Weather



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By Mike Koolbeck

Gazette sportswriter The Cincinnati Reds and the local Cedar Rapids Baseball Club have agreed to extend their current player development contract for two

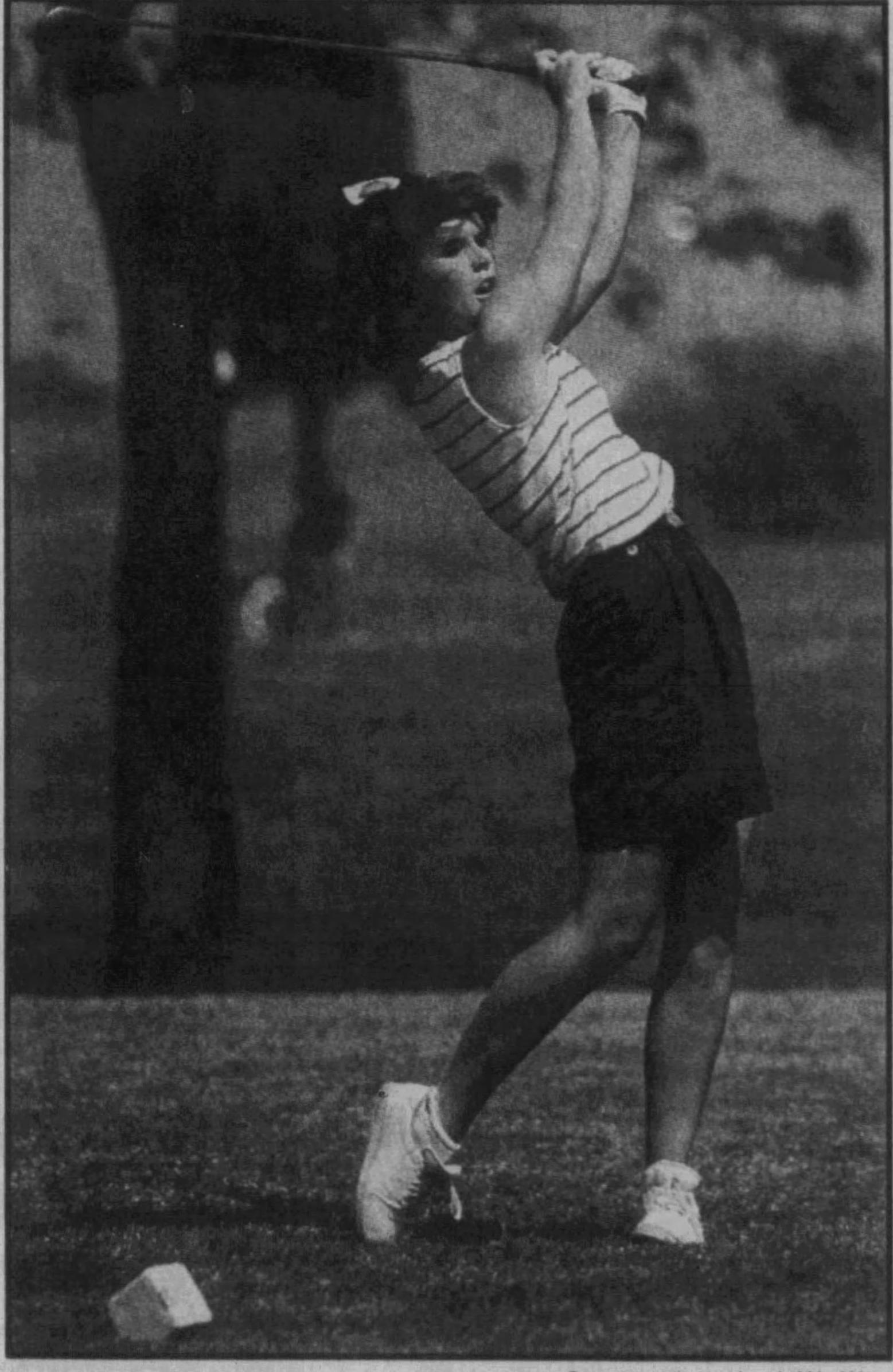
years, through the 1989 season. "I'd just as soon it would be a lifetime contract," Sheldon "Chief" Bender, Cincinnati's vice-president for player development, said Thursday at Memorial Stadium.

"I don't think there is a finer area to start out young kids in professional baseball — the way they're accepted, the way they're taken into homes, the fine facility, the job Bud (Curran) and Thurmy (Harris) have done over the years on the grounds and Bucky (Reds general manager Don Buchheister) with the administration.'

In addition to supplying players and paying their salaries, the player development contract lists the items the major-league club will supply to its affiliate: such things as a percentage of the players' meal money and road lodging, the first 25 dozen bats and the first 100 dozen baseballs are included. The minorleague team is solely responsible for transportation.

"It's a good deal for us," said Buchheister.

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Gazette photo by L.W. Ward

DRIVE FOR SHOW: Marion senior Nancy Benkusky watches her tee shot on the ninth hole during Thursday's Metro girls' golf tournament at Squaw Creek. Benkusky finished the 9-hole meet with a 7-over-par 43 to capture medalist honors. Kennedy pocketed the team title. Story on page 3B.

Harmon summoned in federal probe of agent

Grand jury investigation of Norby Walters starts Tuesday in Chicago

By Mark Dukes

Gazette sports editor Former Iowa football player Ronnie Harmon has been subpoenaed to testify before a federal grand jury that is investigating dealings of New York sports agents Norb Walters and Lloyd Bloom.

Martin W. Rauch, Harmon's agent, confirmed Thursday that Harmon has been served the subpoena. The grand jury investigation is scheduled to begin Tuesday in Chicago, but Rauch said Harmon is not scheduled to appear then.

"I don't know who will appear next week," Rauch said. "Ronnie won't be there Tuesday. He may appear in the future. It could be weeks or it could be months."

MEANWHILE, THE Federal Bureau of Investigation has talked to some University of Iowa officials, including football coach Hayden Fry. The FBI is investigating allegations that Bloom and Walters threatened college players who reneged on contracts with them.

David Vernon, University of Iowa law professor, told The Associated Press he met twice with FBI agents to discuss a report issued by a university committee which investigated payments made to Harmon and Devon Mitchell during their playing careers.

Harmon and Mitchell will be entering their second season of professional football in the fall, Harmon with the Buffalo Bills and Mitchell with the Detroit Lions

Vernon, who was chairman of the three-person committee, said other school officials were interviewed by the FBI. A local FBI agent said the nature of the investigation is "sensitive," but he would not comment. further on the case. Walters reportedly is under investigation by the FBI in connection with alleged threats of violence in the battle of agents signing college football players. But he denied he was involved in the

Vernon said the FBI requested copies of Iowa's ninepage committee report and that he would supply one this weekend.

Athletic directors Rick Bay of Ohio State and Ed Bozek of Pittsburgh said Wednesday they had been subpoenaed to testify at the grand jury hearing. Other athletes and athletic directors also have been subpoenaed, according to published reports.

Fry and Iowa Athletic Director Bump Elliott were unavailable for comment.

Walters has sued Harmon for breach of contract. In the suit, he contends he is owed more than \$148,000, including \$54,172 advanced to Harmon during and after the final two years of his collegiate career.

Walters and Bloom have denied any wrongdoing. Walters has filed suit against at least six former college football players he claims broke their contracts with him and signed with other agents: Rod Woodson of Purdue; Harmon; Reggie Rogers, Washington; Brent Fullwood, Auburn; Terrence Flagler, Clemson; and Tony Woods of the University of Pittsburgh.

"All they did was sign contracts with the blessings of their parents and accepted support (from Walters) during their senior year," Walters said. "I'm the guy who done right. They're the ones who have done wrong. That's why I'm suing everyone of them."

Besides those six, other football players he reportedly has signed include Cris Carter of Ohio State; Lorenzo White, Michigan State; Adrian White, Florida; Tim McGee, Tennessee; Tony Powell, Auburn; Kenny Flowers, Clemson; John Clay, Missouri; Garland Rivers, Michigan; Mark Ingram, Michigan State; Doug Dubose, Nebraska; Edwin Simmons, Texas; and Paul Palmer, Temple.

Pre-game brawl ignites Flyers into Stanley Cup finals

MONTREAL (AP) — Inspired by a pregame brawl, the Philadelphia Flyers went out and delivered a knockout punch to the Montreal Canadiens' dreams of repeating as

Stanley Cup champions. "It (the brawl) gave us all the more reason to play hockey," defenseman Mark Howe said after the Flyers whipped the Canadiens 4-3 to win the Wales Conference title in six games and move into the Stanley Cup finals.

"I think it possibly gave us a boost," Flyers goaltender Ron Hextall added in reference to a vicious fight that broke out on the ice between the players at the end of the pre-game warmups. "We really wanted to put them away tonight and not have to go back to a seventh game in Philadelphia."

The victory ended the Canadiens' hopes of defending their NHL championship. Instead, the Flyers will play the Edmonton Oilers in a rematch of their 1985 playoff, beginning Sunday night in Edmonton. The Oilers won that series 4-1 for their second Stanley Cup.

The Flyers fell behind 3-1 in Game 6 before rallying to overtake the Canadiens.

Ilkka Sinisalo and Scott Mellanby scored to make it 3-3 midway through the second period before Rick Tocchet got the gamewinner 7:11 into the third period.

"When we got the lead," Flyers captain Dave Poulin said, "it would have been very easy to go into a shell. But we kept pushing hard after that. We knew that we still had a long way to go."

Poulin gave much of the credit for the win to Hextall, who made 29 stops - including several big saves in the final minutes, when the Canadiens pressed for the tying goal.

"With Hextall in goal, it's hard to get down," Poulin said. "Even when we were losing 3-1, we still had confidence. We still knew that Ronnie was back there to do the job for us."

Celtics limp into Milwaukee without Parish

BOSTON (AP) - The Boston Celtics lost on their comfortable home court even though Robert Parish had 30 points and 16 rebounds. How will they ever survive in Milwaukee without their center?

"He's not playing?" Boston guard Danny Ainge asked Thursday when told Parish had a sprained left ankle. "Geez, I don't know. I don't know what we'll do."

The injury-riddled Celtics must figure out something in time for tonight's sixth game of the Eastern Conference semifinals. Despite Parish's performance, the Bucks made that game necessary with a 129-124 victory Wednesday night.

The loss ended the Celtics' 33-game home winning streak and cut Boston's lead in the best-of-seven series

Besides their home winning streak, the Celtics also lost Parish for at least one game when he fell with a little less than four minutes left. He stayed on the court for all but the last five seconds. On Thursday, he limped on his taped left ankle away from the gym where his teammates were practicing.

"Enjoy Milwaukee," Parish, who did not make the trip, told reporters. "See everyone on Sunday. Yep, I'll be out there Sunday."

If Boston wins tonight, it will be home Sunday for the opener of the Eastern Conference final against Detroit. If the Celtics lose, Milwaukee returns to Boston for Game 7 on Sunday.

With backup center Bill Walton sidelined with an injured right foot, Boston Coach K.C. Jones plans to start forward Kevin McHale, who has been slowed by a sprained right ankle, at center. Fred Roberts probably will start in McHale's spot.



AP photo

YANKEE DOODLE DANDY: New York's Rickey Henderson writhes on the ground in pain after being hit by a pitch from Texas' Edwin Correa in the second inning Thursday at Yankee Stadium. Henderson, who homered in

the first inning, stayed in the game. The Yanks won, 9-1, to take over first place in the American League East Division, ahead of the slumping Milwaukee Brewers. Baseball roundup on page 2B.

Bud McLearn taped too many ankles at Mediapolis

girls' basketball coaches in Iowa history retired this week. He is 53 years old.

That's not that old. Bud McLearn was the girls' basketball coach at

Mediapolis High School from 1959 until this week. There, he compiled a 684-60 record for a phenomenal .919 winning percentage. McLearn led the school to two state championships and 21 trips to the state tournament the most of any school or coach in the state.

Why did he resign now?

"It's a good question," McLearn said. "Sometimes it's tough to give a reason. I just think if I had to sum everything up. I've lost some of my enthusiasm towards coaching.

MIKE

HLAS

sports columnist

"It's not just a sudden thing. I've been thinking about quitting for quite a few years. I still like coaching. I'm not anti-coaching or anything like that.

"I think if you look at your coaches," McLearn said, "when they first started coaching everything was just fine. My enthusiasm was just tremendous for everything. I never did see a negative. I never did see

"As I grew older, I started to say, 'Oh, my. I have to do all this again.' I think it probably wore me down." McLearn repeatedly stressed he is not anticoaching, the kids at his school are great, and he loves Mediapolis and plans to stay there. He had simply coached long enough.

Still, it just sort of seemed unusual to me that one of the state's top coaches would retire at age 53.

A ROCK GROUP FROM Ireland called U2 is very hot these days. U2 has a distinct personality that more and more Americans are noticing and enjoying. The group's passionate songs have political, social and spiritual undertones.

U2 is not a head-banging, hedonistic rock 'n roll band. They try to say things through their music.

A few weeks ago, some local radio stations started playing a new song of U2's called, "I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For."

The lead singer of the group, a fellow named Bono, said the group doesn't consider reaching the top of its profession the be-all and end-all of life. He said that's what they were trying to convey in the aforementioned song.

That seemed very interesting, because it isn't the sort of comment you often hear from people who are considered quite successful. You rarely hear comments like that from people in sports. The most confident and self-absorbed people I've met have been

Have you heard many athletes or coaches question the value or meaning of what they do? They seem to take it for granted that what they do is important.

Whether it is or not is another story. The following excerpt is from "The Sportswriter," a 1986 novel by Richard Ford.

"Athletes; by and large, are people who are happy to let their actions speak for them, happy to be what they do. As a result, when you talk to an athlete . . .

he's never likely to feel the least bit divided, or

alienated, or one ounce of existential dread."

In a world where many people still haven't found what they're looking for, athletes and athletics may provide comfort. The decisions made in sporting events usually have immediate results. The rules of the games are clear.

A BASKETBALL COACH who wins 90 percent of his games over a 30-year career resigns when he's still reasonably young. This is not an everyday occurrence. Successful coaches coach.

"Every situation is different," McLearn said. "Mine doesn't really parallel many others.

"I'll just repeat myself. I don't have the same

enthusiasm for coaching I once had. "I know I've kind of gotten mad at myself the last few years," McLearn said. "Something would come up. and I still had six more ankles to tape. I'd say to myself, 'Dummy, it's your fault. You're asking for this. You don't have to do this. Stop complaining about it

and just quit.' And I did. "It might be the wrong decision, I don't know."