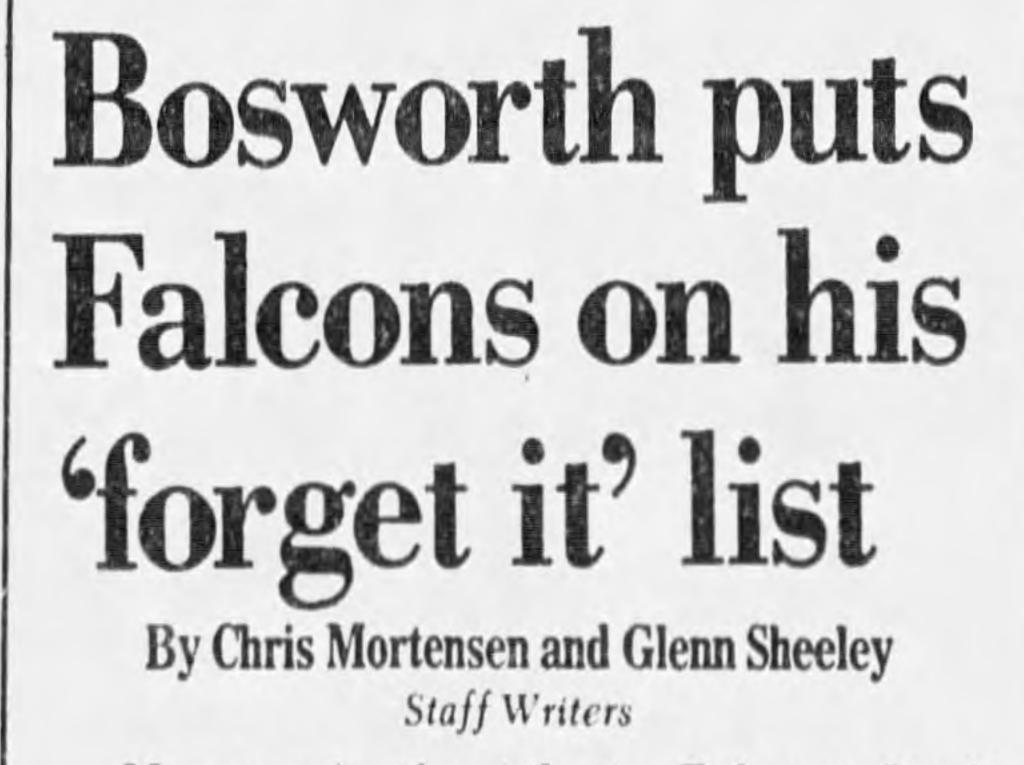
If it's true you must lose before you can learn to win, the Hawks now have learned all too well the lessons of defeat. As the Celtics humiliated the Hawks with a 36-6 third quarter in the season-ending playoff game a year ago, now Detroit has put Atlanta to greater shame.

The Hawks couldn't win at home with a 12point lead going into the last quarter. They were outscored in the quarter, 39-19. They made only four field goals, the last one uncontested.

How bad was it? With a 93-88 lead at 4:19, the Hawks were beaten 14-1 the next four minutes. That stretch made it nearly eight minutes without a field goal. Certainly, Detroit's defense had much to do with that; certainly, the Hawks' offense disappeared.

No one who saw the Hawks this season thinks they are a team of no will; they won too many big games, home and away. They are young, they are strong, they are gifted. It is solace, small but true, that a year ago they were a surprise in reaching the second round; this year their elimination at the same stage is an upset. Next year can't get here soon enough.

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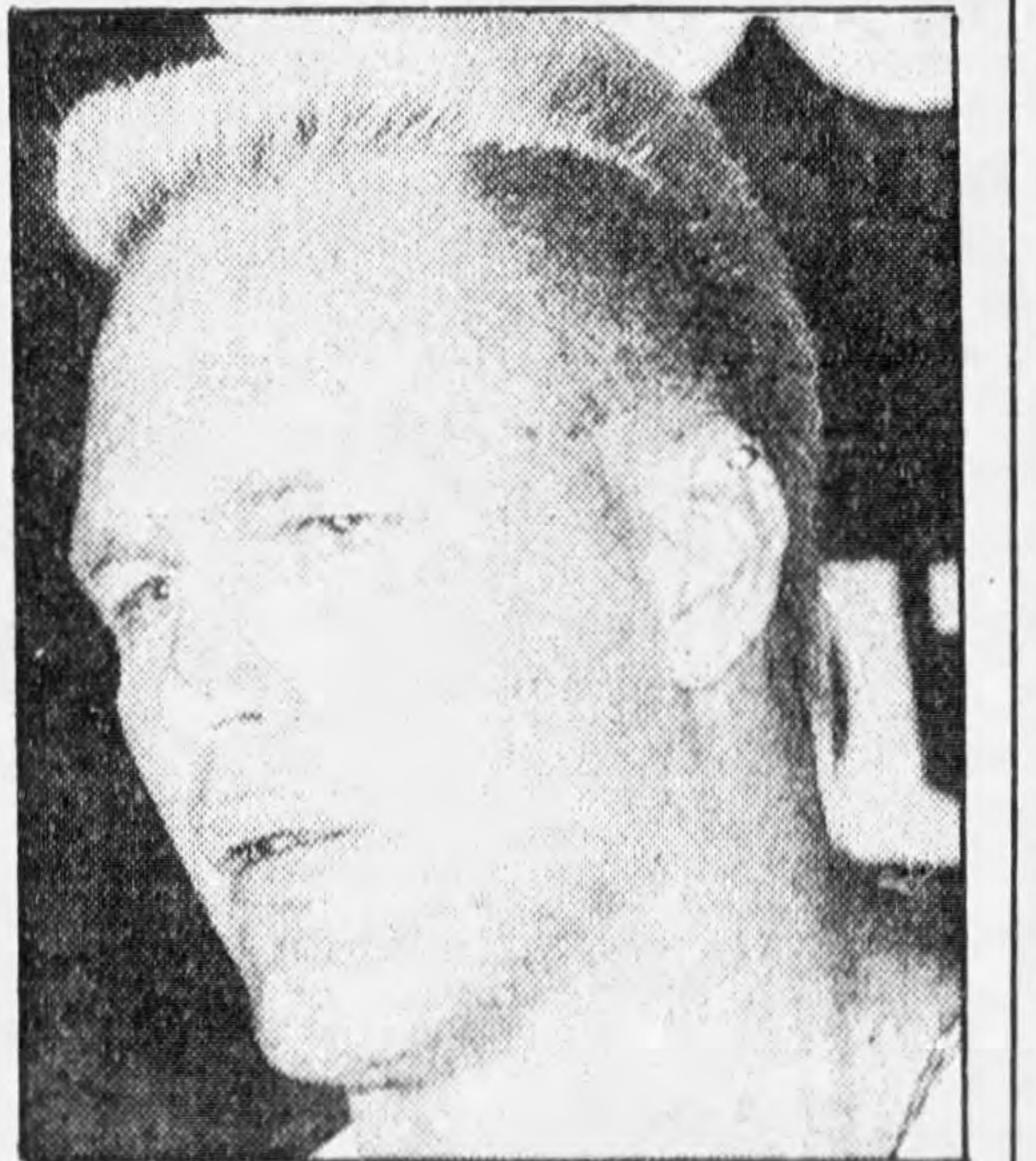


Message to the Atlanta Falcons: Don't bother The Boz.

Claiming the Falcons "don't deserve him," the agent for Oklahoma linebacker Brian Bosworth said Wednesday that the Falcons are on their "forget it" list of teams in the upcoming NFL supplemental draft.

"I doubt that Brian really wants to play in Atlanta. ... In fact, I know it," said Gary Falcons 'don't deserve a player of Brian Wichard, Bosworth's agent. "How can we say it without sounding arrogant but being as honest and up-front as possible? We can't. No matter how we say it, the one problem we have is that it is going to sound arrogant.

"But the bottom line is, the Falcons don't deserve a player of Brian Bosworth's stature.'



The Associated Press

Bosworth's stature,' says his agent.

Falcons president Rankin Smith Jr. indicated Wichard's statements would not deter the team from selecting him.

See BOSWORTH, Page 12-E

Sports agents' dealings draw eye of grand jury

By Chris Mortensen Staff Writer

A federal grand jury will begin proceedings Tuesday in Chicago to investigate the dealings of New York-based sports agents Norby Walters and Lloyd Bloom.

Several athletes and athletic directors have been subpoenaed to testify before the grand jury, according to sources. Two athletic directors - Richard Bay of Ohio State and Ed Bozek of Pittsburgh acknowledged Wednesday that they have been subpoenaed.

Bay and Bozek said they had no explanation as to why they will appear. Both said that Chicago assistant U.S. attorney Howard M. Pearl has asked the schools to provide financial records as well as grant-inaid and scholarship documents.

"My understanding is that there are several schools being asked to provide the same information," said

Bozek. "I can only speculate as to why, but I don't think that would be wise.

Pearl could not be reached for comment.

Walters and Bloom have been the targets of an FBI investigation that originated in Chicago. An attorney involved in the investigation who asked to remain unidentified said the grand jury requested the various documents to determine if Walters and Bloom committed fraud against the schools and athletes for enticing athletes to sign before their eligibility period had expired.

Walters told The Atlanta Constitution in March that he had signed numerous football and basketball players with college eligibility remaining. He also admitted giving athletes cash as an inducement to

See WALTERS, Page 12-E

THE ATLANTA CONSTITUTION Thursday, May 14, 1987 .

Sports Notebooks

Kinard bids for record 12th victory Thursday

GREENVILLE, S.C. - Georgia Tech coach Jim Morris plans to use lefthander Roger Kinard (11-1, 3.97) in Thursday's sec-1 ond-round ACC tournament game against N.C. State. A 12th win by Kinard would break the school record set last year by Kevin Brown. ... N.C. State's starter will GA. TECH be freshman lefthander Preston Woods (6-4, 4.32). ... Overall, Tech is 16-9 in ACC tournament games, 5-2

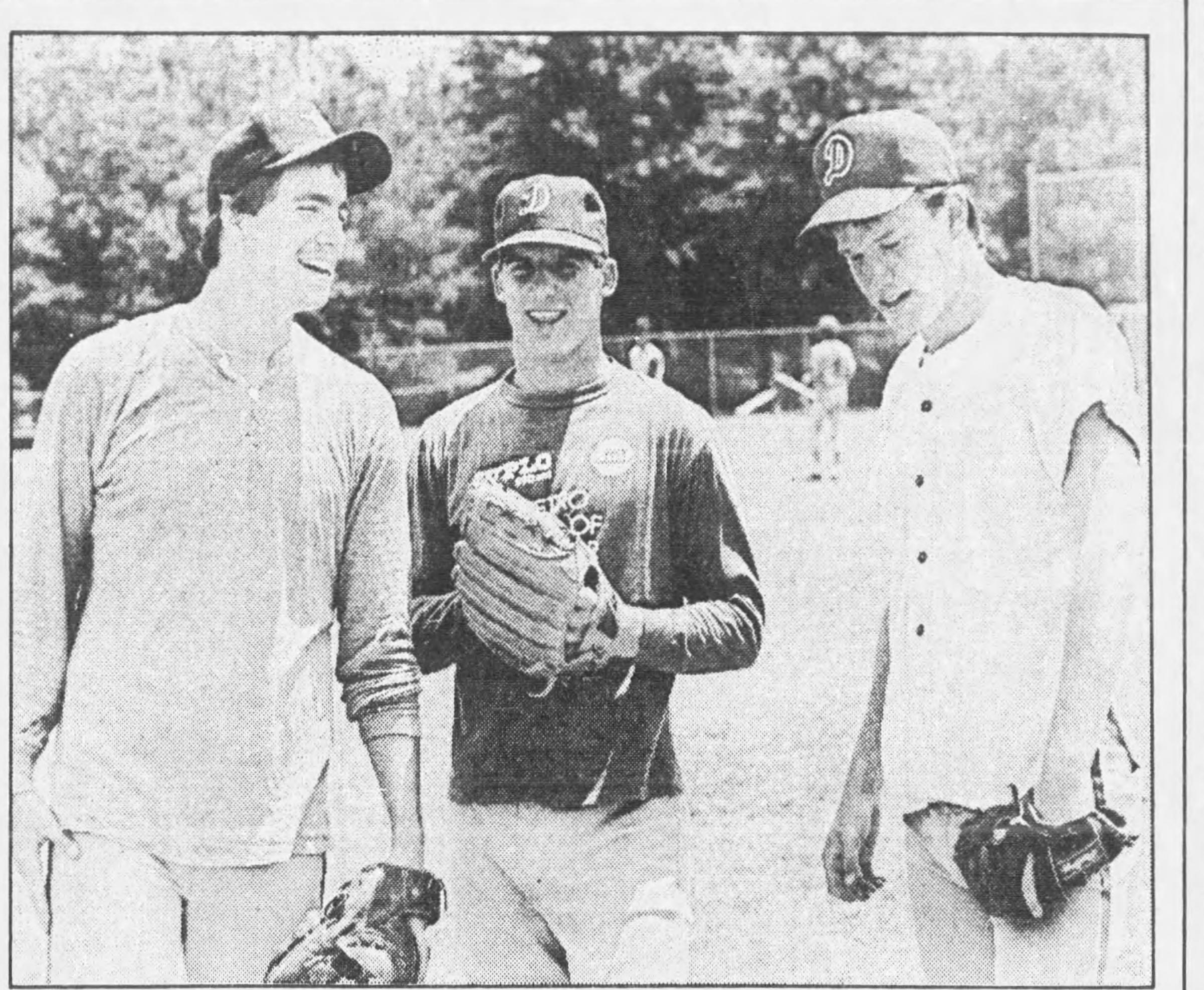
against N.C. State. ... Shortstop Keith Kerver, who went through a mid-season slump, has a 13-game hitting streak. ... Tech hasn't been shut out in 142 consecutive games.

- Tom Whitfield

Women's track team signs top-rated javelin thrower



ATHENS - Kim Engel, the nation's top-ranked javelin thrower, has signed a track scholarship with the Lady Bulldogs. Engel, from Hayes, Kan., has thrown 166-3 feet. That's the best throw of any high school athlete in the nation and 32 feet better than the existing Georgia school record. **GEORGIA** She also throws the shot put and discus. "Anytime you sign the No. 1 athlete in the nation it's a real plus for your team," said head coach Mike Sheley. "Right now, she's already a placer in the Southeastern Conference." ... The women's tennis team, ranked 15th in the country, will meet second-seeded Miami Thursday in the first round of the NCAA Championships at UCLA. This is the team's first-ever NCAA appearance. The Lady Bulldogs (23-4) lost to Miami in the second match of the season. ... Gwen Torrence will be favored in the 100 and 200 meters when the SEC Track and Field Championships begin with the decathlon and heptathlon Thursday in Tuscaloosa. The bulk of the meet is Saturday and Sunday. Torrence won both dashes as a sophomore but was injured last year. Bulldog Gary Duncan enters the meet with the SEC's best



Blazers bid to reverse Region luck

By Earnest Reese Staff Writer Valdosta State hopes history does not repeat itself this weekend when the Blazers serve as host team in the NCAA Division II South Atlantic Region playoff.

Valdosta State, which won the NCAA Division II World Series in 1979, was the South Atlantic Region host in '80, '81, and '82. Home was not so sweet to the Blazers, who were eliminated all three times.

Valdosta tries to reverse the trend in going for its third South Atlantic Region championship in the past five years. The Blazers have fared better on the road, winning in West Chester, Pa., in '83, and in Columbus in '85.

"After three consecutive losses at home, we said we didn't think we wanted to host the tournament," coach Tommy Thomas said. "But as time passed, you forget about those bad things that happen to you. If we lose a fourth time, though " In the first game of the threeteam, double-elimination tournament, Longwood (Va.), which is 27-6, faces Columbus College (35-10) Friday at 4 p.m. Valdosta (33-18) plays the loser at 7:30 p.m. The Blazers play the winner of the first game at 4 p.m., with a 7:30 p.m. game to follow. The championship will be determined Sunday. Columbus, which was ranked No. 2 in the nation before losing to Valdosta twice in the past week, is the region's defending champion. "I think it's going to be a tossup between us and Columbus because there is not much difference between the two teams as far as talent goes," said Thomas, whose team went 3-1 against the Cougars this season. "Of course, we can't count Longwood out because they have come down here and won this thing before." Thomas, whose 20-year record with the Blazers is 731-332 with 17 playoff appearances, consider this team the most unpredictable he's ever coached. "On a given day, we can beat any Division II team in the country," he said. "Then we have days where we can't get anybody out or hit anything. I hope we can put it together this weekend." The Blazers are led by senior shortstop John Gordon (.389 average) and senior first baseman-/pitcher Junior Vizcaino (.358, 11 home runs, 5-3 record).

- Thomas O'Toole

Falcons seek long-snapper after releasing Pellegrini

When Atlanta Falcons coach Marion Campbell released offensive

time in the 400 meters this spring -45.33.



lineman Joe Pellegrini Monday for bypassing minicamp without communication with the team, he created work for himself. Now Campbell needs to find a long-snapper. Pellegrini, a backup guard-center, had replaced tackle FALCONS Eric Sanders, who handled the long-snapping duties until claimed by Detroit last year when the Falcons were

trying to pass him through waivers to come off injured reserve. "The search is on," Campbell said Wednesday. Auditioning for the part are linebacker Joe Costello, center Andy Upchurch, center Wayne Radloff, center-guard Jamie Dukes and tight end Ken Whisenhunt

... Campbell said running back Kenny Flowers will not be able to remain for the Falcons' "7-on-7" defensive drills Friday and Saturday because of a "prior commitment." Campbell will not use his offensive or defensive lines for the weekend portion but has urged his running backs, wide receivers and guarterbacks to attend .. The squad has Thursday off. Campbell will not work the team on Sunday and will hold one practice Saturday, beginning at about 10:30 a.m.

- Glenn Sheeley

NICK ARROYO/Staff

DeKalb College pitching stars (left to right) Brian Rountree, Brian Faw, Brian Fowler prepare for NJCAA tournament opening Friday. Pats' first game is 10 a.m. Friday.

Brians to lead DeKalb College in junior college World Series

By Earnest Reese Staff Writer

The best pitcher at DeKalb College answers to the name of Brian.

The question is: Which Brian is best?

Three Brians, all hard-throwing right-handers, are unbeaten. Brian Rountree, whose split-finger fastball is his main pitch, is 12-0. Brian Faw, who banks on a slider, is 10-0. Brian Fowler, whose curve is his salvation, is 6-0.

Last weekend, all three pitchers were victorious as the Patriots defeated No. 2-ranked Middle Georgia once and Brewton-Parker twice to win the GJCAA/Region 17 championship in Columbus.

The Patriots are counting on their Brians to lead the school to its first National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) World Series in a decade. The final hurdle is the three-team Southeast District playoff Friday and Saturday in Montgomery, Ala.

The last time a team from DeKalb appeared in the World Series was 1977, when Casey played for Georgia Tech coach Jim Morris at DeKalb South. The athletic programs at the South and Central cam-

know how to take something off their fastball, and they're not afraid to challenge a hitter."

Rountree, the Patriots' most effective pitcher, has five complete games and finished the regular season with an 0.78 ERA. He will start Friday's game.

"When I redshirted last year, I made up my mind to work hard - try to build up my body and my strength," said Rountree, a 6-foot-4, 215-pound sophomore out of North Clayton High School.

"I knew we'd have a good team this year because we had a lot of good players coming back. We've all worked hard, so I'm not surprised that I've done as well as I have."

Neither is Faw, a 5-11, 175-pounder who led Roswell High to a Class AAA state title last year.

"I wasn't pitching that well at the beginning of the year, but I've improved as the season has gone along," said Faw, who will face Florida Junior College.

"We've played the best (teams) in this state and beat them, even though we didn't play well. We are capable of playing a lot better. If we do, I don't think anybody is going to stop us from getting to the World Series."

Schmidt's	full day	of rest	canceled	by	the Phillies
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PHILADELPHIA -- Philadelphia scratched Von Hayes from its orig-



inal lineup and canceled plans to rest Mike Schmidt. Hayes became ill during the Phillies' return flight from Houston Tuesday night, and the problem may keep him from playing Thursday. Rick Mahler, the Braves' starter Thursday, would welcome that. Hayes has 11 hits in his last 27 at-bats against him. ... It is not a good year for

the brothers Roenicke. Gary Roenicke started in left field for the Braves despite an .097 (3-31) average. Brother Ron is 1-1 as a Phillies' reserve outfielder.

- Gerry Fraley

puses were combined last year.

DeKalb faces George C. Wallace of Dothan, Ala., at 10 a.m. Friday in the double-elimination event. The loser plays Florida Junior College at 1 p.m., followed a game between the Florida team and the winner of the first game.

DeKalb coach Doug Casey, whose team is 50-9, feels he has enough Brians to get through the Southeast District.

"All three of them have good arms, and that's a good start," he said. "They all change speeds well,

Complementing the Brians are Sandy Rickett at third base, Brad Moseley at shortstop, and Jamie Crump at second.

Rickett, who leads the team in home runs with 13 and RBI with 61, is batting .397. Moseley, voted MVP in the state playoffs after getting 11 hits in 23 at-bats, is carrying .392 average. Crump, despite a slump toward the end of the season, Crump, is batting .377 with 10 home runs and 47 RBI.



Bosworth

From Page 1-E

bother us one iota," Smith said. regular NFL draft in 1988. "We'd take him." "In essence, if the Falcons won

draw that enables teams with the worst records to have the most chances at the No. 1 selection. The Falcons will have 16 chances out of 406.

If the Falcons do win the lot-"If we'd be so fortunate in the tery, they can pass on using the supplemental draft to come up with choice. A team that selects Bosthe first pick, all that stuff wouldn't worth forfeits its No. 1 pick in the

Wichard said Bosworth will and chose Brian, they would be write letters to the Falcons and sev- throwing away their No. 1 pick the eral other NFL teams, telling them next year because Brian would not that if they should "win" the lottery sign with the Falcons," said Wiin the supplemental draft, they chard. "They shouldn't even bother." would be wasting a first-round pick Wichard cited the Falcons' poor by choosing him. history as a franchise as the prima-The supplemental draft likely ry reason Bosworth does not want will be held in June, according to to play in Atlanta. He quoted fig-NFL spokesman Dick Maxwell. The ures that showed the Falcons had lottery system will have a weighted the second-lowest amount of season-

ticket holders (27,700, ahead of only 27,050 for the Kansas City Chiefs) in 1986.

"Atlanta, the city itself, has shown it will respond tremendously to a winner, but the Falcons have not provided that," said Wichard.

Falcons nose tackle Tony Casillas, who played with Bosworth on Oklahoma's 1985 national championship team, did not consider it distressful news that Bosworth apparently wants no part of his team.

"Personally, I don't think he'd be an asset to this team," Casillas said. "As belligerent and outspoken as he is, I think he'd be a distraction.

"I think he's going to find out when he plays with the big boys that he's going to have to come down a level. He'll probably have to

grow out his hair a few more inches to get attention in the NFL. ... think he's all talk. I don't have much respect for him. He's a selfcentered person. He's definitely not a team-oriented person."

Bosworth had one year of eligibility remaining at Oklahoma, but he became eligible for the supplemental draft when he graduated from school last week. Bosworth's announcement Monday that he would make himself available for the draft, as well as formally retaining an agent, would not permit him to return as a player at Oklahoma.

But Wichard said Bosworth is willing to sit out the 1987 season if he is not chosen by the team of his choice.





From Page 1-E

sign post-dated contracts.

Walters said he did not believe he was doing anything illegal.

Later it was reported that the FBI had begun an investigation into allegations that Walters and Bloom had threatened players who reneged on contracts with them.

Walters has since filed at least five breach-of-contract lawsuits against players who have hired other agents to represent them in negotiations with professional teams.

Derrick McKey, a basketball player at Alabama, was ruled ineligible last Friday by his school because of dealings with Walters McKey, who had one year remaining, filed to enter the NBA draft.

Bozek believes the grand jury investigation, which will weigh evidence against Walters and Bloom to decide if they should be indicted on criminal charges, eventually will bring forth all or most of the names of athletes who signed early with the agents.

when a coach or athletic director asks about his signing with an agent. It's another thing when you testify before a grand jury. You tell a lie, and you can go to jail. My concern is just how far this thing goes with these two guys."

The FBI investigation has looked into alleged threats that Wa ters and Bloom may have made against some athletes. The FBI has a tape recording of one such incident in which Bloom allegedly threatens to break SMU wide receiver Ron Morris' hands if he signs with another agent.

The FBI also investigated a beating of Chicago agent Kathe Clements in March. Clements, who had been in competition with Walters and Bloom for at least one athlete they claimed to have signed, was beaten in her office by a man wearing a ski mask and gloves. Clements, the wife of former Notre Dame quarterback Tom Clements, has returned to work.

Walters denied involvement in the beating.

