Fri., May 15, 1987

MAURY WHITE



A Little Bit About a Lot of Things: Because he slugs golf balls about as lustily as he once smote baseballs, former catcher Johnny Bench plays in many celebrity pro-am events. Consorting with PGA Tour players long ago destroyed any serious thoughts of a second professional career, this one on the links.

"The worst golfer of the 175 or 180 out there can just tear you apart. It takes a fool to think maybe he can play with those guys," says the most famous person ever to live in Binger, Okla. Bench also has a theory on why foreign players such as Bernhard Langer and Seve Ballesteros frequently have hot spells while visiting our shores.

"When they come here, they don't have all the outside interests like 'call your broker' and 'call your this and

that.' They work at their games overseas. They've got the concentration," he says."

Another former catcher, Bob Uecker, had little suc-

cess or recognition during seven lackluster major-league seasons. Then came JOHNNY the Lite Beer television commercials. Life since has

been a series of grand-slam home runs in the fame game. While he's not complaining, he has become very aware of the price of celebrityhood. "There's no privacy. As soon as you

walk in, somebody says, 'Hey, you missed the tag!' or 'I must be in the front rooooow!' or 'Hey, Whitey!' It's standard, but you can't be popping zingers or making happy talk all the time, like people expect," he says.

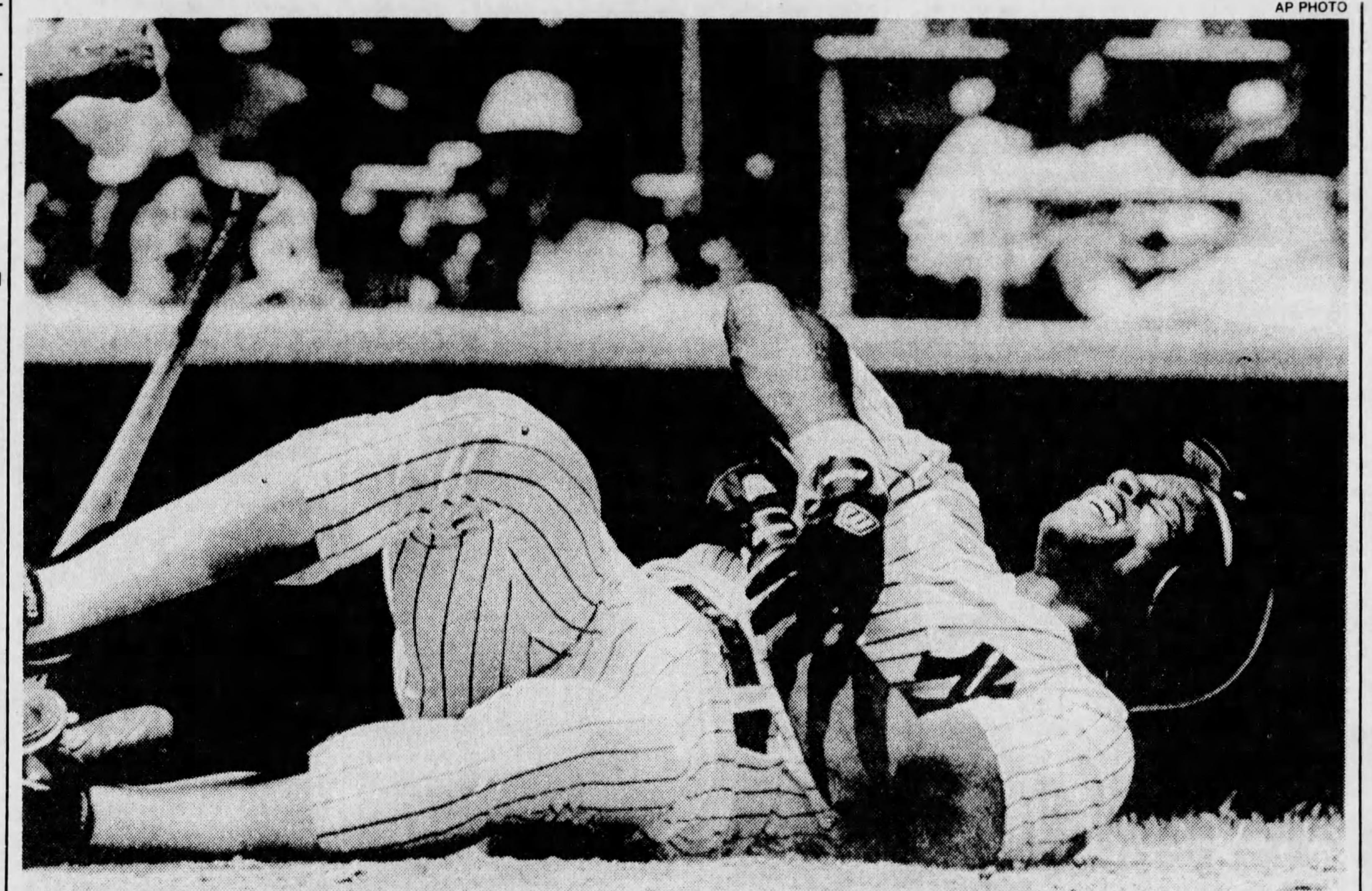
WHEN PLAYBOY magazine comes out with its preseason college football issue, a Mr. Barry Switzer, of Norman, Okla., will be projected as 1987 "coach of the year." ... My Neighbor Walt says there are three kinds of memory - good, bad and convenient.... Dept. of Trivial Trivia 150 psychotherapists participated in the 1986 New York Marathon, 55 as competitors and 75 as part of the volunteer team to counsel nervous runners before the start. . . . Incredibly Tough Quiz — Name the multi-talented fellow who played for both a World Series and a NBA championship team, not necessarily in the same calendar year. Answer is later. . . . Of the 724 players on major-league rosters on opening day, 305 had attended college but only 55 had graduated. .

Dave Dombrowski had to learn Spanish to recruit players in Latin America for the White Sox. Now, as a baseball executive in Montreal, he's had to learn French. With the Soviet Union getting serious about the game, Cubs' Sutcliffe

Dave may wind up a true linguist. . . . The Jerusalem Schleppers defeated Sharon Valley, 7-3, April 29 in the first Little League baseball game ever played in Israel. While the Hebrew word "bahutz" is used instead of "out," most baseball terms have been imported from America.

AMERICAN FOOTBALL invades Norway late this month when St. Olaf College of Northfield, Minn., goes there for two exhibition games. The squad will visit Voss, birthplace of Notre Dame legend Knute Rockne. Can we look forward to an Uff Da Bowl? ... Agro B. Arlo, an acquaintance, feels his new invention can't miss. It's a no-calorie shampoo for fatheads. ... ITQ answer - Gene Conley earned championship rings pitching for the Milwaukee Braves in 1957 and playing forward for the Boston Celtics in 1959, '60 and '61. His earned-run average for 1.2 innings in the Series was 10.80. . . . The idol and role model of thousands of teen-age girls in Japan is Dump for Dump Truck | Matsumoto, a 200-pound | wrestler who paints swastikas on her shaved head. Other popular female grapplers are Bull Nakano, Condor Saito, Lei Lani Kai and Lioness Asuka. . . . Mike Davis, Oakland outfielder, on why the A's are slow kicking into high gear: "We're like tea bags. The flavor doesn't come out until you put us in hot water." ... As the last player drafted by the NFL, Louisiana State cornerback Norman Jefferson gets the annual Lowsman Trophy in MORNING REPORT Newport Beach, Calif., in June. A pair of Mickeys - Mouse and Mantle will also be on the dais. Jefferson confesses to looking forward most to meeting Mr. Big Ears. "Mickey Mouse was always the storyteller for kids when I was growing up," he said. Rattily. ... "A lot of guys know a lot about basketball and I know as much as any of them. Although Red | Auerbach probably knows a little more, because he's older," said Bill Russell, with customary modesty after being named new coach of the Sacramento Kings. Russell's center won't be as good as the one Bill had as playercoach of the Boston Celtics. . . . Parting Shot — The best way to live happily ever after is not to be after too

much.



Struck by a pitch

New York Yankees' Rickey Henderson writhes in pain after being struck by a pitch from Texas' Edwin Correa in the second inning Thursday at Yankee Sta- and the Yankees beat the Rangers, 9-1. STORY: Page 2S.

dium. Henderson was checked out by the Yanks' trainer and continued to play,

Bucks, Celtics battle; Detroit awaits winner

Cummings breathes life into Milwaukee

© 1987 Knight-Ridder Newspapers BOSTON, MASS. — The bags were packed. The plane was waiting. But Terry Cummings refused to let the Milwaukee Bucks fade away quietly Wednesday night.

The powerful forward scored 14 of his 27 points in the fourth quarter as the Bucks defeated the defending world champion Boston Celtics, 129-124, in Game 5 of the National Basketball Association quarterfinal playoff series. Cummings also grabbed five rebounds as he came to life just

"The first three quarters, I just wasn't into it," Cummings said. " don't know why. I sat there and kept going, 'What's wrong?' Finally, everything kicked in during the fourth

A little heart massage by Cummings kept the Bucks alive as the series moves back to Milwaukee for Game 6 tonight. Boston still leads the best-of-seven series, three games to two. Suddenly, though, the Celtics no longer have a free pass to meet Detroit in the Eastern Conference final.

The Celtics, who had won 31 con-

secutive games at the Boston Garden, lost in their ancient building for the, first time since Dec. 12, 1986, when they were defeated by the Los Angeles Lakers, 117-100.

For Boston, fatigue set in quickly. The sluggish Celtics were outscored, 32-22, in the fourth quarter.

"They look like they might be getting a little tired," Cummings said.

Cummings made a 9-foot turnaround jumper in the lane to give the Bucks a 125-124 lead with 51 seconds to go. Then, after center Jack Sikma made a pair of free throws to put Bucks ahead by three with 20 seconds to go, the Celtics went for a threepointer on the next possession.

And this time, the Celtics ran out of miracles. Larry Bird missed an offbalance three-pointer from deep in the left corner. Sikma grabbed the rebound but was called for walking.

Given another chance, the Celtics went to Dennis Johnson. But Johnson misfired on a two-point attempt from the left wing. This time, it was Cummings who grabbed the rebound. He made a pair of free throws with 4 seconds remaining after being fouled by Kevin McHale.

The victory prolonged Coach Don

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Pistons stun Atlanta to gain Eastern final

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ATLANTA, GA. - It was just a year ago that the Detroit Pistons were crushed, three games to one, in the opening round of the National Basketball Association playoffs. But after a season of changes, the Pistons are suddenly surprising contenders.

That became clear Wednesday night as they overcame three abysmal periods, a hostile sellout crowd, and a 12-point fourth-quarter deficit to stun Atlanta, 104-96, and complete a 4-1 triumph in their Eastern Conference semifinal series.

With the victory, the Pistons, who began the regular season by losing six of their first nine games, qualified for the Eastern Conference final for the first time in franchise history.

"Obviously, of all my years in Detroit, this has been the most fun,' said Coach Chuck Daly, in his fifth season.

For the Hawks, a team perceived as possessing limitless promise, it was a crushing end to a season in which they were predicted to challenge to Celtics for Eastern Conference supremacy.

Fueled by the prospect of defeat, Atlanta built a 12-point margin late in the first half. And with a buzzerbeating three-point shot by John Battle at the end of the third period, Atlanta took a 77-65 edge into the fourth quarter, only to be outscored,

The Hawks' emotions failed to carry them, and even as Isiah Thomas was missing his first two shots of the fourth period — he missed 13 of his first 16 attempts — the gifted playmaker was confident.

At one point, Daly wanted to alter his lineup, but Thomas pleaded for patience.

"I just had a feeling that if I could get the guys we had out there playing well together that we could win," he

And so, Daly stayed with a lineup that included two rookies, John Salley and Dennis Rodman at forward, in place of Bill Laimbeer and Adrian Dantley, and a reserve guard, Vinnie Johnson — who shot 34 percent in the first four games - in for Joe Dumars. And it worked.

Slowly, the Pistons pulled back into contention, closing to 88-86 with 5 minutes 27 seconds left, with Rodman

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Ak-Sar-Ben fans dwindle, purses follow

Cuts caused by shrinking crowds will begin May 28

By BUCK TURNBULL

Register Staff Writer

OMAHA, NEB. - Blaming a continued slump in attendance this year and a serious decline in money wagered, Ak-Sar-Ben officials decided Thursday to reduce the horse racing track's purses effective May 28.

Daily purses will be trimmed by about 7 percent, from \$82,000 to \$76,750, and purses in the track's stakes races are also to be reduced.

The amount of money distributed to horse owners, trainers and jockeys in Ak-Sar-Ben's showcase race, the Cornhusker Handicap on Aug. 1, will take the biggest hit. It will drop to a \$200,000 event, from \$250,000.

The purses of 19 other stakes races also will be reduced somewhat. For example, the Omaha Gold Cup for 3year-olds will go from \$150,000 to \$125,000.

The only previously advertised race with a purse of \$100,000 or more that will remain the same is the Ak-Sar-Ben Handicap on Memorial Day, May 25. The conditions for that \$100,000 race have already been set.

Don Drew, Ak-Sar-Ben's executive director, said the stakes program was slashed more than the regular purses to continue a high level of daily racing throughout the 89-day season.

"We are hopeful that we will not hurt our recruiting effort for the major stakes races," said Drew, "but we feel that keeping the quality of horses we have here on the grounds is more important."

Competition from the Bluffs Run greyhound track in Council Bluffs, which opened last year, combined with a sagging Midwest farm economy and other forms of gambling, such as state lotteries, have caused Ak-Sar-Ben crowds to plummet.

Attendance at the horse track is down more than 50,000 in the first 11 days this year compared with the same period in 1985 — down from 157,966 to 107,878.

The betting "handle" - the amount wagered - plunged \$45 million in 1986 from the previous year and has declined further this spring. It is off more than \$2 million from the first two weeks a year ago and more than \$6 million - \$11 million now compared with \$17.2 million — from the comparable 1985 period.

Purses that go to the owners, trainers and jockeys are based on a percentage of the betting handle.

Ak-Sar-Ben has hired a research

AK-SAR-BEN

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starts to regain winning form

LOS ANGELES, CALIF. (AP) -Right-hander Rick Sutcliffe of the Chicago Cubs went from a Cy Young Award-winning season to a 5-14 record in just two years. Injuries had a lot to do with his decline, but that's behind him now.

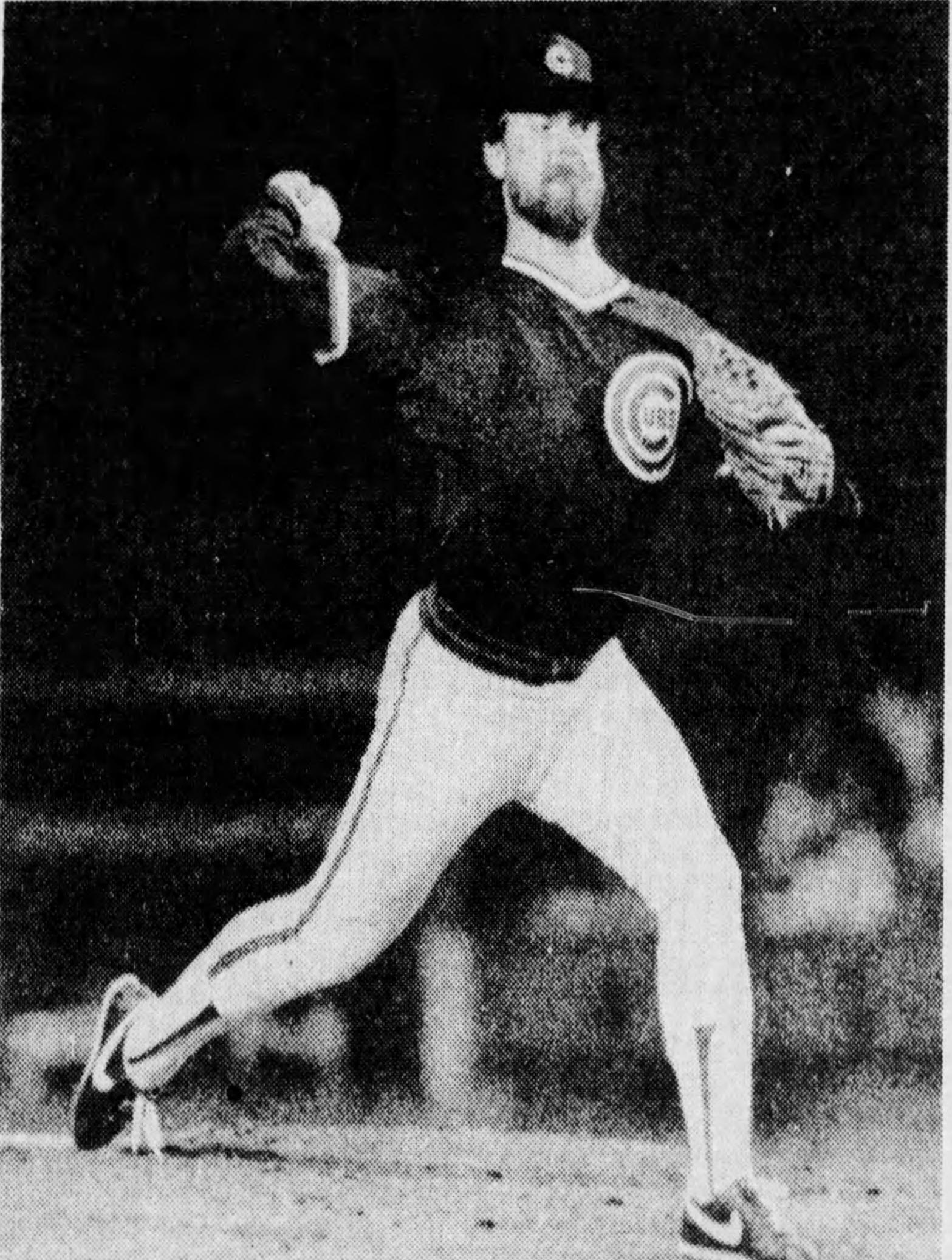
"I realize my health is something I can't take for granted," Sutcliffe said after pitching 61/3 scoreless innings in a 5-0 victory over the Los Angeles Dodgers Wednesday night. "I don't throw as hard as I used to, but I'm more of a pitcher."

Sutcliffe, who turns 31 next month, still throws pretty hard, as evidenced by his 42 strikeouts in 53 innings this year. The main thing is that he has been able to pitch.

Sutcliffe was traded by the Cleveland Indians to the Cubs on June 13, 1984. At the time of the deal, he was 4-5 with a 5.15 earned-run average. After the deal, he was unbelievable.

The 6-foot 6-inch, 200-pound pitch-

SUTCLIFFE Please turn to Page 2S



1984 National League Cy Young winner Rick Sutcliffe throws a pitch against the Dodgers Wednesday night. Sutcliffe shut out Los Angeles for six innings.

Alysneda gets No. 6 post for the Preakness Stakes

BALTIMORE, MD. (AP) - Speculation about Alysheba's chances in the Preakness increased Thursday after the Kentucky Derby winner worked a slow half mile.

"I rather have him go too slow than too fast," trainer Jack Van Berg said after Alysheba went a half mile in 50 3/5 seconds, with the final eighth in 123/5.

"If he runs the race he ran in the Kentucky Derby, I think he'll win the race," Van Berg said. "But nobody can tell if he overextended himself in the Derby. He ran a big race."

Also entered Thursday were Lookinforthebigone, Phantom Jet and Harriman.

Each starter will carry 126 pounds. If all nine go, the 112th Preakness will be worth \$543,600, with \$421,100 to the winner. ABC will televise the race, which has a post time of 4:33 p.m. CDT.

Alysheba, who will be ridden by Chris McCarron, drew the No. 6 post. "It doesn't make any difference with nine horses," Van Berg said. But, he added, "We're in the middle of the

pack. That's good." "I'm happy, it's better than before," said trainer Scotty Schulhofer said of Cryptoclearance's No. 9

The stretch-running Cryptoclearance's chances were hurt by the No. 1 post in the 17-horse Kentucky Derby.

Lookinforthebigone, who is trained D. Wayne Lukas, has not raced since finishing second to Demons Begone in the 1 1/8-mile Arkansas Derby April 18. Gary Stevens will ride him from the No. 5 post.

Other jockey assignments and post positions are Bet Twice, Craig Perret, No. 1; Harriman, Vince Bracciale, No. 2; Phantom Jet, Keith Allen, No. 3; No More Flowers, Walter Guerra, No. 4; Gulch, Angel Cordero Jr., No. 7, and Avies Copy, Mickey Solomone, No. 8.

If Alysheba, owned Dorothy Scharbauer and her daughter Pamela, wins Saturday, he can earn a \$1 million bonus just by finishing the 11/2-mile Belmont Stakes June 6 at Belmont

The bonus will be awarded by Triple Crown Productions, Inc., to the 3year-old who earns the most points during the three races based on 5 points for a victory, 2 for a second and 1 for a third. A horse must run in all three races for the points to count.

Triple Crown Productions also has guaranteed a payment of \$5 million to any horse that wins the Triple Crown.

GO PRO OR GO TO JAIL. Former Tennessee quarterback Tony Robinson will be released from jail three months early to pursue a professional football career, a judge ruled Thursday. Knox County Judge Ray Lee Jenkins said that if Robinson, who was not drafted by an NFL team, earns a free-agent contract with a team, he can finish his sentence on charges of selling cocaine at the end of his first season. If he is not offered a contract, Jenkins said, Robinson must return immediately to complete his jail sentence.

RICHARDSON BAN UPHELD. The NBA refused Thursday to reinstate Micheal Ray Richardson despite Richardson's contention that his former drug counselor caused him to

relapse into cocaine use and resulted in his ban from the NBA. Gary Bettman, the NBA's vice president and general counsel, said in a statement issued by the league that Richardson's dispute with the counselor has nothing to do with the 32-year-old guard's attempt to rejoin the league. Richardson has filed a malpractice suit against Dr. Russell Ferstandig, his former drug counselor, claiming that Ferstandig caused the relapse.

IOWA WOMEN RECRUITS. The leading scorer in Florida and a two-time all-state pick from Louisiana have signed national letters of intent to play for the University of Iowa women's basketball team. Iowa Coach Vivian Stringer Thursday announced the signing of 5foot 10-inch forward Rena McMillon of Pompano Beach, Fla., and 6-2 forward Felicia Hall of Shreveport, La.

TAKING THE BLAME. Derrick McKey, who was expected to be the leader of Alabama's basketball team next season before getting involved in the Norby Walters brouhaha, said he is entirely to blame for his association with the sports agent. McKey said he borrowed money with the full intention of returning it. "I gave a [promissory] note for it," he said. "I was told at the time it was like taking a loan and it was like borrowing money from a bank. I had the full intention of paying the money back with interest when I could. I have now been advised that this is a technical violation of the rules of the NCAA.

I wanted to play ball here next year for my senior season and I also wanted to get a little bit closer to getting my degree." Instead, McKey tossed his name into the NBA draft.

EVER-POPULAR BOZ. Brian Bosworth is going to have a lot of fun in his pro football debut if he does sign with the Los Angeles Raiders. Bosworth's first game would be in Green Bay, a city he has bad-mouthed.

BOWLING THEM OVER. Four more bowl games are in the works for 1988: The Crab Bowl in Maryland, the Cactus Bowl in Tucson, Ariz., the Fellowship Bowl in Indianapolis and a new Cherry Bowl in Detroit. Pretty soon, a 5-6 record will earn a postseason reward.